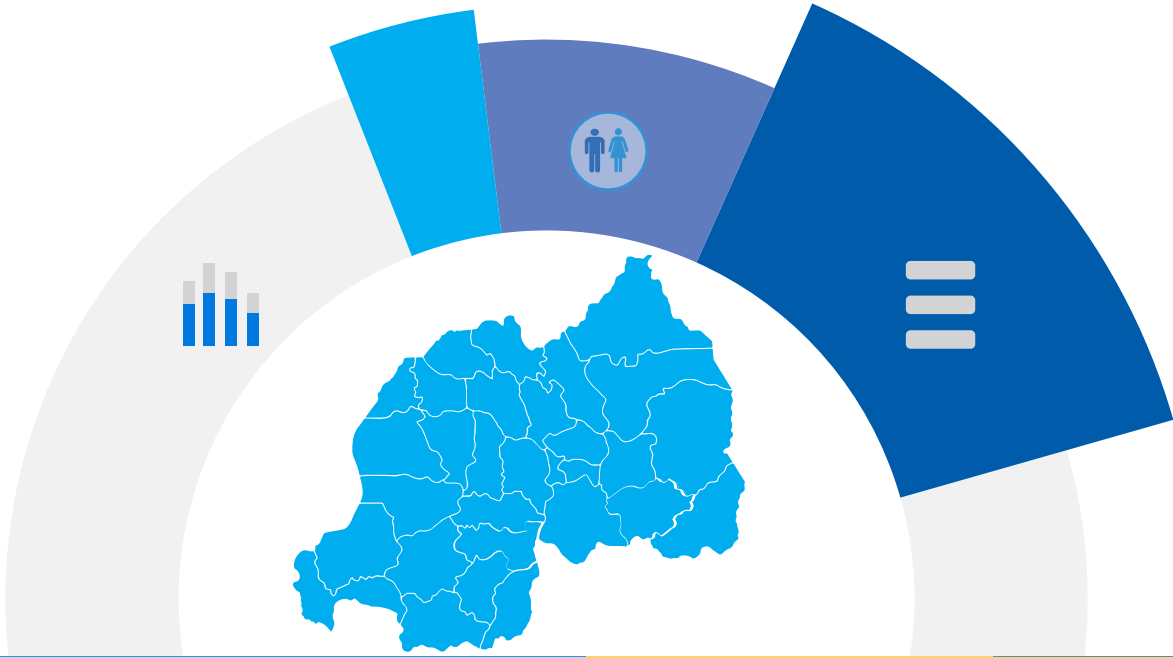




Republic  
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
STATISTICS OF RWANDA



# NATIONAL GENDER STATISTICS REPORT 2024



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFR:	Access to Finance Rwanda
AHS:	Agricultural Household Survey
ATM :	Automated Teller Machine
DaO :	Delivering as One
DHS :	Demographic and Health Survey
EICV:	Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey/ Enquete Integrale sur les Conditions de Vie des Menages
GMO :	Gender Monitoring Office
GSF :	Gender Statistics Framework
HH :	Household
HIV/AIDS:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICT :	Information Communication Technology
LFS:	Labour force Survey
LODA :	Local Administrative Entities Development Agency
MFIs :	Micro Finance Institutions
MIFOTRA:	Ministry of public service and labour
MIGEPROF:	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINAFFET:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MINEDUC:	Ministry of Education
MININFRA:	Ministry of Infrastructure
MMI:	Military Medical Insurance
NEC:	National Electoral Commission
NISR:	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
NPPA:	National Public Prosecution Authority
RAMA/RSSB:	La Rwandaise d'Assurance Maladie / Rwanda Social Security Board
RNP:	Rwanda National Police
RPHC:	Rwanda Population and Housing Census
RSSP:	Rural Sector Support Project
RHHS:	Rwanda Household Survey
SACCO:	Savings and Credit Co-operatives
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
UN:	United Nations
UNMSGI:	United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators
UNSD:	United Nations Statistical Division
VSLA:	Village Savings and Loan Association
VUP:	Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme

## Foreword

Achieving development for all requires formulation of policies that recognize the role of gender equality. Therefore, the production and dissemination of timely and reliable sex-disaggregated data is extremely important to facilitate evidence-based policies and decisions that take into consideration women and men in the society. In line with supporting gender responsive policies and decisions, the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) in collaboration with Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) and Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), embarked on the establishment and strengthening of a comprehensive Gender Statistics Framework (GSF), resulting, among other things, in the regular production of a report entitled “National Gender Statistics Report” which reflects the state of gender equality in key development sectors. The aim of the report is not only to encourage policy debate, particularly on gender gaps, but also to provide quantitative data for programme planning, monitoring and evaluation.

This is a sixth edition of National Gender Statistics Report that provides updated gender-disaggregated data in the twelve areas adopted taking into consideration the Beijing declaration and platform for action. Specifically, the areas covered are: (1) population and youth; (2) agriculture, livestock and forestry; (3) income and access to finance, (4) infrastructure, ICTs and media; (5) trade and industry, (6) economic activity and time use; (7) environment and natural resources, (8) poverty and social protection, (9) health and nutrition; (10) education, (11) decision-making and public life and, (12) justice and human rights. To align the report content with the National plan, above-mentioned areas were grouped under the 3 pillars of NST1 namely: Social transformation, Economic transformation, and Transformational governance.

The report also considers almost all quantitative indicators of the United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators (UNMSGI) as developed by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and some of the approved quantitative SDGs gender related indicators.

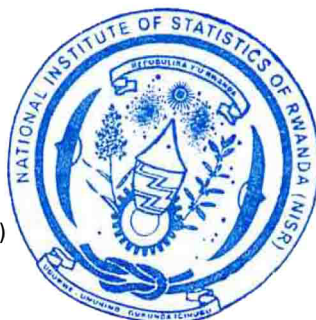
The data used for this report were sourced from officially published census and surveys reports and the trusted administrative sources. The report showcases similarities and differences among women and men in different aspects of life and provides a viable benchmark on gender status in different development sectors. This specific edition of the report is expected to respond to the needs of gender data users in their different categories and serve as a timely data bank, useful for inclusive development policies.



**MURENZI Ivan**

**Director General**

National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR)





## Acknowledgement

The successful compilation of this report results from the participation of a number of organizations and individuals. We would like to express our gratitude and sincere appreciation to all of them and recognize the contribution made by our partners in gender statistics.

First, we thank the UN Women, the European Union and Paris 21, for financial support and inputs provided throughout the process of compiling and publishing this report. Second, we thank PSF and government stakeholder institutions that provided administrative data used to compile this report namely RNP, Supreme court, MINALOC, MIFOTRA, NEC, GMO and RCS. We also owe a particular appreciation to the stakeholder institutions including MINAGRI, GMO, MIGEPROF, MINALOC, Provinces and Districts which contributed to the drafting and validation of this report. Their contribution has been a cornerstone to the successful compilation of this specific edition of the National Gender Statistics Report.

Third, we recognize the unfailing participation, dedication and courage of NISR technical staff who worked days and nights to finalize the report compilation. This team of staff include Mr. NKURUNZIZA Venuste, Mr. NSHUTINABAGENZI Eric, Mrs. UMUHOZA WA SHEMA Daniella, and Mrs. NSHIMIYIMANA Providence. We also recognize an invaluable contribution of Mr. NZEYIMANA David as Gender Data Lab coordinator under Paris 21 and, the technical coordination performed by NILINGIYIMANA Faustin, Ag. Director of Social and Demographic statistics at NISR and Mr. Michel NDAKIZE, the Acting Deputy Director General of NISR.

Finally, we would like to recognize the report design and editing team, namely Mrs. KAYITESI Claudette, the Acting Director of Statistical Methods, Research and Publication and Mr. KABERA Jean Luc, Data Portals Management Officer, for the work done to enrich data visualization and report presentation.

To all the above we say thank you.

## Executive Summary

The sixth edition of the National Gender Statistics Report (NGSR) is compiled using data from census and surveys reports and, data from trusted administrative sources. The conception of the report considers the twelve areas of improvement under Beijing declaration and platform for action, the United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators (UNMSGI) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The content is organized under the 3 pillars of National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) namely: Economic Transformation, Social Transformation, and Transformational Governance. It contains sex-disaggregated data depicting similarities and differences among women and men in different spheres of life. The aim of this report is not only to encourage policy debate, particularly on gender gaps, but also to provide quantitative data for programme planning, monitoring and evaluation. Here below is a brief status of findings in figures.

Data compiled on population structure show slight changes in shares of males and females' population. Female population slightly decreased from 51.8% in 2012 to 51.5% in 2022, while male population increased from 48.2% to 48.5%. Among youth aged 15-24, females' proportion slightly changed from 10.4% to 10.3%, and males, from 9.9% to 10%. Female-headed households slightly changed from 28.8% in 2012 to 28.9% in 2022.

According to the 5<sup>th</sup> RPHC, 68.9% of Rwandan households are engaged in agricultural activities and 94.8% of women farmers have access to land compared to 93.7% of men. With regard to access to finance, 85% of women saved money in 2020 while the same figure was 87% for men. By 2024, women's formal non-bank savings grew from 44% to 53%, while men's savings increased from 54% to 65%. Bank loans for women increased from 7% to 8% in 2024 while for men, it rose from 10% to 13%. Ownership of dwellings among female-headed households was at 71.1% while access to improved drinking was at 81.4% by 2022. Among male headed households, these percentages were respectively 71.9% and 82.7%. The percentage of female-headed households using electricity for lighting rose from 11.9% in 2012 to 41.1% in 2022 while for male headed households, this percentage increased from 18.8% in 2012 to 49.6% in 2022 in the same period. Regarding computer literacy, 9.6% of women are computer literate compared to 14.7% of men.

The data show a downfall in women's labor force participation, from 58.2% in 2020 to 52.2% in 2023, while men's participation increased from 65.6% to 67.5%. Regarding time use, women spend more time on unpaid works, averaging 24 hours a week compared to 13.6 hours for men. In informal cross-border trade, women predominate with 69.2% involvement in 2022, while the rate was 30.8% for men.

In education, girls' enrollment in lower secondary school increased from 54.1% in 2020/21 to 54.6% in 2022/23, while boys' enrollment dropped from 45.9% to 45.4%. Girls' enrollment rate in upper secondary was high with 59.3% while from boys the rate was 40.7%. However, in TVET enrollment for women fell from 46.7% in 2020/21 to 43.4% in 2022/23 while for males, it increased from 53.3% to 56.6% in the same period. Female representation in higher education underwent a moderate decrease from 44.9% in 2020/21 to 44.2% in 2022/23, while for males, it increased from 55.1% to 55.8%.

In governance, female representation in the cabinet decreased from 36.8% in 2014 to 31.25% in 2024, while in the Chamber of deputies, women hold 63.3% of seats and 53.8% in the Senate by 2024. In the justice sector, 52% of primary court judges are women, while they occupy 48% of national prosecutors. The data show that media sector remains male-dominated, with 23.9% of accredited journalists being female.

To sum up, the report highlights both progress and areas of improvements in the continuous journey to achieve gender equality. It underscores the need for continued effort to achieve gender equality across different sectors.

# CHAPTER 1

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## OVERVIEW OF POPULATION STRUCTURE

# 1. Introduction and overview of the world's population

The world's populations are in varying stages of a demographic transition from high to low rates of mortality and fertility (Bongaarts, 2009). In this process, the age structure gradually shifts toward older ages. Fertility is the principal component driving population dynamics, the other two being mortality and migration. A youth bulge results when decreases in fertility reduce the share of children in the population at a relatively fast rate while the proportion of elderly is still relatively small. Nations undergoing this transition can capitalize on the resulting high labour supply and low dependency rates. There is the potential to boost economic growth and poverty reduction as there are fewer dependents to support, savings are accumulated, and a relatively young population is likely to enhance investments in human capital and technology in the economy as a whole (Ashford, 2007; Bloom et al., 2003).

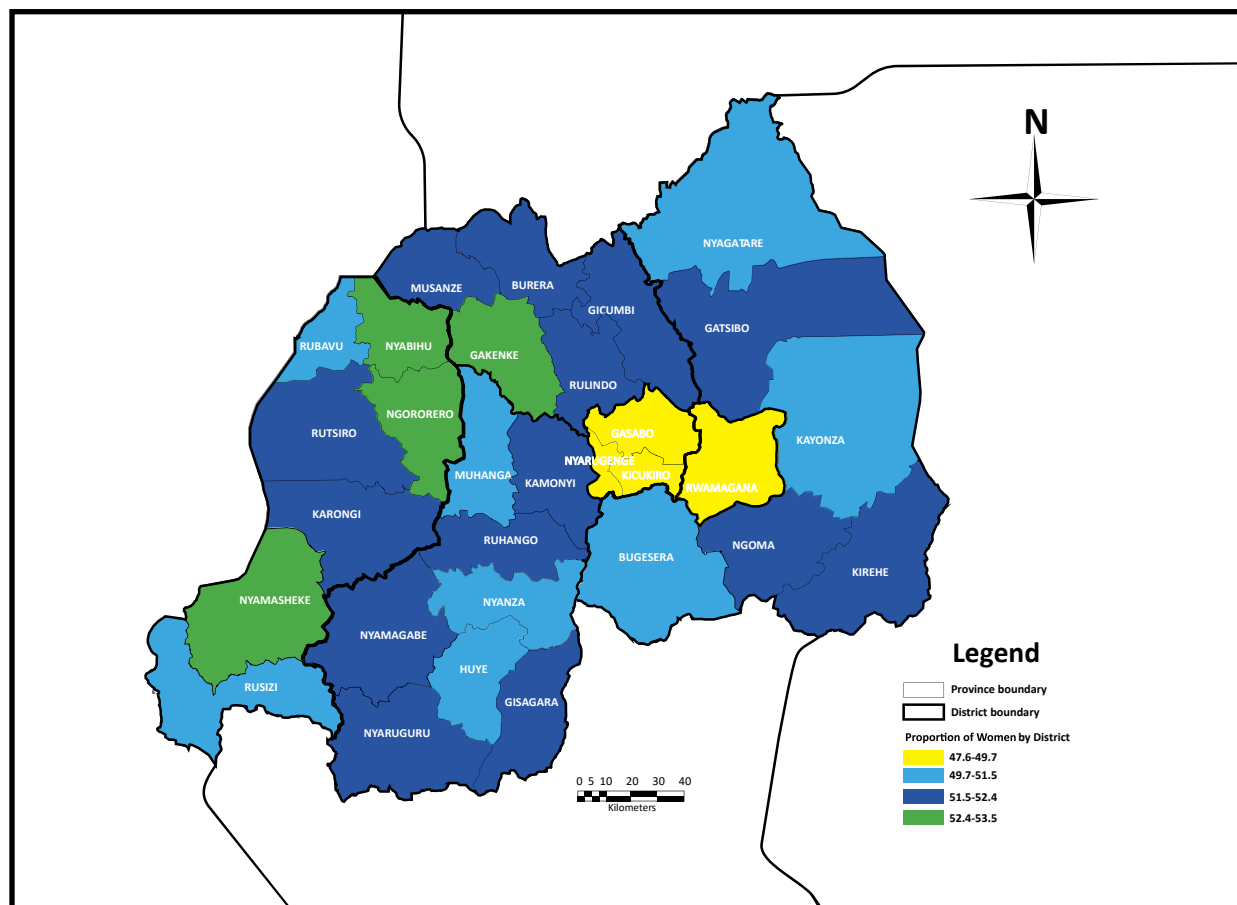
Reaping the benefits from this phase of the demographic transition requires, however, the right policy, economic and social environment. First and foremost, the growing youth population has to be absorbed into the labour market and enterprising young people have to be enabled to invest. They must have the opportunity to access high-quality education, matching the type of skills needed in the labour market. Also, young people will only be encouraged to save if there are efficient and trustworthy financial mechanisms to allow them to do so. Finally, investments in public health are necessary to allow a youthful population to maximize its productivity. In return, if the appropriate policy environment is not in place, unemployment and instability may result, and health, education, and social welfare systems may undergo considerable strain (Gribble and Bremner, 2012; Bloom et al., 2003).

Sub-Saharan Africa is still in the early stages of demographic transition and gender equality is seriously affected by current demographic trends in countries and regions. While mortality has been reduced in recent decades, fertility has remained high in most countries and such a status quo has implications and is affected by the way gender equality between women and men behaves.

Despite the trend toward gender mainstreaming and inclusive data systems manifested in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, gender data does not regularly inform present-day political decision-making. Women and girls and their living conditions are either underrepresented or not always prioritized in data production, leading to policy designs that inadequately address (or in some cases reinforce) existing inequalities. Even when data is available, too often gender data use is hindered by limited analysis and dissemination of existing information. The COVID-19 pandemic shed a new light on these pre-existing gaps, renewing a call for more timely and granular information on the impact of the crisis on women and girls in areas such as education, livelihoods, unpaid care work, mental health, and gender-based violence.

## 1.2. Demographic information of Rwandan population

Figure 1. Map of Rwanda by share of women by District



### 1.2.1. Population shares

Rwanda’s female population has always been slightly higher than male population. More precisely, in 2022, women represented around 51.5% of the total population, while men represented around 48.5%, as the following table shows.

Table 1: Population share by sex, 1978-2022

	Count					Percentage				
	1978	1991	2002	2012	2022	1978	1991	2002	2012	2022
Female	2,468,350	3,668,939	4,260,855	5,451,105	6,817,068	51	51.2	53.2	51.8	51.5
Male	2,363,177	3,488,612	3,883,456	5,064,868	6,429,326	49	48.8	47.7	48.2	48.5
Total	4,831,527	7,157,551	8,144,311	10,515,973	13,246,394	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NISR, Rwanda Population and Housing Census, 1978 - 2022.

Looking at specific interventions’ target groups, data show diversity in shares of males and females as follows:

**Table 2: Distribution of some specific intervention’s targets group by sex of Resident population in 2022**

Specific age group	Counts			Percentage		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total	13,246,394	6,429,326	6,817,068	100	48.5	51.5
<1	339,900	170,246	169,654	2.6	1.3	1.3
<5	1,708,460	856,228	852,232	12.9	6.5	6.4
1-4	1,368,560	685,982	682,578	10.3	5.2	5.2
3-5	1,071,139	536,957	534,182	8.1	4.1	4
3-6	1,425,212	713,927	711,285	10.8	5.4	5.4
0-15	5,270,262	2,637,972	2,632,290	39.8	19.9	19.9
0-17	5,896,601	2,949,970	2,946,631	44.5	22.3	22.2
6-11	1,937,762	970,363	967,399	14.6	7.3	7.3
7-12	1,894,300	948,050	946,250	14.3	7.2	7.1
12-17	1,886,896	940,635	946,261	14.2	7.1	7.1
13-18	1,868,015	931,523	936,492	14.1	7	7.1
14+	8,619,109	4,111,820	4,507,289	65.1	31	34
14-35	5,153,898	2,536,585	2,617,313	38.9	19.1	19.8
16-30	3,595,670	1,767,063	1,828,607	27.1	13.3	13.8
15-24	2,683,890	1,322,706	1,361,184	20.3	10	10.3
16-24	2,370,440	1,166,123	1,204,317	17.9	8.8	9.1
15-49	6,716,136	3,270,471	3,445,665	50.7	24.7	26
16-64	7,424,204	3,571,680	3,852,524	56	27	29.1
16+	7,976,132	3,791,354	4,184,778	60.2	28.6	31.6
18+	7,349,793	3,479,356	3,870,437	55.5	26.3	29.2
21+	6,492,924	3,056,093	3,436,831	49	23.1	25.9
60+	862,929	356,467	506,462	6.5	2.7	3.8
65+	551,928	219,674	332,254	4.2	1.7	2.5

Source: NISR, Rwanda Population and Housing Census, 1978 - 2022.

The table above provides a full breakdown of Rwanda’s resident population by specific age groups and gender for 2022. The total resident population is 13,246,394, with females (6,817,068) representing 51.5% and males (6,429,326) representing 48.5%. Notable observations include:

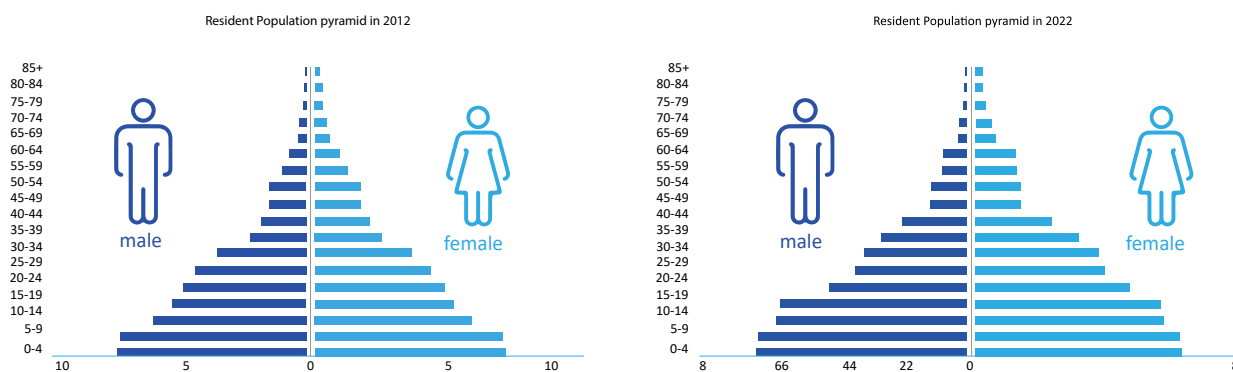
- Children under one year of age represent 2.6% of the population, almost equally divided between men and women (1.3% each). Children under 5 years constitute 12.9% of the population, with a nearly equal distribution between males (6.5%) and females (6.4%).
- The age group 0-15 years represents 39.8% of the population, showing a balanced gender distribution (19.9% each for males and females).
- The proportion of the population aged 0-17 is significant at 44.5%, with males at 22.3% and females at 22.2%.
- Individuals aged 16-30 make up 27.1% of the population, with a slight female majority (13.8% females versus 13.3% males).
- The elderly population (60+ years) constitutes 6.5% of the total population, with a higher percentage of females (3.8%) compared to males (2.7%).

These statistics highlight the youthful demographic structure of Rwanda, with a large proportion of the population under 17 years, and a balanced gender distribution across various age groups.

### 1.2.2. Age-sex structure of resident population 2012 & 2022

The population pyramids under figure 2 show age sex distribution of Rwanda’s population and changes overtime where in both 2012 and 2022, the population is predominantly young, and this reflects high levels of fertility. The share of female population is less than males share across young ages while at old ages, males share becomes smaller than females one.

**Figure 2: Residents’ population pyramid in 2012 & 2022**



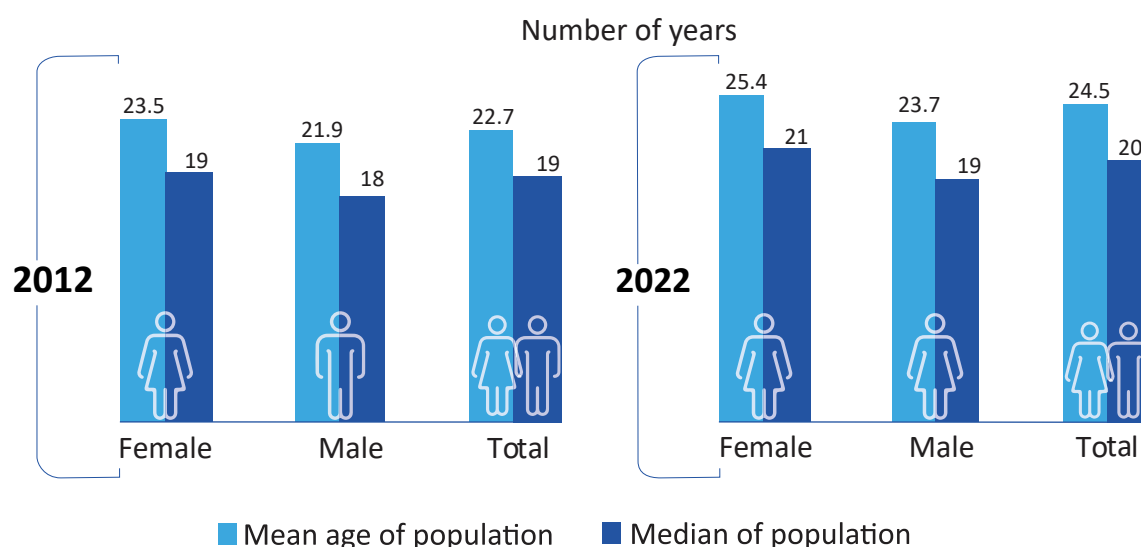
Source: NISR, Rwanda Population and Housing Census, 2012 & 2022

The distribution of the population between urban and rural areas reveals that urbanization is a key factor in Rwanda’s demographic dynamics. Urban areas account for 3,701,245 (27.9%) residents, while rural areas have a larger population of 9,545,149 (72.1%). Urban areas have a higher concentration of young people and people of working age, probably due to migration and better employment opportunities. Conversely, rural areas have a slightly higher proportion of older people, reflecting slower urban migration among older age groups.

### 1.2.3. Mean and Median age of the population

According to the figure below, the average and median ages of Rwanda’s population confirm the youthfulness of the population already observed in the age distribution. The overall mean age has increased to 24.5 years in 2022 from 22.7 years in 2012. Across gender, the mean age for women increased to 25.4 years in 2022 from 23.5 years in 2012 while for men it has increased to 23.7 years from 21.9 years in the same period. The median age of the population is 19 years in 2012 and has increased slightly to 20 years in 2022, the data reveals that half of the population in 2012 is under 19 years (making 19 years the median age) in Rwanda and it is 20 years, ten years later, in 2022.

**Figure 3: Mean age and Median of the resident population by sex from 2012 to 2022**



Source: NISR, RPHC Thematic population size 2012, 2022.

### 1.2.4. Mean age at first marriage

Table 3 below shows changes in mean age at first marriage among females and males since 2012, and related variations by residence. Rwanda Population and Housing census uses Hajinal method to compute the singulate mean age at first marriage for resident population aged 12 and above. For females, the mean age at first marriage has seen a gradual increase from 25 in 2012 to 25.3 in 2022. In contrast, for males, the mean age has risen from 27.4 in 2012 to 28.2 in 2022. The difference between males and females age at first marriage shifted from 2.4 to 2.9 in the same period.

The increasing trend in the mean age at first marriage reflects a delay in marriage among both genders over time. Despite this delay, the mean age for the overall population has remained stable, indicating that while individuals are delaying marriage, the overall age distribution of the population has not shifted significantly.

**Table 3: Mean age at first marriage for population aged 12 and above**

Sex	2012			2022		
	Rwanda	Urban	Rural	Rwanda	Urban	Rural
Females	25	25.9	24.7	25.3	26	24.8
Males	27.4	30.1	26.5	28.2	29.7	27.1
Difference	2.4	4.2	2.4	2.9	3.7	2.3

Source: DHS 2005, 2010/11, 2014/15, 2019/20



### 1.3.5. Youth and children population shares

The national framework defines the youth population as a population aged 16 to 30 while the international definition of youth is the population aged 15 to 24. This section highlights the distribution of the youth and children population (national definition) by sex, province, and area of residence.

In 2022, the youth constituted 27.1% of the total population and female youth share was greater than males share (26.8% and 27.5%) respectively, while by residence, females are slightly making majority in rural areas (26.1%) while males are slightly making majority in urban areas (32.1%). Kigali City has the highest youth proportion (33.5%), followed by the North Province (27.7%) and East Province (26.4%).

**Table 4: Distribution of Youth population aged 16-30 Years by sex, Province and area of Residence**

	Total population		Number of youths (16-30yr)		Share of youth Population among the same sex.			GPI
	Female	Male	Male	Female	Both sexes	Female	Male	
<b>Rwanda</b>								
Total	6,817,068	6,429,326	1,767,063	1,828,607	27.1	27.5	26.8	0.97
Urban	1,854,525	1,846,720	570,801	593,093	31.4	30.8	32.1	1.04
Rural	4,574,801	4,970,348	1,196,262	1,235,514	25.5	26.1	24.9	0.95
<b>Province</b>								
Kigali City	888,882	856,673	288,533	295,757	33.5	32.5	34.5	0.97
South	1,448,455	1,554,244	370,748	376,160	24.9	25.6	24.2	1.06
West	1,384,635	1,511,849	368,921	388,828	26.2	26.6	25.7	0.99
North	972,960	1,065,551	274,197	290,156	27.7	28.2	27.2	1.04
East	1,734,394	1,828,751	464,664	477,706	26.4	26.8	26.1	1.03

Source: NISR, RPHC 2002, 2012, 2022

The table 5. presents data on youth aged 15-24 and children aged 0-17, broken down by gender across three census years: 2002, 2012, and 2022. The youth population (15-24 years) shows an increase from 1.895,318 million in 2002 to 2.683,890 million in 2022, with a slight decrease in the female percentage from 12.1% to 10.3%. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for youth remained relatively stable, indicating nearly equal proportions of males and females. For children aged 0-17, both male and female counts increased, with a slight decline in GPI in 2022. The percentage of children aged 0-17 years has decreased from 52% in 2002 to 44.5% in 2022, reflecting a declining birth rate and a demographic shift towards an aging population.

- Overall, these statistics provide a detailed understanding of Rwanda’s demographic structure, highlighting significant trends and shifts in age and gender distribution that are crucial for policy planning and implementation.

**Table 5: Percentage of children and youth aged 15-24**

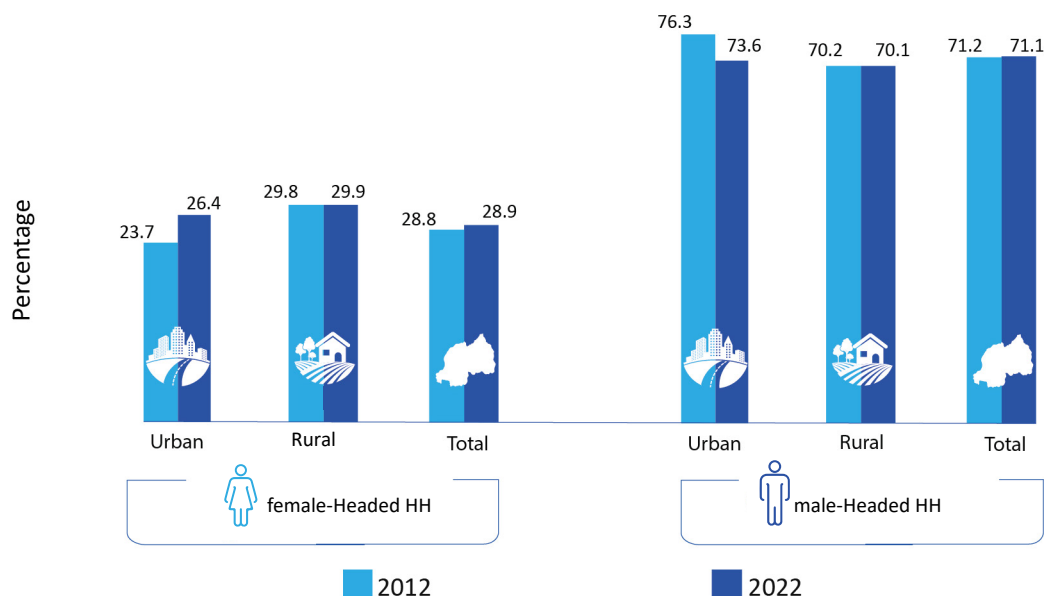
	Youth aged 15-24							
	Count			Percentage			GPI	
	2002	2012	2022	2002	2012	2022	2012	2022
Female	985,219	1,095,181	1,361,184	12.1	10.4	10.3	1.05	1.03
Male	910,099	1,046,279	1,322,706	11.2	9.9	10		
Total	1,895,318	2,141,460	2,683,890	13.3	20.4	20.3		
Children aged 0-17								
Female	2,149,988	2,523,834	2,946,631	26.4	24	22.2	1.01	0.99
Male	2,085,688	2,481,770	2,949,970	25.6	23.6	22.3		
Total	4,235,675	5,005,603	5,896,601	52	47.6	44.5		

Source: NISR, RPHC 2002, 2012, 2022

## 1.4. Household headship

While it’s already known that female headed household in urban areas are slightly lower (26.4%) compared to the female headed household in rural (29.9%) in 2022. The data from 2012 to 2022 indicates a gradual increase in female-headed households across both urban and rural areas in Rwanda. The trend is more pronounced in urban areas, possibly reflecting changing social norms and economic factors that enable more women to become household heads. However, the overall change remains modest, with male-headed households still constituting the majority.

**Figure 4: Trend of Households headship (in %) by sex of household head.**



Source: NISR, RPHC 2012, RPHC 2022

## 1.5. Marital Status

The report provides insights into the marital status of residents aged 12 and above, categorized by marital status and gender in 2022. The table below provides details:

**Table 6: Percentage of resident’s population aged 12 and above by marital status and by sex 2022.**

	Married to one wife/ husband officially	Married to one wife/ husband not officially	Live in a polygamous union	Divorced	Separated	Never married	Widowed
Both sexes	31.2	16.9	1.1	0.2	1.7	44.4	4.6
Male	31.8	16.7	0.7	0.1	0.9	48.8	0.9
Female	30.6	17.0	1.4	0.3	2.4	40.4	8.0

Source: NISR, RPHC, 2022

**Married to one wife/husband officially:** This category indicates the percentage of residents who are legally married to one spouse. Across both sexes, approximately 31.2% are officially married. Among males, the percentage is slightly higher at 31.8%, while among females, it’s slightly lower at 30.6%.

**Married to one wife/husband not officially:** This category represents the percentage of residents who are in a relationship resembling marriage but not officially recognized. Across both sexes, about 16.9% fall into this category, with a similar distribution among males (16.7%) and females (17.0%).

**Live in a polygamous union:** This category indicates the percentage of residents involved in polygamous marriages. Only a small percentage, 1.1% across both sexes, are in such unions. Among males, the percentage is even lower at 0.7%, while among females, it’s slightly higher at 1.4%.

**Divorced:** This category shows the percentage of residents who are divorced. It’s a relatively small percentage across both sexes, with only 0.2% of the population being divorced.

**Separated:** This category represents the percentage of residents who are legally separated but not yet divorced. Across both sexes, it’s 1.7%, slightly higher among females (2.4%) compared to males (0.9%).

**Never married:** This category indicates the percentage of residents who have never been married. It’s the largest category, with 44.4% of the population falling into this group across both sexes. Among males, the percentage is 48.8%, while among females, it’s slightly lower at 40.4%.

**Widowed:** This category represents the percentage of residents who have lost their spouse due to death. Across both sexes, it’s 4.6%, with a higher percentage among females (8.0%) compared to males (0.9%). This interpretation provides an overview of the marital status distribution among residents aged 12 and above in 2022, segmented by gender.

**Table 7: Trend of Life expectancy in years**

	1978	1991	2002	2012	2022
<b>Both sexes</b>	46.4	53.7	51.2	64.5	69.6
<b>Male</b>	45.1	51	48.4	62.6	67.7
<b>Females</b>	47.7	56.5	53.8	66.2	71.2
<b>Difference</b>	2.6	5.5	5.4	3.6	5

Source: NISR, RPHC, 2022

The table above presents a concise overview of the trend in life expectancy over several decades, spanning from 1978 to 2022. Life expectancy has consistently increased for both sexes, with notable gains observed over the years. In 1978, the life expectancy for both sexes were 46.4 years, which has steadily risen to 69.6 years in 2022. Similarly, both males and females have experienced significant increases in life expectancy, with males seeing an increase from 45.1 years in 1978 to 67.7 years in 2022, and females from 47.7 years to 71.2 years over the same period. Despite this overall improvement, there has been fluctuation in the gap between male and female life expectancies, ranging from 2.6 years in 1978 to 5.5 years in 1991, before slightly decreasing to 5 years in 2022. According to RPHC5, The Life expectancy at age 60 were 18.4 for female against 16.6 for male in 2022

This data reflects the steady progress in life expectancy over time and provides insights into gender disparities in longevity.

## 1.6. Migration

Lifetime migration concerns persons whose place of birth is not the same as the current place of residence and the recent migration concerns persons who moved to their current district of residence five years or less prior to the Census. The data indicate that migration in the country, be it lifetime or recent, is dominant in urban areas than do in rural areas of Rwanda. About 39% of the resident population in urban areas and 13% in rural areas have experienced a lifetime migration. Similarly, about 23.2% of the resident population in urban areas and 5.5% in rural areas have experienced a recent migration.

**Table 8: Distribution of resident lifetime by sex and area of residence**

	Lifetime migration						Recent migration					
	2012			2022			2012			2022		
	Rwanda	Urban	Rural	Rwanda	Urban	Rural	Rwanda	Urban	Rural	Rwanda	Urban	Rural
Female	19.8	45.9	15	20.8	38.7	14.2	8.6	24.2	5.8	10.2	22.9	5.4
Male	20	49.1	13.8	20	39.5	12.1	9.3	25.0	5.9	10.7	23.5	5.5
Both sexes	19.9	47.5	14.4	20.4	39.1	13.2	8.9	24.6	5.8	10.4	23.2	5.5

Source: RPHC, 2022

# CHAPTER 2

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GENDER AND THE PILLARS OF NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR TRANSFORMATION (NST1)

## 2.1. 0. Introduction

The “economic transformation” pillar sets out a strategy for accelerating economic growth and increasing productivity, driven by the private sector. This pillar includes the following priorities - Create 214,000 decent and productive jobs per year. - Make Rwanda a globally competitive knowledge-based economy, adapted to gender mainstreaming. Promote industrialization and achieve a structural shift in the export base towards high value-added goods and services, with the aim of increasing exports by 17% per annum. - Increase national savings and make Rwanda a financial services centre to promote investment. Modernize and increase agricultural and livestock productivity. Promote sustainable management of the environment and natural resources to move Rwanda towards a green economy.

## 2.1.1. Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry

### 2.1.1.1. Introduction

Agriculture is one of the most widespread activities in the world and has a crucial role in food production, environmental protection, landscape preservation, rural employment and food security. Agriculture is not uniform throughout, there are different elements such as: the scale of farming; crop and livestock combinations; intensity of farming; ways and means of disposal of farm produce; the level of farm mechanization (small-scale farmers/ informal small-scale agriculture, commercial farming/ plantation agriculture, self-sufficient farming, organic farming, etc.)<sup>1</sup>.

From a gender point of view, there are significant gaps between women and men. For example, women farm holders have significantly smaller farms than men farm holders. Moreover, the share of female farm holders is particularly high on farms with no clear specialisation in livestock rearing or crop production<sup>2</sup>.

Women are key players in the Rwandan agricultural economy, producing food both for their families and the market. Therefore, all interventions should be gender-responsive to tackle the gender issues in general and women farmers’ issues in particular to reach sustainable results.

RPHC-5, defines Agriculture household as a household that has at least one person engaged in agricultural activities (either in crop or animal husbandry or both). In Rwanda, there are 2.3 million agricultural private households (equivalent to 69% of total households). Among the rural private households, 83% are agricultural households, while urban agricultural households account for 34% of the total urban households.

**Table 9: Number and Percentage of private agricultural households by sex of household head**

	Total	Male Headed	Female Headed
Total HH in Rwanda	3,312,743	2,355,298	957,445
Total Agricultural HH	2,280,854	1,639,073	641,781
% of Agricultural HH	68.9	69.6	67

Source: RPHC 2022, Main Indicators

According to the Rwandan population census of 2022, 68.9% of households in Rwanda were agricultural, with 67% of female headed households and 69.6% of male headed households being agricultural.

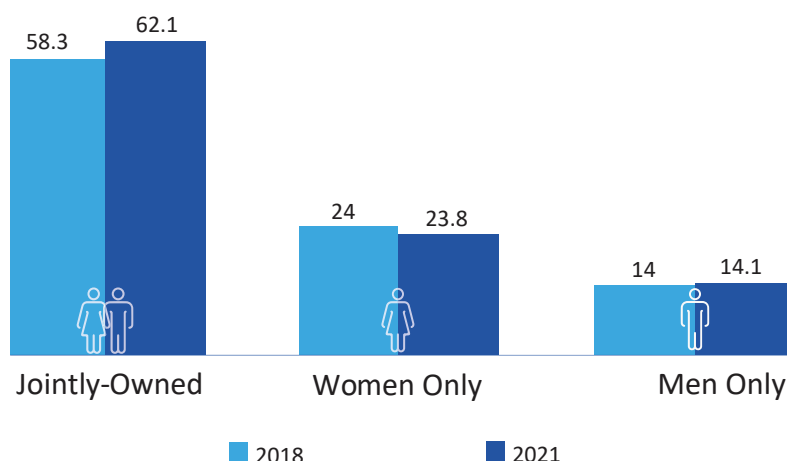
### 2.1.1.2. Land Ownership

Access and use of land for production among women has generally improved because of the legal reform and effective implementation of the Land Tenure Regularization programme initiated in 2008. Subsequently, figure 5 shows that, in 2021, jointly owned land was 62.1 % from 58.3% in 2018. It is worth mentioning that sole landowners remained almost the same for females and males, about 24% and 14% respectively.

1 The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE): Gender in agriculture and rural development, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2016, accessed on 24 June 2019

2 The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE): Gender in agriculture and rural development, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2016, accessed on 24 June 2019

**Figure 5: Land ownership by category**



Source: GMO, State of Gender Equality in Rwanda, 2018 & Land Management and use Authority, 2021

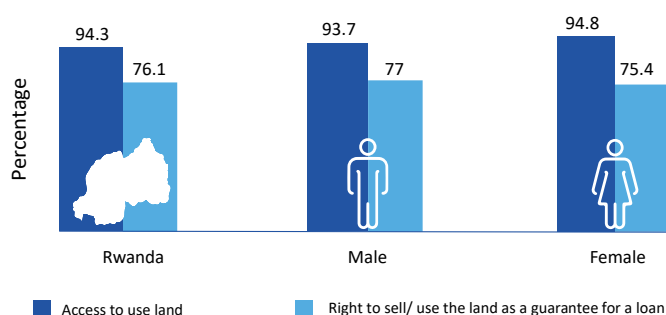
**Table 10: Percentage of agricultural households who accessed agricultural land by land ownership by sex of HH head**

	Ownership type		
	Own land	Rented land	Complemented own land with rented land
Rwanda	87.6	49.5	37.1
HH Male headed	87.4	53.2	40.6
HH Female headed	88.3	39.9	28.2

Source: NISR, AHS 2020

The table above shows that female-headed households owning land are 88.3% slightly higher than male-headed households at 87.6%, while female-headed households renting land are lower than male-headed households (39.9% Vs 53.2%) respectively.

**Figure 6: Percentage of farmers with right to land**



Source: NISR, AHS, 2020

The figure above shows that 94.8% of Rwandan women farmers have access to land, compared with 93.7% of men, while 75.4% of women farmers have the right to sell or use land as collateral for a loan, compared with 77% of men.



### 2.1.1.3. Agriculture extension services

**Agriculture extension services in Rwanda** play a critical role in promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving farm productivity, and supporting rural livelihoods. These services are part of the government’s broader strategy to transform agriculture into a modern, knowledge-based, and market-oriented sector, which is essential for the country’s economic growth and food security.

Findings in Table below show that, among households who receive agricultural extension services, female headed households in Nutrition and food security extension services are slightly higher than the male headed households (57.8% compared to 42.2% respectively). It should be noted that, the number of female and male headed households who received livestock extension services are very low for both (1.3%).

**Table 11: Percentage of agricultural households by types of received agricultural extension services and by sex of household head**

Type of extension services received	Total percentage of HH supported	Sex distribution	
		Female-headed HH supported	Male- headed HH supported
Agricultural practices	55.8	56.3	43.7
Post-harvest handling and storage	14.6	54.3	45.7
Erosion control measures	27.1	55.1	44.9
Horticulture skills	15.5	57.1	42.9
Animal production and nutrition	8.8	52.8	47.2
Veterinary services	6.8	52.6	47.4
Agribusiness skills	6.2	51.8	48.2
Weather and climate information products/ services	11.9	53.3	46.7
Saving	19.1	55.9	44.1
Integrated pest management	13.4	54.4	45.6
Nutrition and food security	20.4	57.8	42.2
Smart Nkunganire	13.7	52.0	48.0
Households who receive extension services (%)	65		

Source: NISR, Agriculture Household Survey, 2020

The table above shows that in agricultural year 2020, 57.8% of female-headed farm households received extension services related to nutrition and food security, compared to 42.2% of male-headed households, followed by those who received extension services related to horticultural skills (57.1% for female-headed farm households, compared to 42.9% for male-headed households). Fifty-five percent of female-headed farm households received extension services related to erosion control measures, compared to 44.9% of male-headed households. It is worth noting that 53.3% of female-headed farm households received weather and climate information products/services, 56.3% farming practices, 52% at Smart Nkunganire, while for male-headed farm households the percentage was 46.7% for weather and climate information products/services, 43.7% for farming practices, 48% at Smart Nkunganire, respectively.

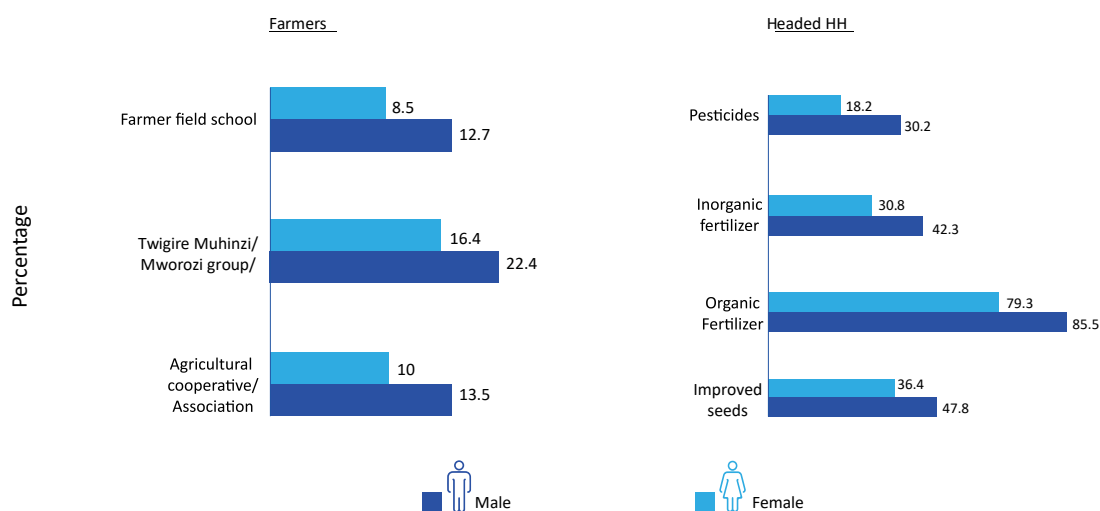
The livestock extension services received in the 2020 agricultural year by female-headed farm households are veterinary services (52.6%), animal production and nutrition (52.8%) and integrated pest management (54.4%), while for male-headed farm households the percentage is 47.4% for veterinary services, 47.2% for animal production and nutrition services and 45.6% for integrated pest management services.

### 1.4. Agricultural households and farmers per different agricultural practices and inputs used

According to the Agriculture and Household Survey (2020), more male-headed households (85.5%) than female-headed households (79.3%) use organic fertilisers, followed by the use of improved seeds (47.8% for male-headed households versus 36.4% for female-headed households), with pesticide use lower for female-headed households (18.2%) than for male-headed households (30.2%).

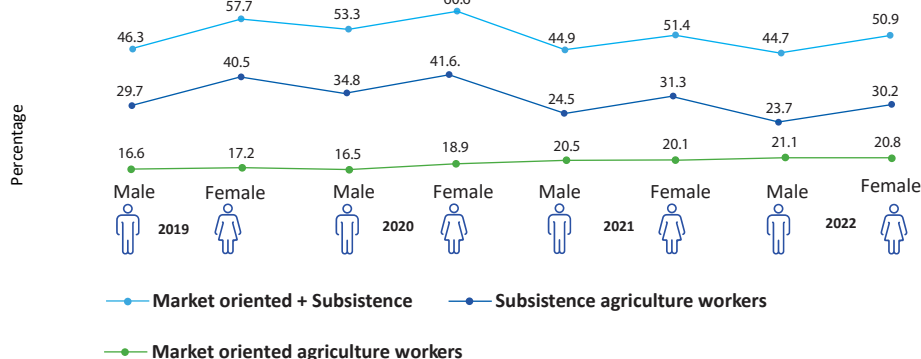
The Twigire Muhinzi programme is designed to operate in all Rwandan villages. The model is based on farmer-to-farmer extension approaches. The results in the figure below show that in 2020, only 16.4% of female-headed farming households belong to Twigire Muhinzi groups, compared with 8.5% in 2017, while for male-headed farming households, the percentage is 22.4% in 2020, compared with 14.7% in 2017. Contract farming is agricultural production carried out in accordance with an agreement between a buyer and farmers, which sets out the conditions for producing and marketing an agricultural product. The results also show that 3.2% of all female farm households used contract farming, compared with 4.6% of male-headed farm households. These rates did not change over the reference period. A vegetable garden, also known as "akarima k'igikoni", targets the current problem of malnutrition by raising families' awareness of the need to grow vegetables at home in order to combat malnutrition through vegetable consumption.

**Figure 7: Percentage of Agricultural households per different agricultural practices and inputs used**



Source: AHS Gender thematic report, 2020

**Figure 8: Trend of Agricultural workers (market oriented+ subsistence) as proportion of working age population (16yrs+)**



Source: NISR, LFS dataset 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

According to the table above, the results from Rwanda’s Labour Force Survey show that the percentage of workers involved in market-oriented agriculture increased between 2019 and 2022. For females, this figure rose from 17.2% in 2019 to 20.8% in 2022, while for males it increased from 16.6% to 21.1% over the same period. On the other hand, the proportion of workers engaged in subsistence agriculture decreased. For females, it dropped from 40.5% in 2019 to 30.2% in 2022, and for males, it declined from 29.7% to 23.7% during the same period.

### 2.1.2. Livestock

In addition to crops production, livestock is another important source of income and food for agricultural households. At the national level, the percentage of Agriculture HHs who are raising any livestock are 61.3% in 2020 from 68.2% in 2010/11. In 2017, HH female raise any livestock was 57.3% in 2017 from 64.6% in 2010/11 while for HH male headed it was 60.3% from 69.6%, (EICV 2016/17, Gender).

The AHS results reveals that 40.3% of all female agricultural households had a kitchen garden compared to a slighter higher rate of 46% for male headed agricultural households in 2020. Girinka Program also known as “One Cow per Poor” Family aims to increase agricultural production in Rwanda, especially milk production and products, reduced high rate of childhood malnutrition and as a way to accelerate poverty reduction and integrate livestock and crop farming. The data show that country wide, of all agricultural households that reared cows in 2020, female-headed households were slightly advantageous with regard to rearing cow from Girinka Program compared to the male-headed households (4.8% versus to 3.8%).

**Table 12: Percentage of HHs who benefited from Girinka program by type of providers**

	Agricultural HHs who benefited from Girinka program in 2020	Agricultural HHs who still have cow from Girinka program	Type of providers		
			Government	NGO/company	Total
Rwanda	4.1	85.4	93.4	6.6	100
Male	3.8	86	93.3	6.7	100
Female	4.8	84.3	93.7	6.3	100

Source: NISR, AHS, 2020

The findings in the table below show that male-headed households are more likely to raise different types of livestock compared to female-headed households, with cattle at 56.6% for male-headed households versus 44.7% for female-headed households. However, for goats, female-headed households are dominant, with 41% compared to 36.2% for male-headed households.

**Table 13: Percentage of households raising different types of livestock by sex of household head**

Type of livestock	By Sex of HH head		
	Total	Male-headed	Female-headed
Cattle	53.4	56.6	44.7
Goats	37.6	36.2	41.5
Sheep	9.9	10.4	8.5
Pig	33.7	35.9	27.7
Chicken	31.3	34.3	23.2
Rabbit	8.6	9.2	7.0
Other Poultry	1.5	1.7	0.8
Other Animals	1.1	1.0	1.3
Bee keeping	2.6	3.2	0.9

Source: NISR, AHS 2020

## 2.2. Access to Finance and Income

**Formally served:** The female adult population who have or use products or services from financial institutions that are regulated through an act of law (formal financial institutions), which is driven by other formal (non-bank) financial products or services, has increased from 63% in 2016 to 74% in 2020. Also, the formally served gender gap has decreased by 3% since 2016.

**Informally served:** A very large portion of the population, 80% (3.1 million), which is an increase from 71% in 2016, have or use products or services from financial institutions that are not regulated (informal financial institutions and mechanisms) and/or use community-based organizations or mechanisms to save or borrow money. This is mainly driven by the uptake of informal savings groups.

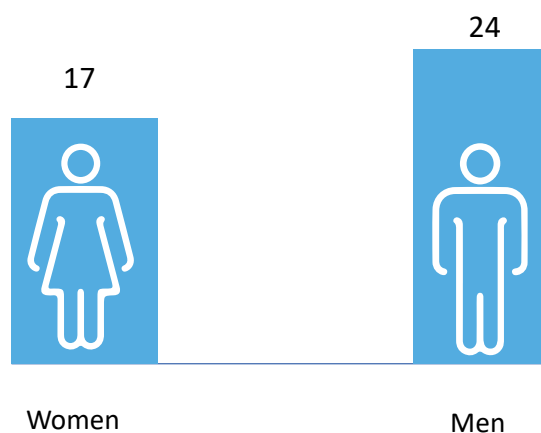
### 2. 2.1. Introduction on levels of financial inclusion

Overall, 85% of women saved compared to 87% of men in 2020. The percentage of women in other forms of formal (non-bank) savings rises from 44% in 2020 to 53% in 2024, while for men it increases from 54% to 65% over the same period. Informal savings fall from 66% in 2020 to 62% in 2024, while for men they fall from 61% to 58% over the same period.

#### 2.2.4 banked population in 2024

One in three adults (31%) or 2.5 million adults, in Rwanda are using banking channels or services to manage their finances. Of the 2.5 million adults, 1.8 million (22%) have a bank account in their name or a joint account. A further 774,000 (9%) Rwandans do not have a bank account in their name but perform Over the Counter (OTC) transactions or use someone else’s bank account. The figure below shows that 17% of women are banked, lower to the 24% of males banked in 2024

**Figure 9: Proportion of population who are banked**



Source: AFR 2024

#### 2.2.2. Savings and investments

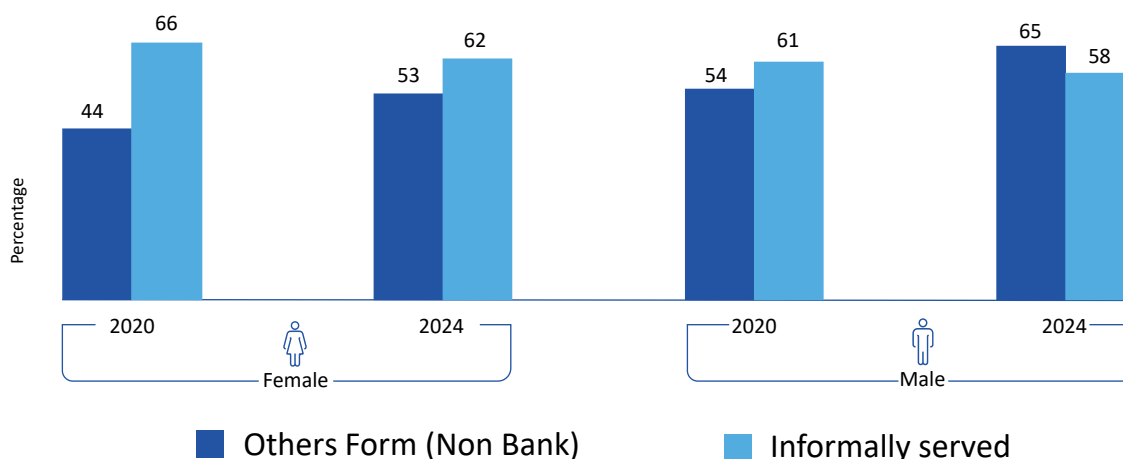
Savings are the leading product type and one of the main drivers of financial inclusion for women in Rwanda. However, this category also shows the gender differences, especially in terms of formal savings. The results of Finscope Survey show that in 2020, in total, 85% of women save as compared to 87% of men, mainly to pay

for living expenses when times are hard, which relates to the high incidence of no/low/irregular income. In turn, 15% of women do not save, mainly because they do not have money to save/invest compared to 13% of men. Both men and women seem to save for similar reasons. However, there are some (minor) gender differences in terms of barriers which prevent women from saving. More women than men mentioned that they do not save because of monetary reasons: they do not have money to save/invest (69% of women compared to 73% of men), they do not have a job (31% of women compared to 25% of men), they find it too expensive (16% compared to 14%, respectively). Interestingly, 13% of women (and 11% of men) who do not save said it is because they do not have a bank account, and 4% mentioned that they never thought about investments/savings, which indicates a need for financial education and possibly a review of regulatory policy on minimum balances, concessions on varying levels of income, and accommodating banking fees.

### 2.2.2.1. Saving in other formal (nonbank and informally served)

The figure 10 on the overview (in %) of the use of savings products/services in other formal (non-bank) and informal institutions in 2024 shows that over the last 4 years, from 2020 to 2024, the percentage of the population aged 16 and over who saved in other formal institutions (such as MFIs, SACCOs, ..) increased from 44% to 53% in 2024 for women and from 54% to 65% for men, while in the informal sector it has decreased from 66% to 62% for women and from 61% to 58% in 2024 for men

**Figure 10: Overview of saving products/services uptake in other formal and informally served 2024**



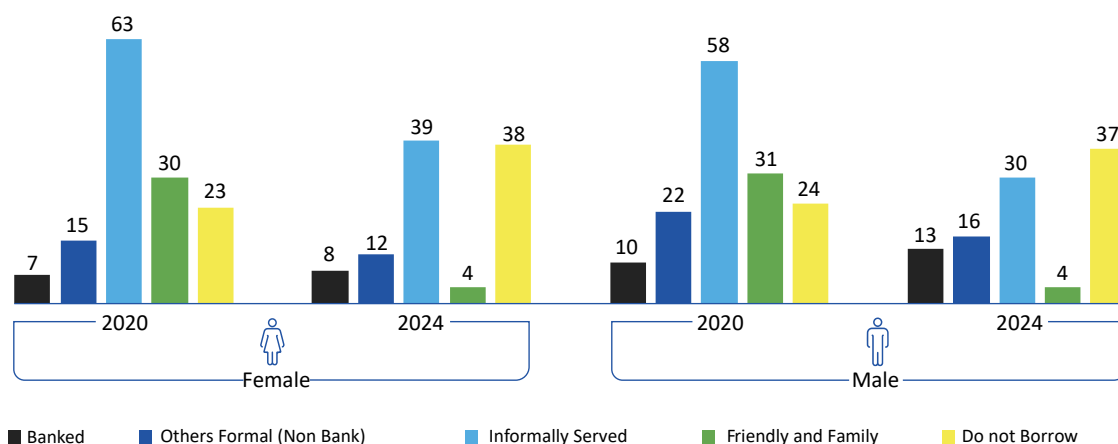
Source: FinScope Survey, 2020 & 2024

### 2.2.3. Borrowing and credit

Women are slightly more likely to borrow compared to men (especially from informal sources). Finscope 2020 reveals that, in total, 77% of women borrow compared to 76% of men. Women are more likely than men to borrow money to cover education and school fees (26% of women compared to 7% of men), buying land/dwelling (17% of women compared to 12% of men) and emergencies other than medical (7% compared to 1%, respectively). Men are more likely than women to borrow money for developmental reasons (such as business, building/improving dwelling, living expenses, farming equipment/expenses, livestock) at 60% and 36%, respectively.

In general, women are slightly more likely to borrow than men (particularly from informal sources): 77% of women borrow compared to 76% of men. According to the Finscope 2024 report, the percentage of women taking out a loan from a commercial bank was only 7% (compared with 10% for men) in 2020, but this had raised to 8% (compared with 13% for men) by 2024. Women are also less likely than men to obtain credit from other formal (non-bank) institutions (12% and 16% respectively). In addition, 39% of women, compared with 30% of men, borrow from informal groups, as mentioned above. The percentage of women who do not borrow has increased from 23% in 2020 to 38% in 2024, while the percentage of men has also increased, from 24% to 37% over the same period.

Figure 11: Overview (in %) of credit products/services uptake in 2024



Source: Finscope Survey, Women and Financial Inclusion in Rwanda, 2020 & 2024

## 2.2.6 Credit strand by gender and by institution in 2024

10% of the population aged 16 and over received a loan in general, the breakdown by gender shows that 13% of men versus 8% of women, while in informal credit 39% of women versus 30% of men received a loan, the proportion of women and men who don’t borrow is slightly higher than that of men (38% and 37% respectively).

**Table 14: Credit strand by gender**

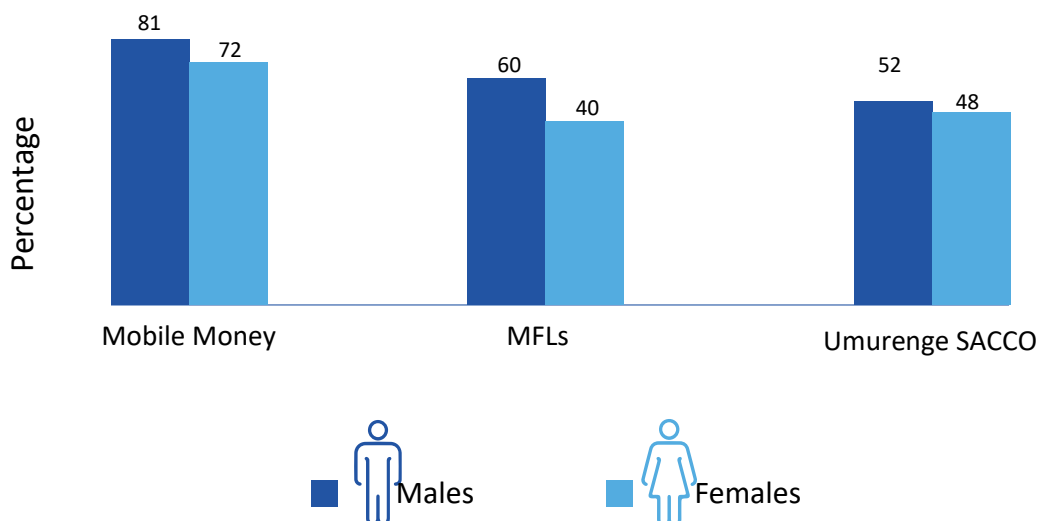
	Bank	Other formal	Informal	Family and friends	Not borrowing
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	10	14	34	4	37
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	13	16	30	4	37
Female	8	12	39	4	38

Source: AFR 2024

### Financial transactions in non-bank institutions in 2024

The figure below shows that in 2024, 81% of males had transactions with Mobile money against have 72% for females, 60% of males have had financial transactions in Micro finance institutions against 40% of females while in Umurenge Saccos, females occupied 48% against 52% for males.

**Figure 12: on transactional account in non-bank institutions**



Source: AFR 2024

## 2.2.8 Average monthly income from employment

Average income from paid employment for employees in the main job increases proportionately with the level of education acquired. The national average hourly cash income from employment of employees at the main job was 545 RWF per hour.

**Table 15: Average monthly cash income from employment of employees at main job by sex, level of educational attainment, RLFS 2023**

	Male	Female	Gender Gap on income
None	39,758	27,003	(12,755)
Primary	58,285	28,373	(29,912)
Lower secondary	84,502	43,736	(40,765)
Upper secondary	123,072	93,418	(29,654)
University	404,460	308,935	(95,525)

Source: NISR, LFS 2023

According to the results of the 2023 Labour Force Survey, the average monthly income from employees’ main job, by gender and level of education, is lower for women than for men. The gender gap in income reveals that women earn less than half of men’s income, with the gap amounting to 29,912 FRW for those with primary education and 40,765 FRW for those with lower secondary education.



## 2.3: Infrastructure, ICT and Media

### 2.3.1. Introduction

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) underpins the importance of infrastructure, not only for sustainable development but also for the development of a competitive private sector, and it continues to invest heavily in infrastructure. Mainstreaming gender in the infrastructure sector is very vital to ensure that both men and women are contributing and equally benefiting from the designed and implemented programs. This report examines the extent to which gender mainstreaming in the development of national infrastructure has moved from rhetoric to action, as well as the extent to which the actions have addressed social equity and resulted in positive outcomes for the specific needs of women, men, boys and girls.

### 2.3.2 Human settlements and waste management

Man’s impact on environmental degradation can be mitigated by modern technologies (for example, integrated pest management in agriculture or recycling/composting in waste management), but just as much by simple behavioural patterns such as proper waste treatment or the use of sustainable fuels. Traditionally, rural settlements in Rwanda have consisted of scattered, isolated dwellings. Such settlements make it difficult to develop accessible rural infrastructure and provide basic services for the sustainable use of natural resources and environmental treatment. However, the data show a clear trend away from traditional isolated housing towards Imidugudu or other forms of grouped housing.

**Table 16: Percentage of private household by type of habitat and by sex of HH head**

Indicator	Female headed HH	Male headed HH	Total
HH living in a planned rural settlement (Imidugudu)	66.6	64.9	65.4
HH living Integrated Model Village	1	0.8	0.8
HH in Old settlement	2.5	2.2	2.3
HH in Dispersed/Isolated housing	15.4	14.7	14.9
HH living in Modern Planned urban housing	5.5	7.5	6.9
HH in Spontaneous/squatter housing	8	9.2	8.9
Other type housing	1.1	0.7	0.8

Source: Fifth Rwanda Population and Housing Censuses, 2022 (NISR)

Table above shows the type of habitat by sex of household head. The percentage of females headed households is higher than males headed households among residents living in HH living in Planned rural settlement (66.6% for female headed Vs 64.9% for male headed), HH living in integrated Model village (1% for females headed HHs Vs 0.8% for males headed HHs) and Dispersed/isolated housing (15.4% Vs 14.7%); while Male headed HH is higher than female in Modern planned Urban housing (7.5% Vs 5.5%) and spontaneous/squatter housing(9.2% vs 8%),.

### 2.3.3. Main materials of the housing units

The results of the 2022 census show that 74.1% of housing units are covered by metal sheets on the roof, while 25.8% are covered by local or industrial tiles. At national level, the percentage of housing units with walls made of sun-dried mud bricks with or without cement is 67% (64.7% of female-headed households compared with 67.9% of male-headed households), while 60.4% (64.9% of female-headed households compared with 58.5% of male-headed households) have earth as a floor material. The table below shows the distribution of the main housing materials according to the gender of the head of household.

**Table 17: Main materials of the housing units by sex of HH head**

Indicator	Female headed HH	Male headed HH	Total
Private HHs with metal sheets used as roofing material of the dwelling	72.1	74.9	74.1
Private households possessing local and industrial tiles as roofing materials	27.8	25	25.8
Private households possessing Sun dried bricks with or without cement as wall materials	64.7	67.9	67
Private households possessing Wood with mud with cement as wall materials	7.6	7.4	7.5
Private households possessing Wood with mud without cement as wall materials	21.4	16.7	18.1
Private households possessing burnt bricks as wall materials	3.2	4.4	4.0
Private households possessing cement bricks (and concrete) as wall materials	0.4	0.7	0.7
Private households possessing earth as floor materials of the dwelling	64.9	58.5	60.4
Private households possessing Dung hardened as floor materials of the dwelling	4	3.4	3.6
Private households possessing ceramic/clays/granite tiles floor as floor materials of the dwelling	2.2	3.7	3.2
Private households possessing cement as floor materials of the dwelling	27.8	32.9	31.4

Source: NISR, RPHC, 2022

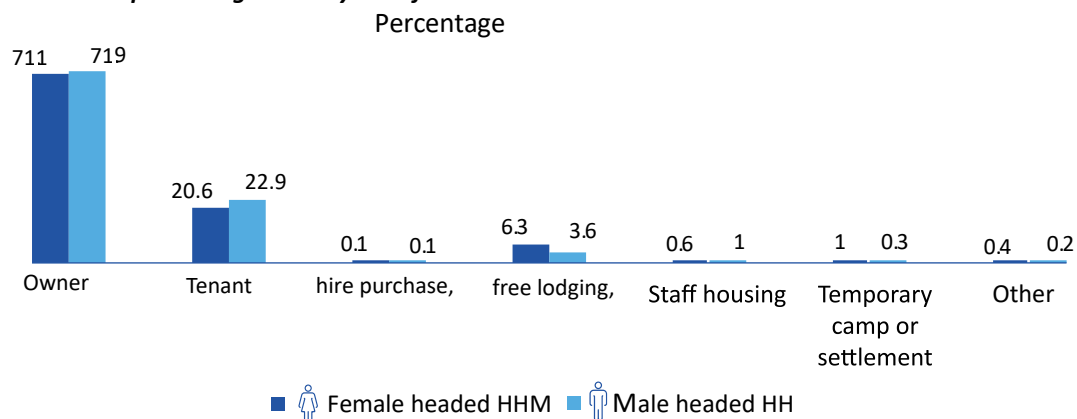
The main roofing material used is sheet metal and represents 74.1% of all housing units. Among female-headed households, these materials account for 72.1%, while they represent 74.9% among male-headed households. Sun-dried mud bricks with or without cement are used for the walls of housing units and represent 67% of the total number of housing units. These materials are used in 64.7% of housing units occupied by female-headed households, compared with 67.9% of housing units occupied by male-headed households.

On the other hand, female-headed households with an earth floor for the main dwelling accounted for 64.9% as against 58.5% for male-headed households, while dwellings with a cement (and concrete) floor accounted for 27.8% for female-headed households as against 32.9% for male-headed households. The table above gives more details.

### 2.3.4. Ownership of dwellings by sex of HH head.

In terms of home ownership, the figure below shows that 71.6% of households live in their own home, while 22.2% live in rented accommodation. According to the gender of the head of household, the census results show that the percentage of female-headed households owning a dwelling is slightly lower than that of male-headed households (71.1% compared with 71.9%). The percentage of rented accommodation is higher for male-headed households than for female-headed households (22.9% compared with 20.6%).

**Figure 13: Ownership dwelling status by sex of household head.**

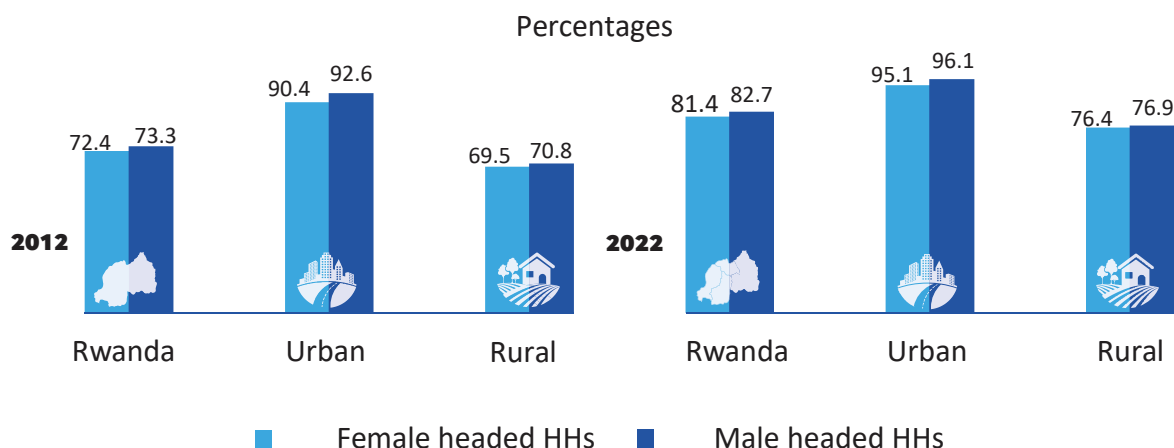


Source: NISR, RPHC, 2022

### 2.3.5 Access to improved water source

Findings in figure 14 reveal that access to improved drinking water sources has slightly increased for both female and male headed households in the past ten years. The data shows, the proportion of female-headed households that use improved drinking water sources has increased from 72.4% to 81.4% between 2012 and 2022 compared to male headed household which increased from 73.3% to 82.7%. No significant gap between female headed HH and male headed HH to have access to improved drinking water source in Rwanda.

**Figure 14: Access to improved drinking water source by residence and sex of head of household**



Source: NISR, RPHC 2012, 2022

### 2.3.6. Access to electricity for lighting

With regards to access to energy for lighting, the table below shows that the percentage of households using electricity as the main source of energy for lighting has increased between 2012 and 2022. Electricity use as a source of lighting among female headed households has increased slightly by 29.2 percentage points from 11.9% in 2012 to 41.1% in 2022 compared to male headed households which increased by 30.8 percentage points from 18.8% to 49.6% in the same period. In 2022, the percentage of female-headed households using firewood for lighting was 6.41% compared to 3.3% of male-headed households.

It should be noted that the biggest gain was in the use of solar panel, which shows the strong impact of government promoting the use of solar panel to rapidly increase the access to electricity to the rural population. For female headed household, that use of solar panel has increased from 0.3% to 12.9% while for male headed household it has increased from 0.5% to 13.9% in ten years.

**Table 18: Access to Energy for lighting by sex of head of HH**

	Female headed HH (%)		Male headed HH (%)	
	2012	2022	2012	2022
Electricity	11.9	41.1	18.8	49.6
Flashlight/ Phone Flashlight	0.0	32.3	0.0	26.9
Solar power	0.3	12.9	0.5	13.9
Firewood	12.9	6.4	5.9	3.3
Oil (Latarn/Kerosen)	42.6	1.9	40.2	1.4
Candle	8.9	3.2	10	2.9
Batteries	0	1.4	0	1.2
Others	22.8	0.7	23.9	0.4

Source: RPHC 2012, 2022

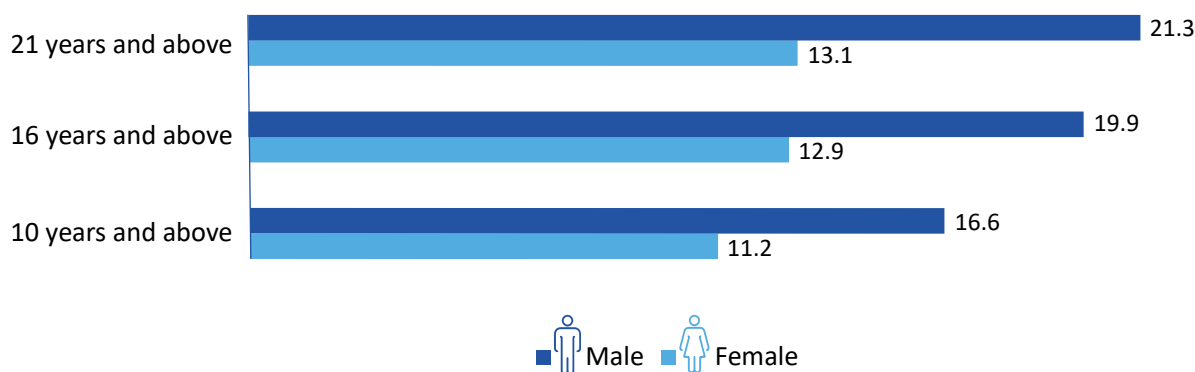
### 2.3.7. Access to ICT tools

Rwanda aspires to become a knowledge-based economy focusing on information, communication and technology. ICT is a central engine for national economic transformation, knowledge transfer, facilitate financial transactions, contribute to improved healthcare and capacity building. It has transformed the way women and men, boys and girls work, communicate, network, seek help and learn. ICT is one of global impact commitments that Rwanda has committed to in bridging the gender digital divide and attain parity in ICT access, usage and innovation by 2020.

#### 2.3.7.1 Internet use

According to RPHC 2022, the findings indicate that the percentage of population who used internet among females aged 10 years and above are at 11.2%, while for males, the rate is higher at 16.6%. For individuals aged 16 years and above, it increases to 12.9% for females and 19.9% for males. In the age group of 21 years and above, it is 13.1% for females and 21.3% for males. This data shows a persistent gender imbalance in internet use, with males consistently having higher rate than females across all age groups.

**Figure 15: Percentage of Population aged 10+ year and above using internet**

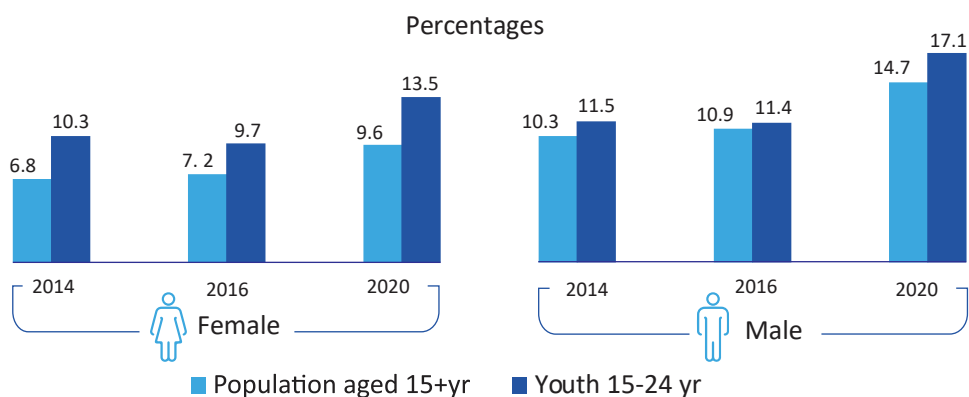


Source: NISR, RPHC Main indicators report, 2022

#### 2.3.7.2 Computer literacy

A person is considered to be ‘computer literate’ if they declare that they have sufficient knowledge and skills to use computers and are familiar with how computers work. The results of the RHHS 2020 survey show that 9.6% of women aged 15 and over are computer literate, while the rate for men is higher, at 14.7% in 2020. For people aged 15 to 24, the rate of computer literacy rises from 10.3% in 2014 to 13.5% in 2020 for women and from 11.5% to 17.1% for men over the same period.

Figure 16: Computer literacy among population by sex



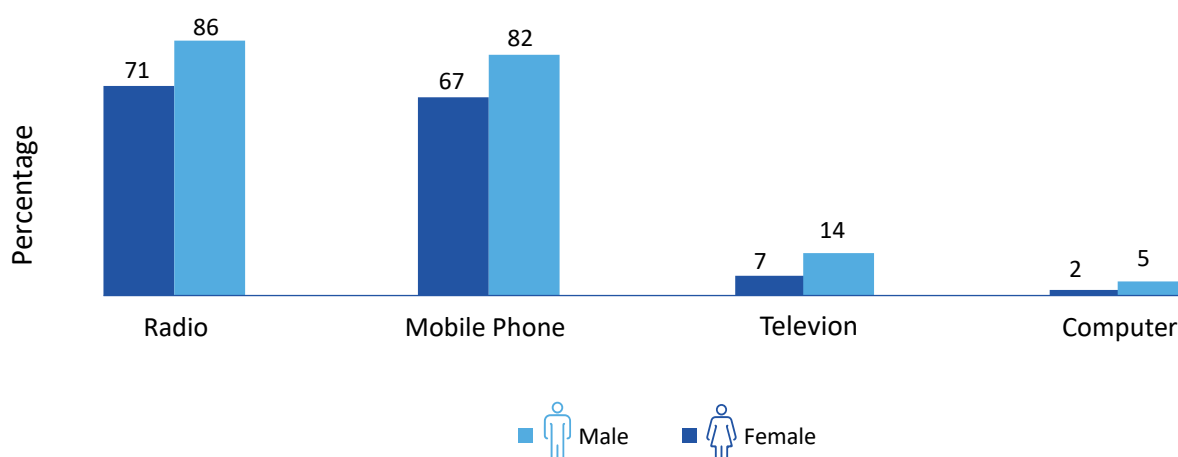
Source: EICV 2013/14, EICV2016/17, RHHS 2020

### 2.3.7.3. Ownership of mobile phones, television, radio and computer

In terms of ownership of ICT tools, the results show that ownership of mobile phones remains the most widely used ICT tool by both male and female heads of household, according to the 2022 RPHC. Although it is the predominant ICT tool, the percentage of female-headed households owning at least one mobile phone is 15 percentage points lower than that of male-headed households (67% for women compared with 82% for men).

With regard to trends over time, there has been an increase in mobile phone ownership in female-headed households compared with previous years. In terms of television ownership, 7% of female-headed households own at least one television, compared with 14% of male-headed households. The data also shows that radio ownership is higher for both sexes, with 71% of female-headed households and 86% of male-headed households owning at least one radio. Computer ownership is also relatively low, with only 2% of female heads of household and 5% of male heads of household owning at least one computer.

Figure 17: Ownership of household ICT tools by sex of household head in 2022



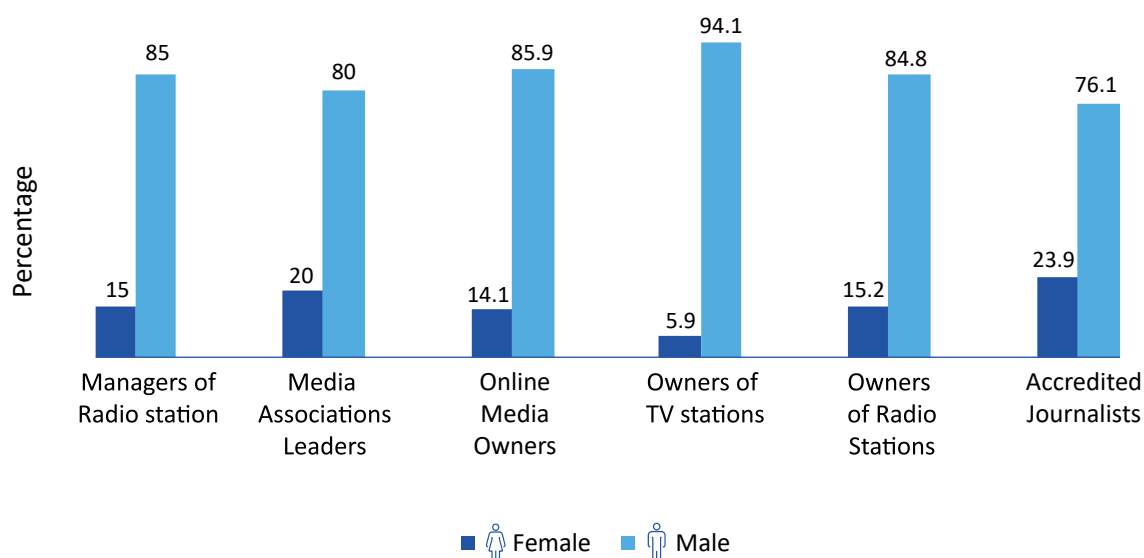
Source: NISR, RPHC, 2022

### 2.3.7.4 Access to Media

The role of media is capital in promoting good governance and transformative information and communication. Media can play a significant role in promoting good governance by disseminating developmental information. The constitution of the republic of Rwanda guarantees media freedom. Consequently, the government of Rwanda has designed laws, policies, strategies, and programmes to guide practitioners in exercising media freedom. Both the revised national media policy (2014 - 2020) and gender mainstreaming strategy in the media sector (2013) aim to create a professional, responsible, plural and economically viable media sector that apprehends the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination of women in the media sector.

However, the media sector in Rwanda, particularly the leadership, is male dominated. Data indicates that only 23.9% of accredited journalists are females compared to 76.1% of males. The findings also show that females constitute just 15.2% of radio station owners and 15% of radio station managers, compared to 84.8% and 85% for males, respectively. For TV station owners, the percentage of females is even lower at 5.9% compared to 94.1% for males. In the realm of online media, females make up 14.1% of owners compared to 85.9% for males. Additionally, 20% of media association leaders are females, while 80% are males.

**Figure 18: Representation of Men and women in Media sector**



Source: RMC Administrative Data, 2023

## 2.4. Environment and Natural Resources

### 2.4.1. Introduction

Environmental sustainability is one of the prominent policy and development areas in the overall development framework and strategies in Rwanda. Gender mainstreaming in the environmental sector is well captured and documented in the country’s sector policies and strategies including the national energy policy (2015), the Infrastructure Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (2017- 2022), the Energy Sector Strategic Plan (2013/14 - 2017/18) - (2018/19 - 2023/24), Water and Sanitation Sector Strategic Plan (2013-2018) as well as the policy/strategy for relocation of people from high-risk zones including women. All these strategies integrate gender equality dimensions in various thematic areas such as health hazards, increased women’s access to and control of land, water, energy, and other natural resources, promotion of education of women and girls in science, engineering, technology, and other disciplines relating to the natural environment.

## 2.4.2 Agriculture practices for environment protection

In a country like Rwanda, soil erosion control is one of the agricultural practices that can be useful in environments where land is scarce. The table below, with data from the AHS, shows that the percentage of farm households involved in protecting land from soil erosion increased to 80% of female-headed households compared with 85.2% of male-headed households in 2020.

Furthermore, as land resources are scarce, land irrigation can help to mitigate the effects of land scarcity and environmental protection. This is therefore another important issue for the land sector, given that irrigation systems make it possible to protect the environment and increase the cultivation of otherwise unused or underused land. The results of the Agricultural Household Survey 2020 reveal that female-headed households practicing irrigation were 10.2% compared to 16.3% for male-headed households in 2020 (table below).

**Table 19: Percentage of agricultural households per different agricultural practices**

	Erosion control measures	Agroforestry trees in their plots	Irrigation	Mechanical equipment
Rwanda	83.8	46.2	14.6	0.1
HH Male Headed	85.2	48.8	16.3	0.2
HH Female Headed	80	39.6	10.2	0.0

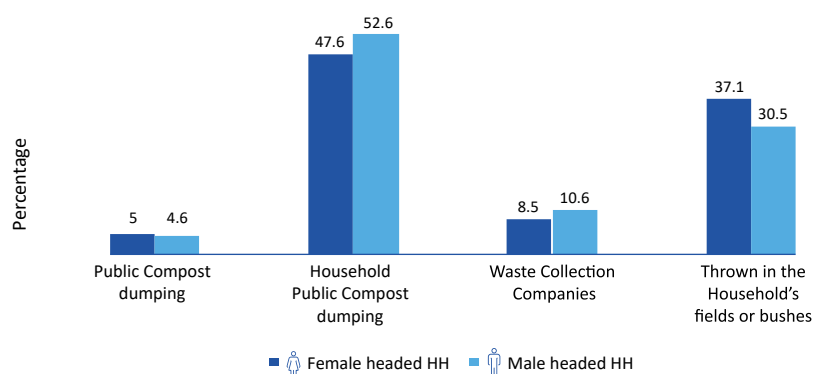
Source: NISR, AHS Gender Thematic Report, 2020

## 2.4.3 Mode waste disposal

In general, waste must be recycled or thermally treated. If this is not possible for technical reasons, or if it is not economically viable, the waste is deposited in a landfill after appropriate treatment.

The figure below shows the different methods of waste disposal according to the gender of the heads of household. The percentage of female-headed households is lower than that of male-headed households for waste dumped in household fields or bushes (37.1% compared with 30.5% for male-headed households). headed households for waste composted by households (47.6% compared with 52.6%) and for waste collection companies (8.5% compared with 10.6%), but it is higher than that of male headed.

**Figure 19: Mode waste disposal by sex of HH head**



Source: NISR, Fifth Rwanda Population and Housing Censu, 2022

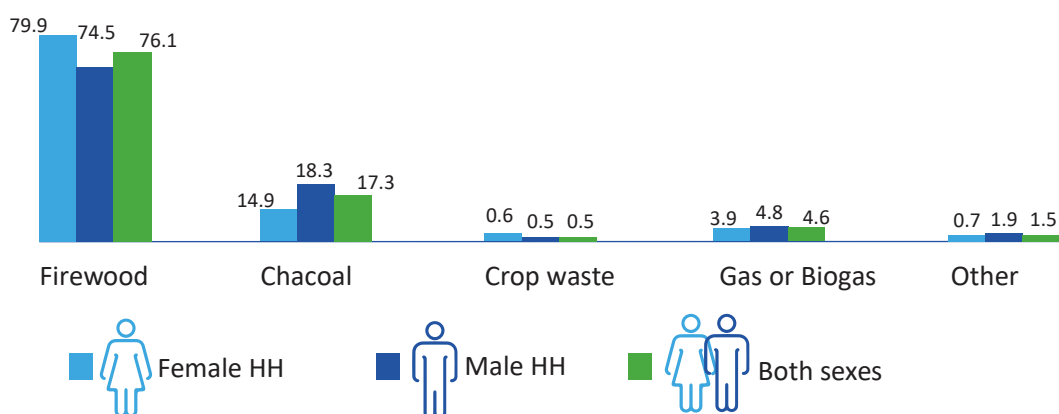
## 2.4.4 Access to energy for cooking

The current discourse on gender equality and empowerment in relation to environmental sustainability in Rwanda is the use of alternative fuels such as cooking gas and biogas, which are seen as both clean energy and timesaving for women.

Despite a persistent reliance on the use of firewood by the majority of female-headed households (79.9%) compared to the proportion of male-headed households using firewood (74.5%). As for charcoal as a fuel, male-headed households used 18.3% compared to 14.9% for female-headed households over the same period.

The Figure 20 also shows that the use of alternative energy sources by female-headed households has generally increased. Around 3.9% of female-headed households use gas and biogas in 2022 compared with 4.8% of male-headed households, an average difference of 0.9% in favour of male-headed households in 2022. Better access to these alternative energy sources reduces women's workload in collecting firewood and gives them more time to engage in other productive economic activities.

**Figure 20: Distribution of HH by Energy for primary fuel used for cooking by sex of head of HH**



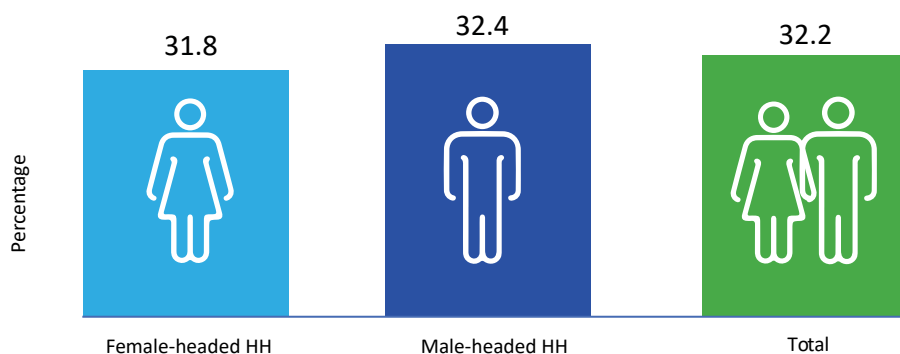
Source: NISR, RPHC, 2022

### 2.4.5 Energy saving stove

By prioritizing energy efficiency from the outset, Rwanda can reap significant economic and environmental benefits and ensure the adoption of efficient technologies and development approaches. Following the report 'Energy Efficiency Potential Assessment for Rwanda', prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA), estimates show that Rwanda could potentially reduce its electricity consumption by around 22% by adopting energy efficiency measures in different sectors.

According to the figure 20, the percentage of female-headed households owning and using an energy-saving stove is 31.8%, compared with 32.4% for male-headed households in 2022,

**Figure 21: Percentage of private households, which have and used energy saving stove in 2022**



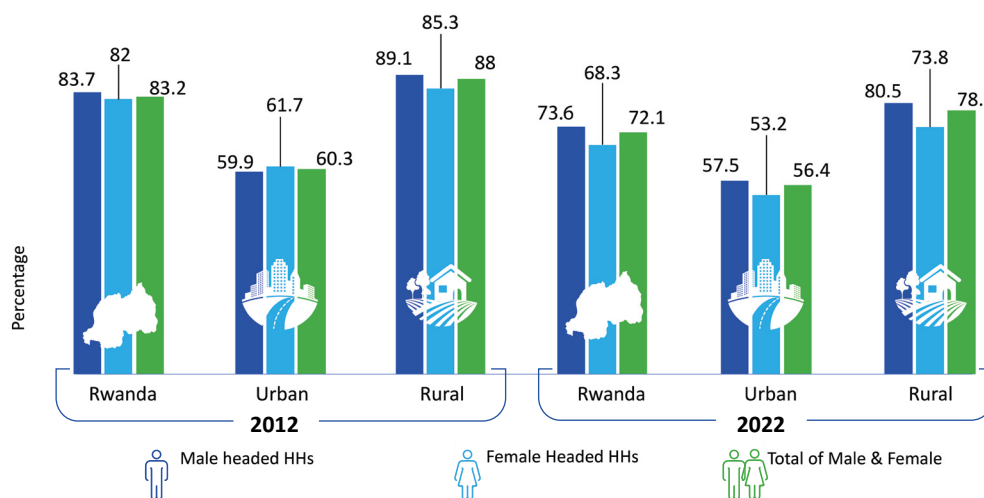
Source: NISR, RPHC, 2022



## 2.4.5 Access to Sanitation facility

The results in Figure below show that 68.3% of female-headed households used an improved unshared toilet in 2022, up from 82% in 2012, while 73.6% of male-headed households used an improved unshared toilet, up from 82% over the same period. However, it should be noted that 31.7% of female-headed households did not have an improved unshared toilet, compared to 26.4% of male-headed households in 2022. This means that female-headed households are 5.3% more likely than male-headed households not to have an improved non-shared toilet.

**Figure 22: Percentage of private households that have access to improved Sanitation facilities (using unshared improved toilet)**



Source: NISR, RPHC, 2012, 2022

## 2.5. Trade, Business and Industry

### 2.5.1. Introduction

Trade can play an important role in driving women’s economic empowerment. The world trade organization (WTO) therefore seeks to build a more inclusive trading system that will allow more women to participate in trade and to reap the economic benefits of global trading .

### 2.5.2. Exports and Imports businesses in informal cross-border trade

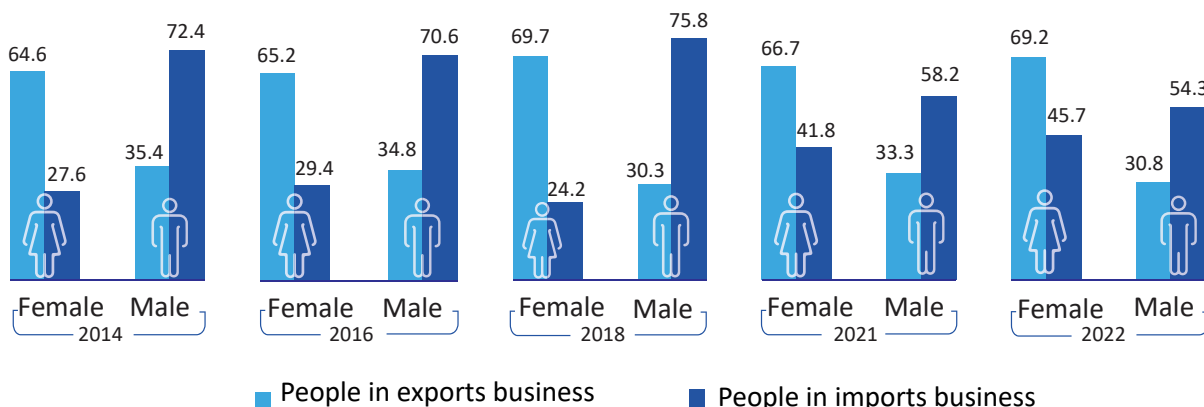
Informal cross-border trade is trade between neighbouring countries conducted by vulnerable, small, unregistered traders. Typically, it is proximity trade involving the move of produce between markets close to the border. The informality refers to the status of the trader (unregistered), not necessarily to the trade itself (captured or unrecorded by the official customs system). Informal cross-border trade has discrete gender impacts: in major cross-border posts within East Africa, women account for a high percentage of informal traders. This female intensive sector has broad poverty and development ramifications. It constitutes a vital source of employment and livelihood for the poor, in particular for low-income and low-skilled women, in border districts. Furthermore, if properly supported, it can generate significant rural non-farm income and become a catalyst for value chain creation and support in rural areas. This benefit, in turn, can lower rural unemployment and slow rural-urban migration, while empowering women .

3 [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/womenandtrade\\_e/womenandtrade\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/womenandtrade_e/womenandtrade_e.htm), accessed on 21st June 2019

4 <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Gender-and-Trade/Gender-Project-1617J.aspx>, accessed on 21st June 2019

The results in Figure 23 show that there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of women in in-formal export cross-border trade from 69.7% in 2018 to 69.2% in 2022, , while for men it has in-cresed from 30.3% to 30.8% in 2022. The same trend can be seen in informal cross-border import trade, where the data shows that the percentage of female traders in informal import businesses has increased significantly, from 24.2% in 2018 to 45.7% in 2022, while for men it has decreased from 75.8% to 54.3% over the same period.

**Figure 23: Trend of people in exports and imports businesses in informal cross border trade by sex**  
Percentages



Source: NISR, Informal Cross Border Trade reports 2014; 2016, 2018, 2021 and 2022

### 2.6.3 Sole proprietor establishment by size

The data in table 20 show that, in general, the majority of sole proprietorships, both male and female, are in the micro-enterprise category. However, in 2017, the number of female sole proprietorships is 32.6% of total enterprises against 67.4 % for males, regardless of the size of the business category. The results show that the number of female sole proprietors of total enterprises owned by females increased from 56859 in 2017 to 95 382 in 2023, while for men it increased from 117254 to 142075 over the same period. It was 10 large enterprises (those employing more than 100 employees) are owned by female in 2023 down from 16 enterprises in 2017, while 59 enterprises are owned by male slightly increased from 47 large enterprises in the same period.

**Table 20: Distribution of number sole proprietor enterprises by size and sex of owner**

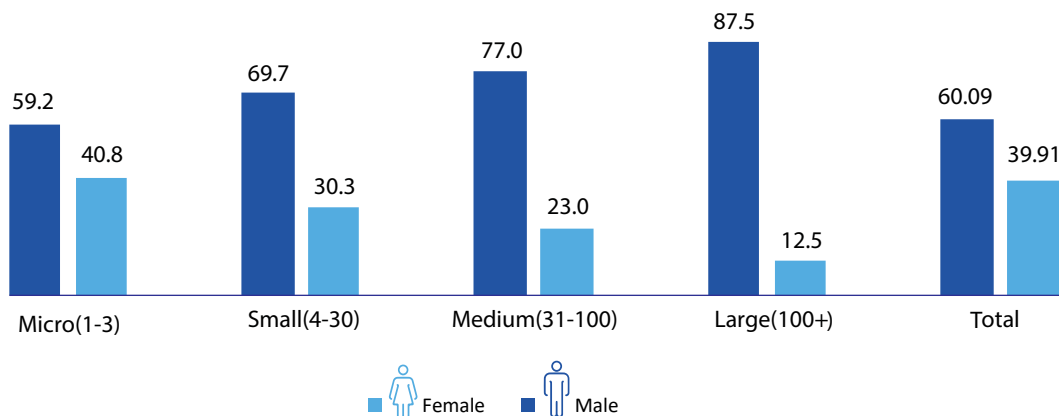
Year/Sex	Large (+100 employees)		Medium (31 to 100 employees)		Small (4 to 30 employees)		Micro (1 to 3 employees)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2014	36	4	104	27	4538	1817	96987	36169
2017	47	16	141	25	4824	2005	112242	54813
2020	45	8	214	57	5321	2534	123271	74791
2023	59	10	299	80	6953	3267	134764	92025

Source: NISR, Establishments Census Report 2017, 2020 & 2023

## 2.6.4 Enterprises managed by females

According to the figure below, the percentage of enterprises managed by females are 39.9 % for against 60.1% for males in general, by categories it was 41% compared to 59% in micro enterprises (with 1-3 employees), 30% for females compared to 70% for males in small enterprises' (with 4 to 30 employees), 12.5% for females compared to 87.5% for males in large enterprises with 100 and above employees in 2023.

Figure 24: Distribution of enterprises by size and by sex of manager

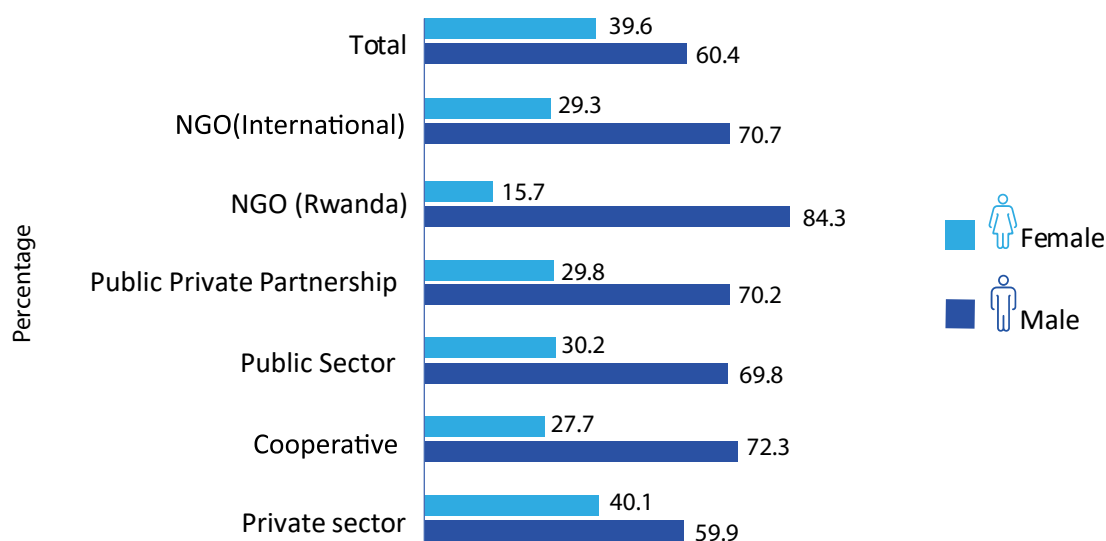


Source: NISR, Establishments Census Report, 2023

## 2.6.5 Establishments by institutional sector and sex of manager

According to the figure below, in Private sector, 40.1 % of establishment are managed by females in 2023 against 59.9% of males, followed by public sector, with 30.2% of establishments managed by females against 69.8%, the lower percentage of female's manager are in NGO (Rwanda) with 15.7% against 84.3% for establishments managed by males.

Figure 25: Distribution of establishments by institutional sector and sex of manager



Source: NISR, Establishments census, 2023

## 2.7: Economic Activity and Time Use

### 2.7.1 Introduction

Women’s participation in the economy is key to achieving sustainable national development. The government of Rwanda is aware of this and therefore continues to improve women’s opportunities for engagement in the economy through a number of mechanisms including implementing new enabling policies, laws and programmes to help women participate in and gain from the economic development process. For instance, law No 66/2018 of 30/08/2018 regulating Labour in Rwanda has been passed and is now operational. This law provides for equal rights to employment for both women and men, girls and boys, and guarantees equal remuneration for equal work for both females and males.

The country has further established various employment programmes including Create a Job programme (Hangumurimo), VUP, and National Employment Programme (NEP). The NEP programme aims at creating sufficient and productive jobs, increase skills and create positive work-related attitudes within workforce in both public and private institutions with special focus on women and youth. The implementation of the programme cuts across various sectors and involves various stakeholders including those that are promoting skills development, entrepreneurship and business advancement, labour markets interventions, and job creation.

### 2.7.2. Labour force participation rate, employment to population ratio and unemployment rate

The labor force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a country’s working age population that engages actively in the labor market, either by working or by looking for work. As the sum of the employed and (searching) unemployed, this indicator signals the relative size of the supply of labor available to engage in the production of goods and services . People are counted as a part of the labor force if they are engaged in activities that are included in the System of National Accounts or are available and searching for work in such activities. Persons are classified as not being in the labor force if they are attending an educational institution, engaged in household duties, retired, or infirm or disabled (and other reasons).

Women’s participation in the labor market varies greatly across countries, reflecting differences in economic development, social norms, education levels, fertility rates, and access to childcare and other supportive services. Female labor supply is, therefore, both a driver and an outcome of development. As more women enter the labor force, economies can grow faster in response to higher labor inputs. At the same time, as countries develop, women’s capabilities typically improve, while social constraints weaken, enabling women to engage in work outside the home. For this reason, policymakers need to understand the nature of women’s labor supply and to monitor women’s labor force participation. Ultimately, labor force participation is the outcome of not only supply-side factors, but also of the demand for labor. The relationship between evolving socio-economic and demographic factors and how women participate in the world of work is multifaceted

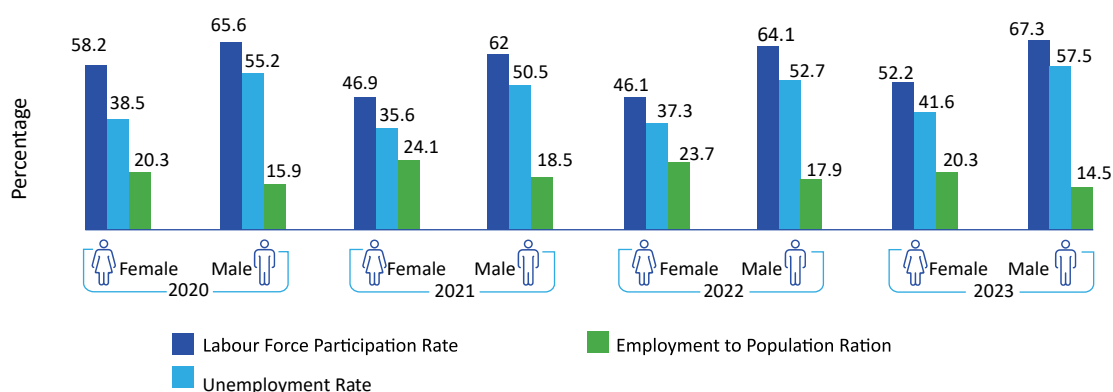
The present section provides information on historical trend of estimates of main indicators from the labour force survey since year 2017 to 2023. The national labour force participation rate, that is the percentage of the working age population engaged in the labour force. Data in Figure 26 shows that, female labour force participation in the last four years was the highest in 2023 with 52.2% and lowest in 2021 with 46.9%, while for male it was highest in 2023 with 67.3% and lowest in 2021 with 62%. The high labour force participation rate in 2020 was mainly due to the participation of girls’ and boys’ students who were back in their homes for a longer period of time due to lockdown to limit the spread of the Covid-19.

5 ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market, 8th Edition. Online at: [http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS\\_114240/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS_114240/lang-en/index.htm)).

The employment-to-population ratio, i.e., the percentage of the working age population who is employed, is an indicator of the performance of the national economy in providing employment to its growing population. During the last four years, this ratio for female was the highest in 2023 with 41.6% and lowest in 2021 with 35.6%, while for male, the ratio was the highest in 2023 with 57.5% and lowest in 2021 with 50.5%.

The unemployment rate represents the percentage of the labour force that is unemployed. Figure 26 shows that, female unemployment rate during the four consecutive years was the highest in 2021 with 24.1% and lowest in 2020 and 2023 with 20.3%, while for male it was the highest in 2021 with 18.5% and lowest in 2023 with 14.5%.

**Figure 26: Historical trend of Labour Force participation Rate (LFPR), Employment-to-Population Ratio (EPR) and the Unemployment rate (UR)**



Source: NISR, Labour Force Survey 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

### 2.7.3 Status in Employment

Status in employment classifies jobs held by persons at a given point of time with respect to the type of explicit or implicit contract of employment of the person with other persons or organizations. It may refer to the current job or jobs of an employed person or the last job of an unemployed person who had past work experience. The International Standard Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-1993) identifies five main categories of persons with respect to their status in employment<sup>1</sup>.

**Employees:** Persons working in “paid employment jobs”, i.e., holding explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contract with remuneration not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work. Remuneration could be in the form of wages or salaries, commission from sales, piece-rates, bonuses, or in-kind payments such as food, housing or training.

**Employers:** Persons working on own-account or with one or a few partners in “self-employment jobs”, i.e., (a) remuneration is directly dependent on the profits (or potential for profits) derived from the goods and services produced or for own consumption, and (b) engaging one or more “employees,” on a continuous basis.

**Own-account workers:** Persons working on own-account or with one or a few partners in a “self-employment job”, not engaging any “employees,” on a continuous basis.

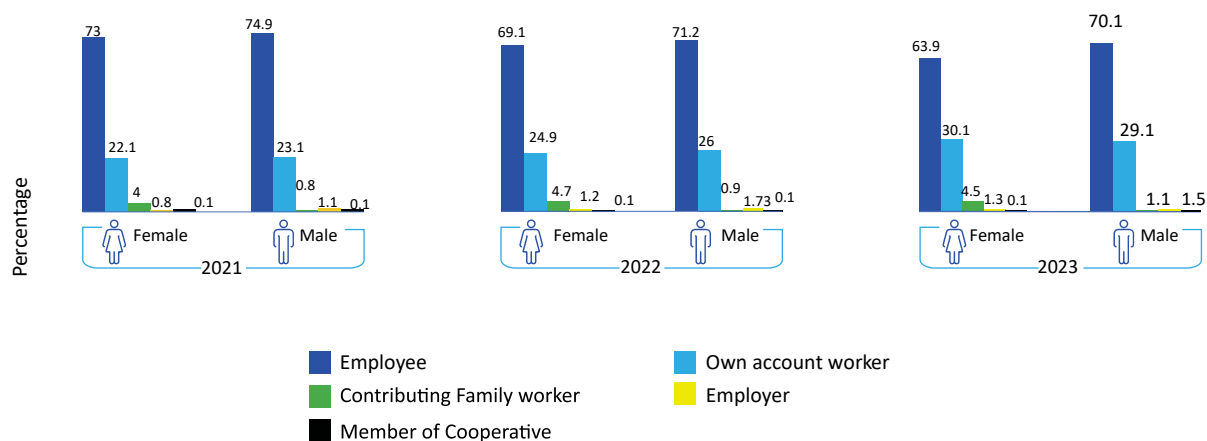
**Contributing family workers:** Persons working in a market-oriented establishment operated by a household member, who cannot be regarded as partner, in a “self-employment job”, not engaging any “employee” on a continuous basis.

6 ILO, International Classification of Status in Employment, ICSE-93, Fifteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva, <http://laborsta.ilo.org>

Members of producers’ cooperatives: Persons working in a cooperative producing goods and services, in a “self-employment job”, not engaging any “employee” on a continuous basis

The findings in figure 27 show that there is a slight difference between females and males who were employed in dependent jobs as employees in favour of males during the three years’ data reference points. The percentage of female employed as employees reduced from 73% in 2021 to 63.96% in 2023, while for males it reduced from 74.9% in 2021 to 70.1 % in 2023 in the same period. It should be noted that, the percentage of females employed in dependent jobs as contributing family workers (or in other words unpaid care workers) slightly increased from 4.0% in 2021 to 4.5% in 2023, while for males it increased from 0.8% to 1.1% in the same period.

**Figure 27: Status in Employment**



Source: NISR, LFS annual reports 2021, 2022 & 2023

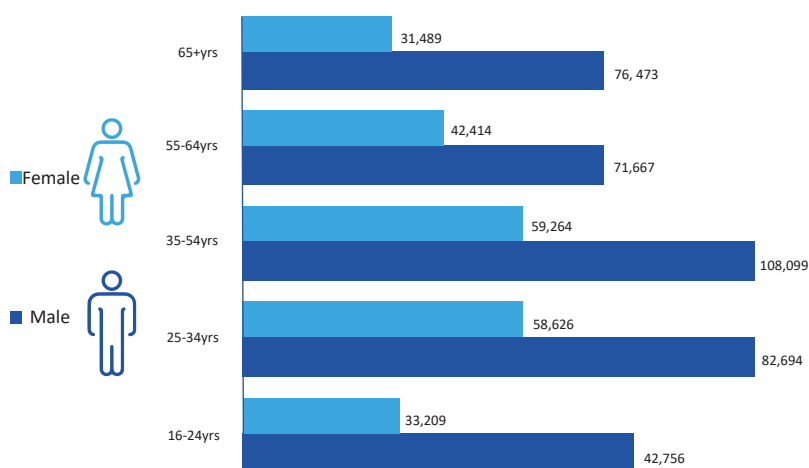
An attempt has been made in the labor force survey (LFS) to measure income from employment in cash and in-kind at the main job for both paid employees and self-employed workers. Because of the differences in the nature of income generation in self-employment and paid employment jobs, the international definition of employment related income distinguishes between paid employment and self-employment<sup>1</sup>. In the case of paid employment, the concept is defined in terms of its components, namely, remuneration in cash and in kind, profit-related pay and current receipts of employment related social benefits. In the case of self-employment, the concept is defined as the difference between gross value of output and operating expenses.

Figure 27 presents the resulting size distribution of cash monthly income from employment of employees at their main job. According to these results, the average income from paid employment of female employees at their main job was about 45,000 Frws per month, which is approximately 1.7 times lower compared to 76,338 Frws for male employees.

When age is considered, data in Figure 27 show that the lowest earning age group was the youngest group (16-24 years old). At the national level, the difference between female and male employee average earnings, though visible at younger ages, increases significantly with age. Female employees aged 65 years and above have average earnings that are about 2.4 times lower compared to male employees (31,489 Frws against 76,473 Frws, respectively).

<sup>1</sup> ILO, *Resolution concerning the measurement of employment-related income*, Sixteenth ICLS, October 1998. For the sake of simplicity, the term “income from employment” is used in this chapter in preference to the more exact term “employment-related income”.

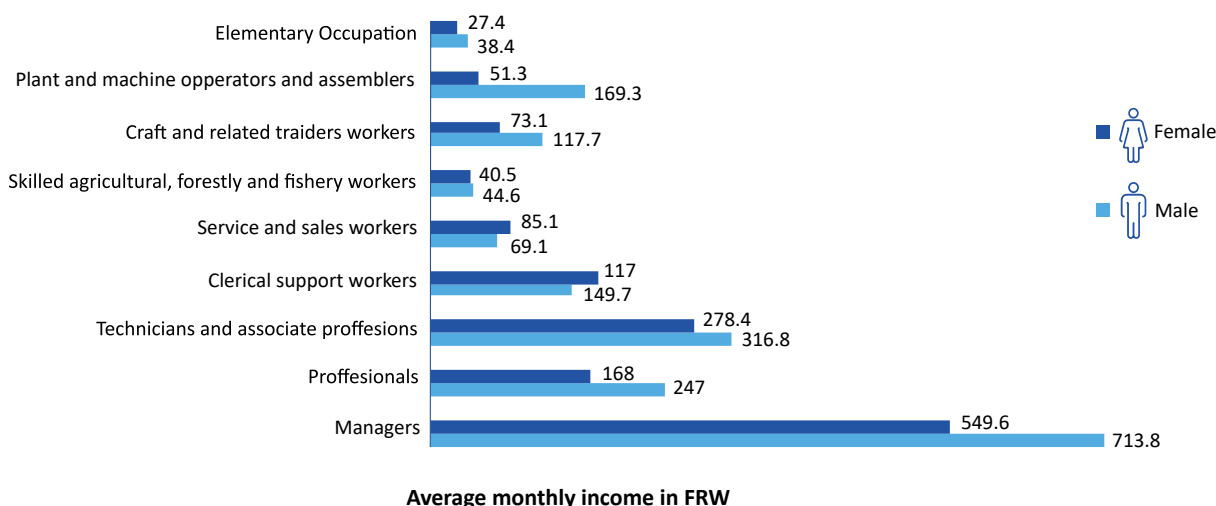
**Figure 28: Average monthly income (in Frws) from main employment by age group and sex**



Source: NISR, Labour Force Survey, Annual Report 2023

The type of occupation is one of the variables that determine the level of earnings. Figure 28 above presents the average monthly income from main employment by occupation group by sex. As can be seen in the findings, in general, except for females whose occupation group is in clerical support workers and in technicians and associate professions, females earn less income on average than their male counterparts in all other occupation groups. Although the average monthly income earnings of females whose occupation is manager is the highest compared to other occupations, it is still approximately 1.3 times lower compared to male managers (549,630 Frws against 713,826 Frws). On the other hand, the elementary occupations group provides the lowest average monthly income, where females earn about 1.4 times less than their male counterparts (27,462 Frws against 38,415 Frws).

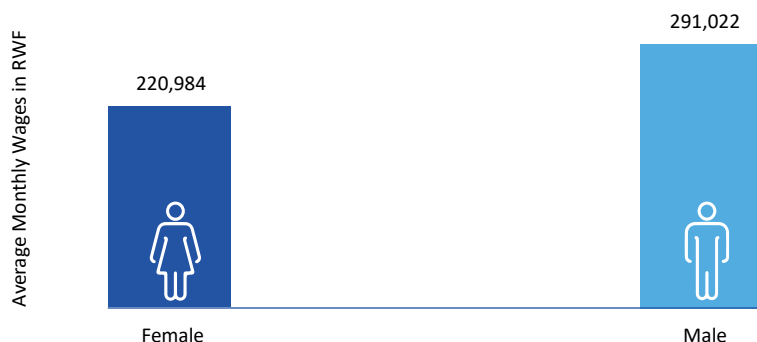
**Figure 29: Average monthly cash income (in thousand Frws) from employees aged 16+yrs by type of occupation**



Source: NISR, Labour Force Survey, Annual Report 2023,

The figure below shows that women employed in the civil service received an average monthly salary of 220984 Rwandan francs, which is lower than that of men, which is 291022 Rwandan francs, despite the fact that the law on salary income provides for equal pay between men and women in Rwanda for the same position.

**Figure 30: Average monthly wages in civil service by sex**



Source: MIFOTRA, IPPIS DATA, December 2023

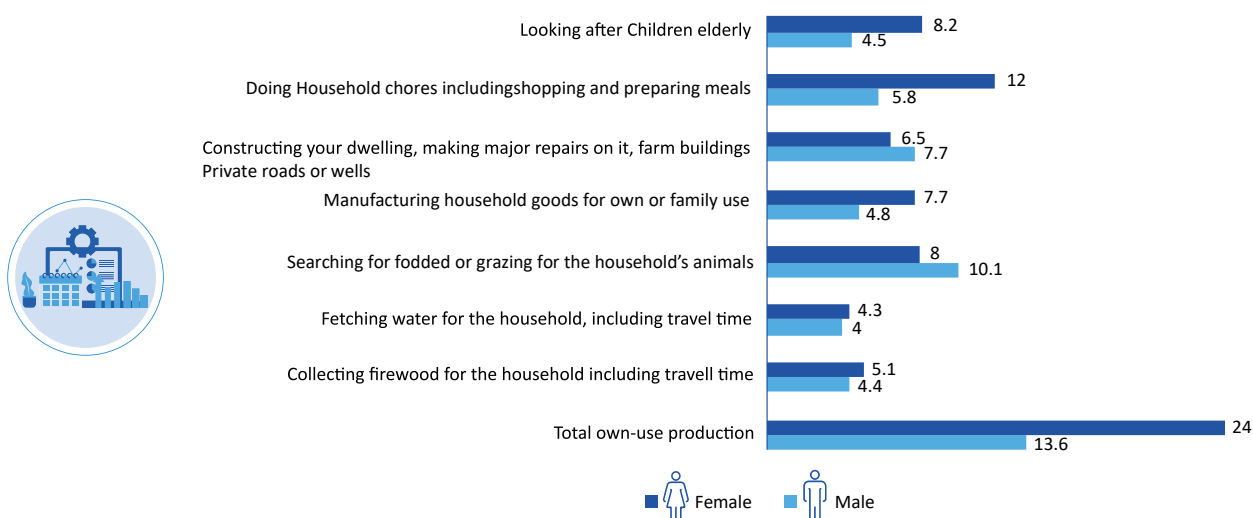
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## 5 Own use production work out of agriculture

Information about participation and time-spent in own-use production work is essential to inform a wide range of policies including those targeting employment creation in rural areas, poverty reduction, food security, and provision of a wide range of services, including water supply, child and elderly care, domestic services, etc. It is also essential for addressing gender issues in the world of work and for better understanding participation and access to labour markets, and related issues such as work-life balance.

The results in Figure 30 indicate that females devoted on average 24 hours per week to own-use production work compared to only 13.6 hours for males. The activities in which females were spending more time than males per week were cooking and shopping (12 hours against 5.8 hours), looking after children and the elderly (8.2 hours against 4.5 hours) and collecting firewood for the household (5.1 hours against 4.4 hours). However, it should be noted that males were spending more time than females per week in repairing households (7.7 hours against 6.5 hours), manufacturing household goods for own or family use (7.7 hours against 4.8 hours), and searching for food or grazing (10.1 hours against 8 hours).

**Figure 31: Average time spent per week in own-use production (OWP) work by sex and type**



Source: NISR, Labour force Annual report 2023



# CHAPTER 3

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PILLAR OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

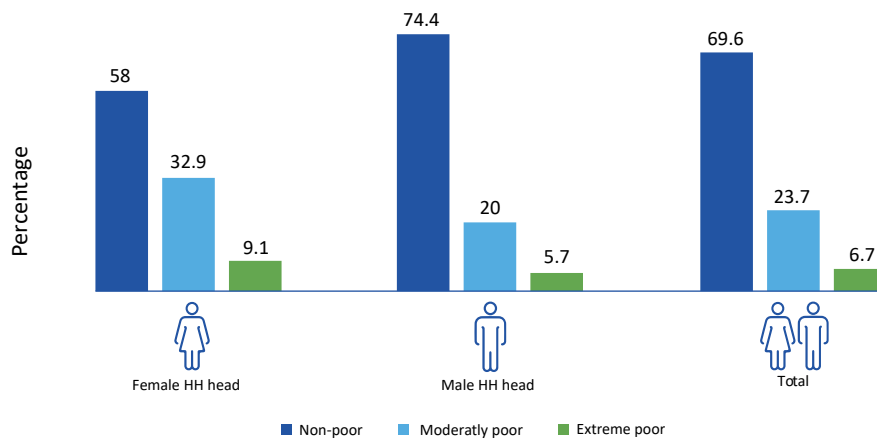
### 3.1.1 Introduction

The government of Rwanda continues to implement policies and social protection programmes aimed at reducing poverty among the population including people at high risk of exclusion, in particular women and girls. In spite of the on-going innovative and home-grown solutions, especially the social protection programmes like “One cow per poor family and Vision 2020 Umurenge Program (VUP)” meant to reduce poverty among the population, a significant number of women and girls still experience economic hardships.

### 3.1.2. Poverty

This figure suggests that over time, there has been an improvement in the economic status of households, with fewer households falling into the extremely poor category and more households becoming non-poor.

**Figure 32: Percentage of household classified as poor by sex of HH head in 2022.**



Source: NISR, RPHC Thematic Report measurement and mapping of non-monetary poverty, 2022

Findings in the figure above show the difference in poverty levels among the female and male-headed HH. According to EICV5,<sup>1</sup> The Extreme poverty levels of female headed households has declined from 17.8% in 2016/17 to 9.1% in 2022 (RPHC 5) while for male headed households, it declined from 15 % to 5.7% in the same period. For Moderately poor, it has increased from 21.7% in 2016/17 to 32.9% in 2022 for female headed households, while for male headed households it declined from 22.6% to 20% in the same period. Considering non-poor, it has decreased from 60.5% in 2016/2017 to 58% in 2022 for female headed households, while for male headed increased from 62.4% to 74.4% in the same period. In terms of gender gap, we notice that male-headed HH are less poor than female-headed HH (74.4% Vs 58% in 2022).

### 3.1.3 Social Protection

#### 3.1.3.1 Introduction

The national social protection policy aims to support women’s participation in productive activities, reduce overall vulnerability, and promote sustainable economic and social development with a focus on risk management and protecting vulnerable populations. Several social protection programs were introduced to address poverty, especially among women and girls. Key programs include the Vision 2020 Umurenge

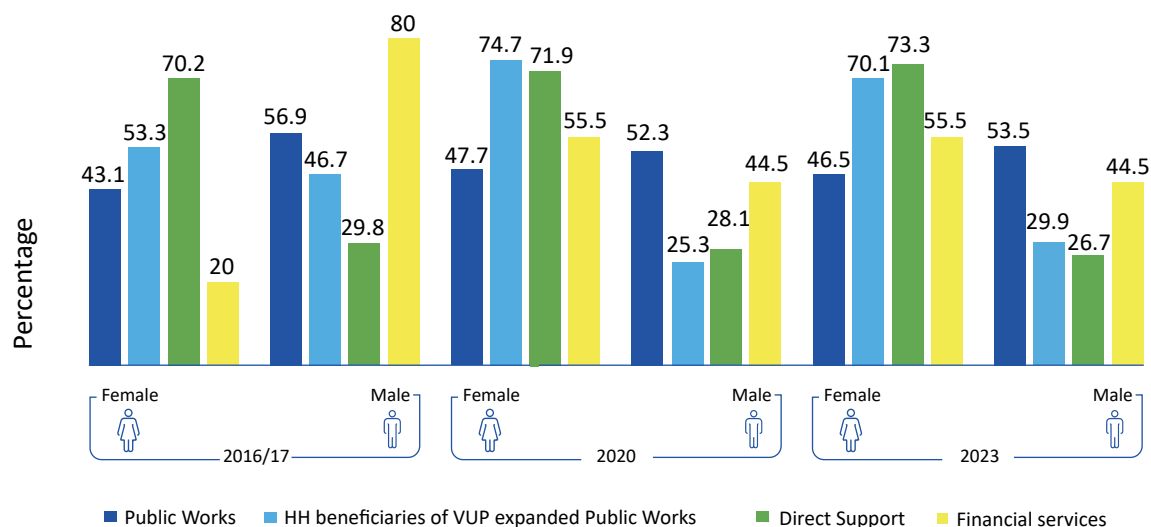
1 <https://www.statistics.gov.rw/datasource/integrated-household-living-conditions-survey-5-eicv-5>

Program (VUP)<sup>1</sup>, Ubudehe, One Cup of Milk per Child, One Cow per Poor Family (GIRINKA), and the Genocide Survivors Support and Assistance Fund (FARG). These initiatives offer direct support through cash transfers, access to financial services, employment opportunities, and provision of assets like cows.

### 3.2 Vision Umurenge Program (VUP)

The VUP Programme aims to support vulnerable community members to take ownership of their own situations, with support from the social protection sector.

Figure 33: Distribution of VUP Program Beneficiaries by sex



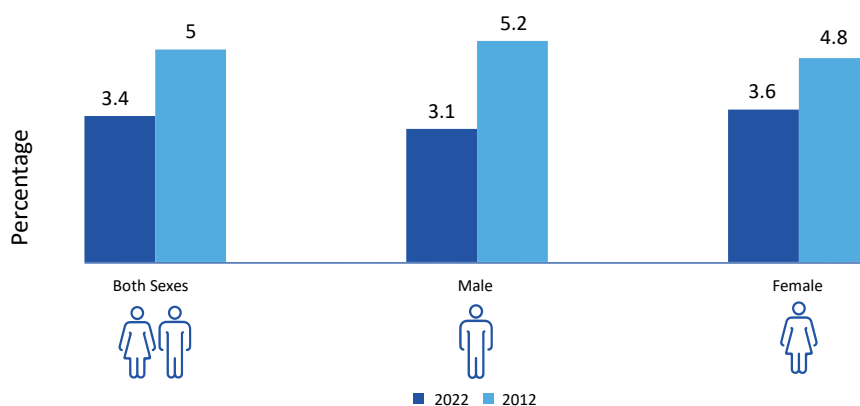
Source: LODA, Annual Report 2023

According to the figure above, in 2023, more female-headed households received direct assistance than male-headed households (73.3% versus 26.72%). In addition, more female-headed households received financial assistance than male-headed households in 2023 (55.5% versus 44.5%).

### 3.3 Prevalence of disability among population aged 5 and above

It has already been established that disability is associated with gender. Women are more affected physically and psychologically by the various forms of disability than men.

Figure 34: Percentage of population aged 5 and above with disability.

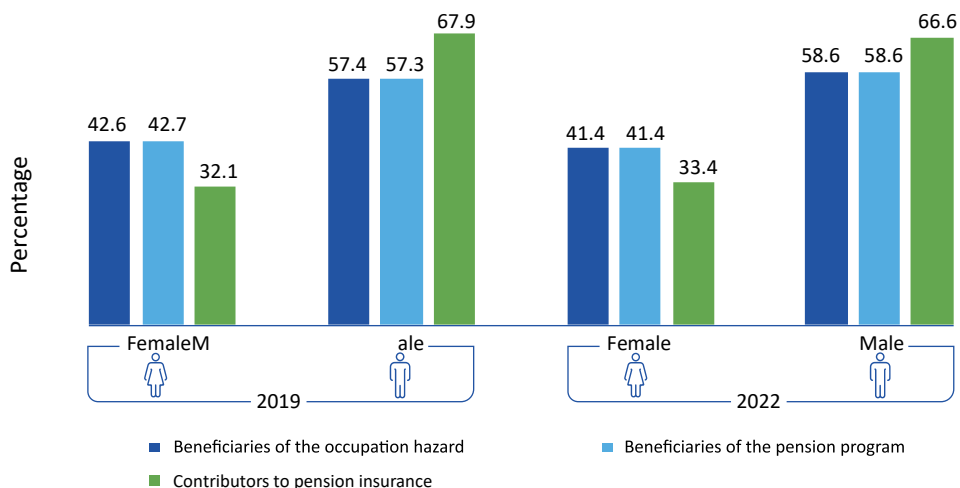


Source: NISR, RPHC 2012, 2022

1 <https://www.minaloc.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=57723&token=79020e25d5c7a61fc4f69696fb744e261a145e15>

Findings in figure 33 reveal that, the percentage of female population with disability has slightly declined from 4.8 % in 2012 to 3.6% in 2022, while for males, it has declined from 5.2% to 3.1% in the same period. This is a vulnerable group of the population that requires special attention and assistance from the entire community.

**Figure 35: Beneficiaries of Social Security Programs**



Source: RSSB, Administrative data 2022

Historically, women and men have not had the same opportunities to access education and formal employment, and women are at a disadvantage. The trend shows that the number of women contributing to the pension fund in 2022 is 33.4%, compared with 66.6% for men (Figure 34). The number of men contributing to pension insurance is almost double that of women, which can be explained by the fact that most people contributing to the fund are in formal employment, the vast majority of whom are men. A considerable number of women still work in the informal sector, which in most cases does not contribute to the pension scheme. As a result, pension recipients follow the same pattern

### 3.4 Survivorship of parents for children under 18.

**Table 21: Percentage of Children under 18yr by survivorship of biological parents**

	Mother alive, Father alive	Mother Alive, Father died/unkown	Mother died/unkown, Father alive	Mother died/unkown, Father died/unkown	Survivorship for one or both not stated	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count	%
Male	91.3	6	1.9	0.8	0	2,946,585	100
Female	91.3	6.1	1.9	0.8	0	2,945,078	100
Total	91.3	6	1.9	0.8	0	5,891,663	100

Source: NISR, RPHC 202

According to the table above, there is no significant difference in orphan status between girls and boys, as 91.3% will have both parents (implying that 8.7% are orphans) in 2022.

## 3.2 Health and Nutrition

### 3.2.1. Introduction

Gender equality in health means that women and men, across the life-course and in all their diversity, have the same conditions and opportunities to realize their full rights and potential to be healthy, contribute to health development and benefit from the results.

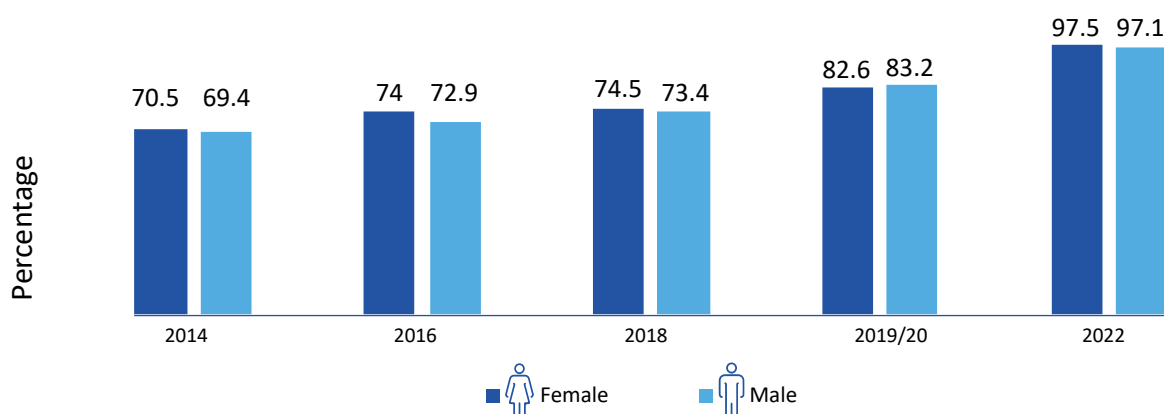
Overall, Rwanda’s health sector has achieved remarkable results, including improved access to healthcare, increased life expectancy, lower infant, child and maternal mortality rates, and better use of family planning methods. It is important to emphasize that these results are attributable to a number of factors, including increased community health insurance coverage, the role of community health workers, an increase in the number of health facilities and qualified health professionals who have enabled easy access to health care services, and so on.

The fourth Health Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2024 (HSSP IV) recognizes that women and men have specific health needs at all stages of life, which are linked to both physiological differences and their societal roles. It therefore stipulates that the health sector must eliminate gender-related barriers to accessing essential health services. In addition, Law no. 21/2016 of 20/05/2016 on human reproductive health: Article 5 provides that all persons have equal rights with regard to human reproductive health and that no one may be denied these rights on the basis of any form of discrimination. Art. 6 of the law also provides that a pregnant woman, a woman who has given birth and a newborn child have the right to be cared for in such a way as to ensure their well-being.

### 3.2.2 Ownership of a Health Insurance

The use of community health insurance (Mutuelle de santé), which covers most of Rwanda’s population, has greatly contributed to improving community access to better quality health care and services. In particular, the use of health insurance by women and children has considerably reduced maternal and infant mortality rates in Rwanda.

**Figure 36: Health Insurance coverage by sex**



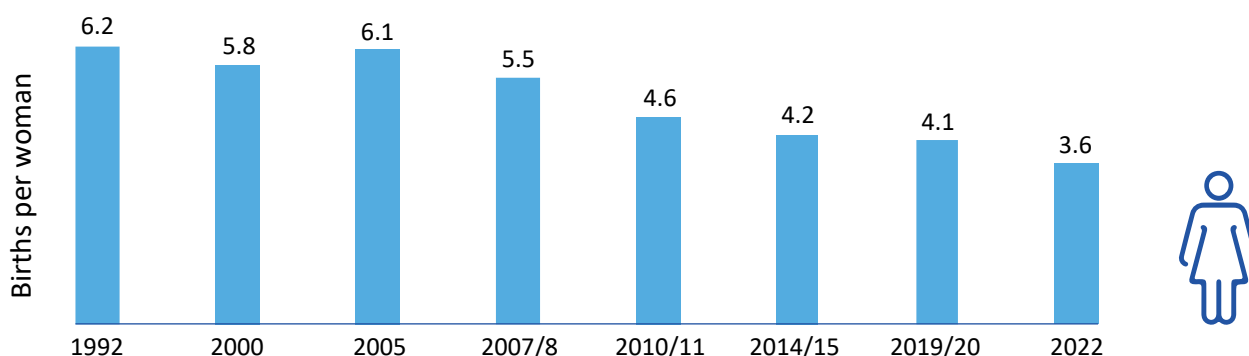
Source: RDHS 2010/11, RDHS 2014-15, EICV5 2017; and RDHS 2019/20, Main indicators report

Figure 36 shows that access to health insurance for females has increased from 70.5% in 2013/14 to 97.5% in 2022 while for males it has increased from 69.4% to 97.1% in the same period.

### 3.2.3 Fertility

Fertility is one of the three principal components of population dynamics, the other two being mortality and migration (United Nations, 1973). For more than 30 years, Rwanda has collected socio demographic data to evaluate fertility levels, patterns, trends, and other general characteristics of its population. Figure 36 shows that, at current fertility levels, a woman in Rwanda will have an average of 4.1 children in her lifetime. Fertility has decreased from 6.2 births per woman in 1992 to 3.6 birth per woman in 2022/2023, a decrease of 2.6 births per woman over the last 30 years.

Figure 37: Fertility Trends (TFR)

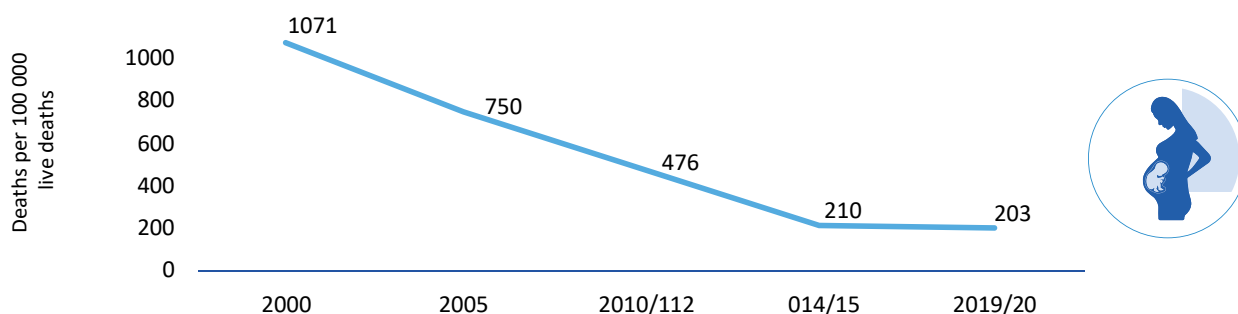


Source: NISR, RDHS 1992 to 2019/2020 & RPHC 2022

### 3.2.4 Maternal mortality

The results in figure 37 show that the maternal mortality ratio has decreased from 1,071 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 203 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2019/20. This reduction is attributed to the institutionalization of maternal death audits, the increased role of community health workers, the presence of skilled personnel at deliveries, and the enhanced capacity of health professionals to deliver quality health services. A comparison of maternal mortality rates from these four surveys and the 2019/20 RDHS shows that there has been a steady decline in the maternal mortality rate between 2000 and 2019/20. Nevertheless, the level of the mortality rate is still very high and requires more interventions to ensure that no woman dies giving life.

Figure 38: Trends in Maternal mortality

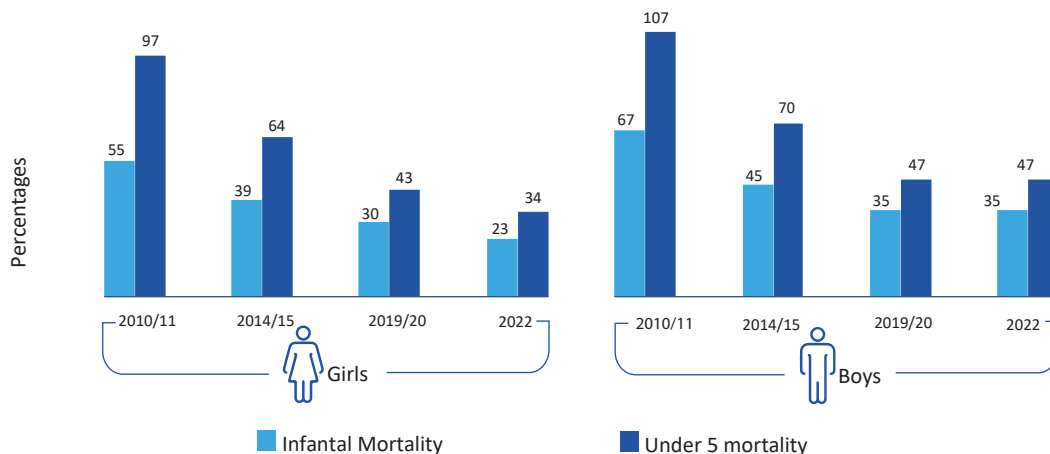


Source: NISR, RDHS 2000 – 2019/20

### 3.2.5. Childhood mortality

Over the past 15 years, infant and child mortality has significantly decreased. Infant mortality for females dropped from 55 to 23 per 1,000 live births, and for males from 67 to 35. Mortality under 5 years also fell, from 97 to 34 per 1,000 live births for girls, and from 107 to 47 for boys. This decline is attributed to improved healthcare through childhood illness management, exclusive breastfeeding, immunization, and the Community Health Worker program. These efforts have expanded healthcare access and treatment.

Figure 39: Trends in childhood mortality

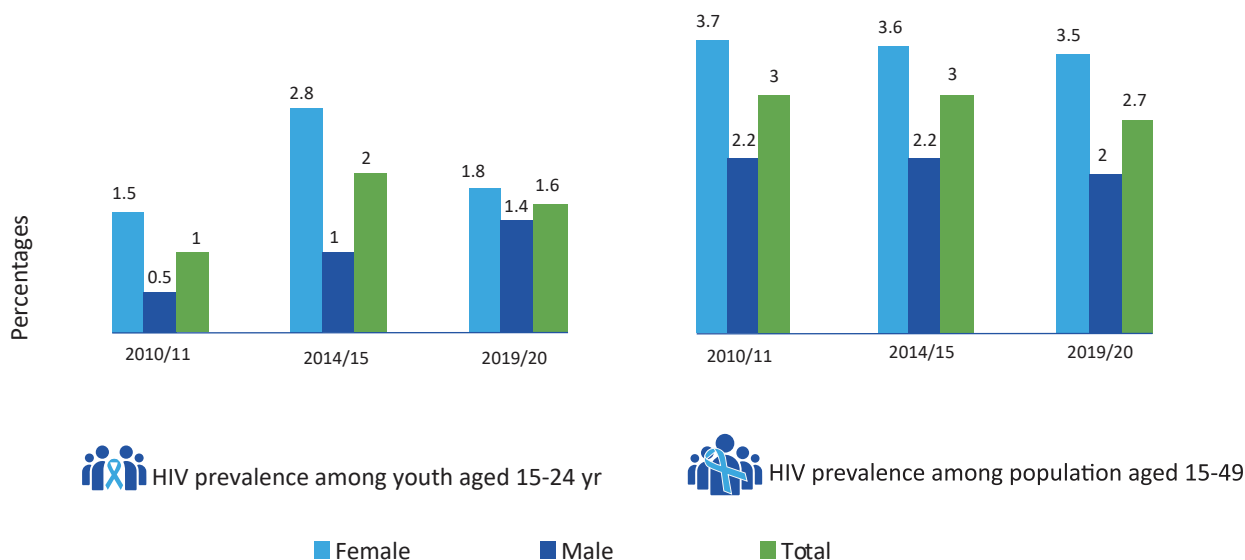


Source: NISR, RDHS 2005 to 2019/20 & RPHC 2022

### 3.2.6. Prevalence of HIV

HIV prevalence has been stable since 2005, at 3% among adults aged 15-49 (Figure 39). However, the trend shows that women have a higher prevalence than men in the same age group (15-49). This discrepancy is probably due to biological factors, but also to social factors, such as women’s economic dependence on men and women’s lack of confidence in deciding to use HIV prevention methods

Figure 40: HIV Prevalence



Source: Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey 2005 to 2014/2015

### 3.3: Education

#### 3.3.1. Introduction

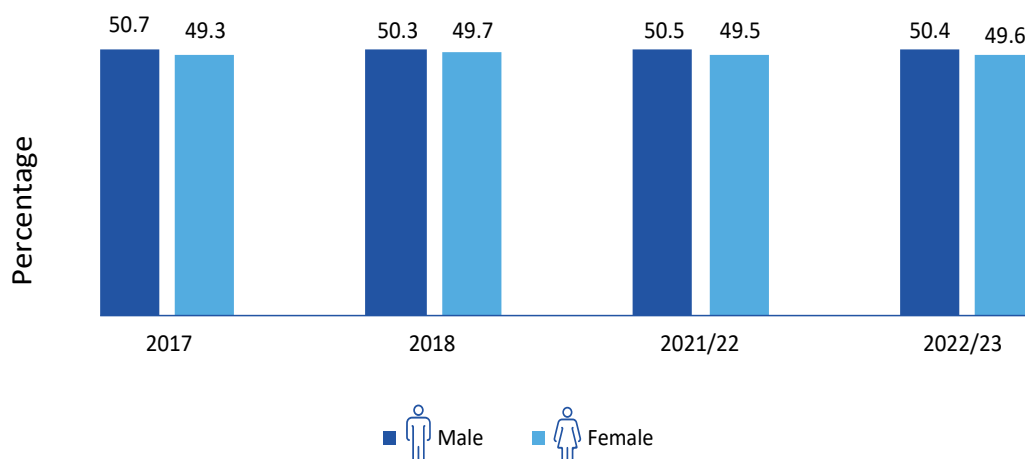
Education is a fundamental human right and an essential tool for ensuring that all Rwandan citizens - women and men, girls and boys - achieve their full potential. With this in mind, the Government of Rwanda is committed to making education at all levels more accessible and responsive to national needs, while ensuring that disadvantaged people, such as women and girls, the poor and the disabled, have access to meaningful learning opportunities.

The introduction of a twelve-year basic education program, the construction of educational infrastructure (e.g. schools and educational laboratories) and quality assurance measures in the education sector contribute to the advancement of girls’ education. At policy level, the 2008 Girls’ Education Policy and the Education Sector Strategic Plan (2013-2018) aimed to guide the progressive elimination of gender disparities in education and training that hinder the education of women and girls. Thanks to the implementation of this policy and other programs in the education sector, the situation of girls’ education has improved considerably in primary, secondary and higher education.

#### 3.3.2 Primary education

The Figure 40 shows that girls’ primary school enrolment was 49.3% in 2017 and 49.16% in 2022/23, while boys’ enrolment was 50.7% in 2017 and 50.4% in 2022 /23 Nevertheless, in 2017, girls’ primary school enrolment was slightly lower than boys’, with a gender parity index of 0.98 meaning that there were 99 girls for every 100 boys in 2017 and it decreased to 96 in 2023.

Figure 41: Trend of enrolment in primary education from 2017 to 2023



Source: MINEDUC, Education Statistical Yearbook, 2014 to 2022/23

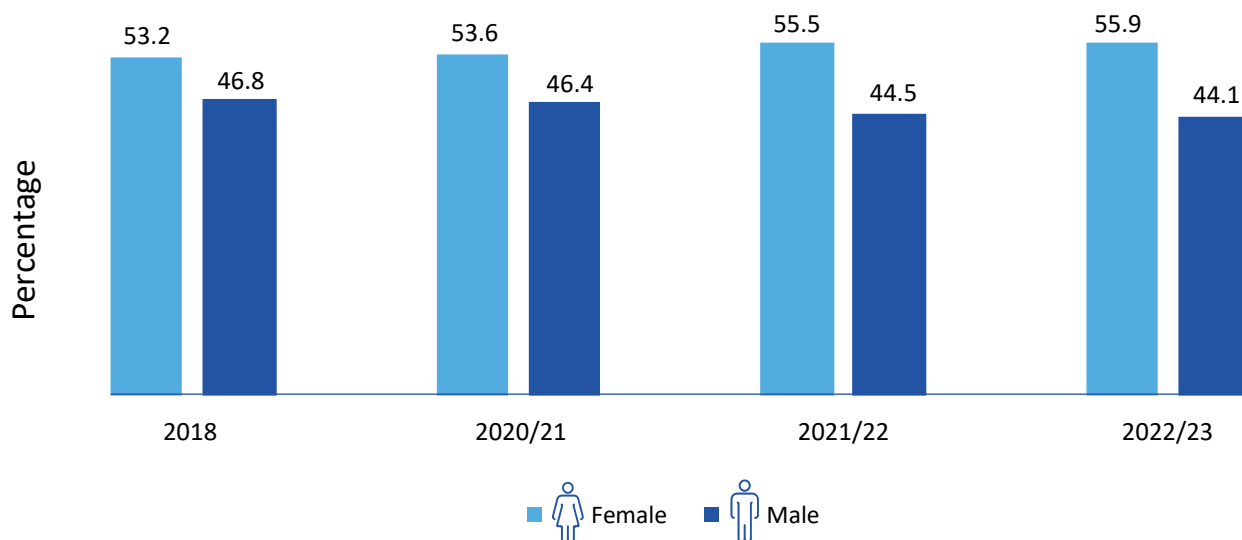
#### 3.3.3 Secondary education

Girls’ enrollment in lower secondary school increased from 54.1% in 2020/21 to 54.6% in 2022/23, while boys’ enrollment dropped from 45.9% to 45.4%. Girls’ enrollment rate in upper secondary was high with 59.3% while for boys the rate was 40.7%. Figure 41 shows that the secondary school enrollment rate for girls increased from 53.2% in 2018 to 55.9% in 2022, while that for boys decreased from 46.8% in 2018 to 44.1% in 2023. Interestingly, girls’ secondary school enrolment in 2018 was higher than boys’, with a parity index of 1.13%, meaning there were 113 girls for every 100 boys.



boys in secondary school. It means we have more girls enrolled than boys. Overall, there was an increase in the number of students between 2016 and 2018. This increase is the result of school construction. Financing school construction will play a crucial role in improving access to education for girls and boys.

**Figure 42: Trend of enrolment in Secondary education from 2016 to 2022/23**



Source: MINEDUC, Education statistical yearbook 2016 to 2022/23

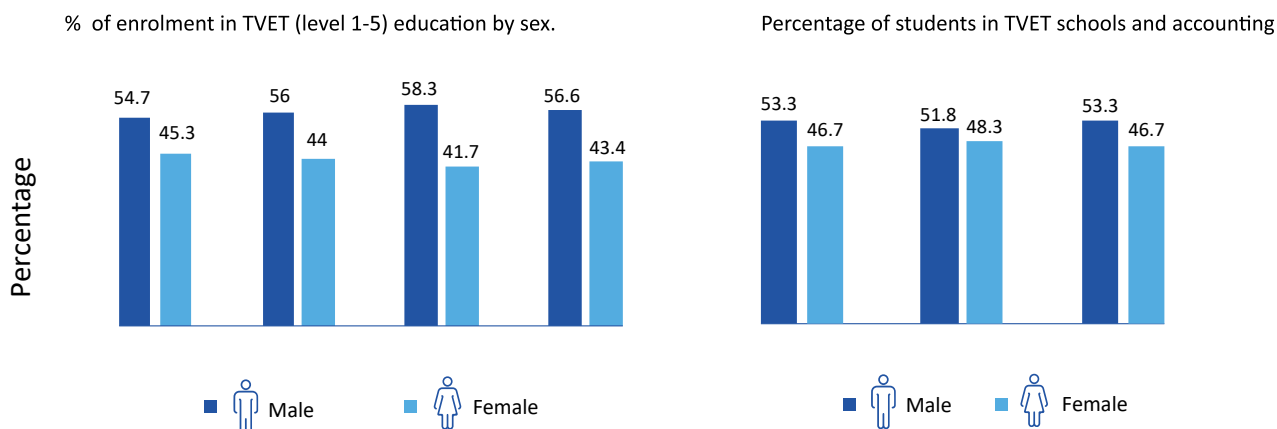
### 3.3.4. TVET Education

To increase women’s employment opportunities and diversified skills, Rwanda continued to strengthen demand-driven technical and vocational education (TVET) programs to bridge the skills gap, as outlined in HeForShe as well as in Rwanda’s Generations Impact Commitments. The Government of Rwanda, in collaboration with its partners, has continued to mobilize women and girls to participate in TVET through mentoring and peer-to-peer approaches combined with the use of social media as well as radio programs specifically designed for girls and women, such as Ni Nyampinga, “Kazi ni Kazi”. In addition, the National Employment Program (NEP) provides start-up kits to young graduates to enable them to create more jobs.

TVET level 1-5 data, presented in Figure 42, shows that in 2017 the female enrolment rate was 45.3% compared to 54.7% for men. This gap widened further in 2023, with female enrolment falling to 43.4% and male enrolment rising to 56.6%. For TVET with Accounting students, women accounted for 46.7% in 2020/21 compared to 53.3% for men. No change in percentage in 2022/23 for both.

Despite ongoing government efforts to boost the participation of women and girls in TVET programs, their enrolment rate remains significantly lower than that of their male counterparts. This persistent disparity highlights the need for more effective strategies and interventions to promote gender equality in technical and vocational education and training.

**Figure 43: Trend of enrolment in TVET (level 1-5) education from 2018 to 2022 by sex**

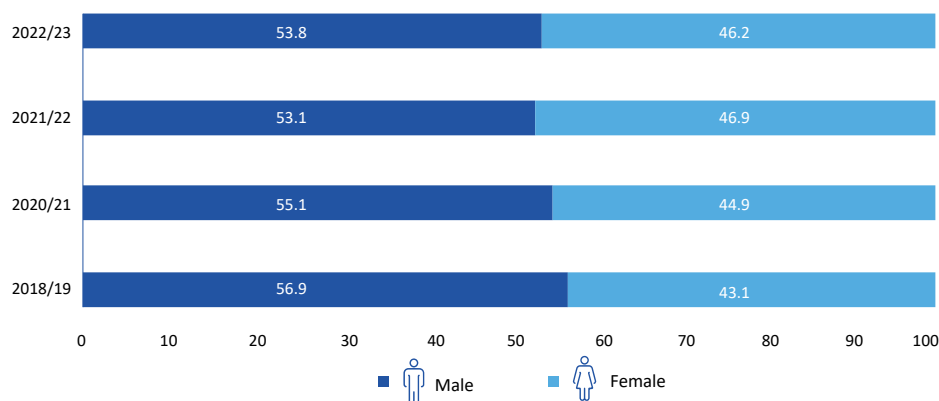


Source: MINEDUC, Education statistical yearbook 2017 to 2022/23

## 5 Tertiary education

The percentage of students enrolled in tertiary education underwent a moderate decrease from 44.9% in 2020/21 to 44.2% in 2022/23, while for males, it increased from 55.1% to 55.8% in the same period. With regard to higher general education, Figure 43 shows that enrolment of women and girls increased slightly from 43.1% in 2018/19 to 46.2% in 2022/23, while that of men and boys decreased from 56.9% to 53.8% over the same period. In general, at higher education level, women lag behind their male counterparts when it comes to participation in higher education. The percentage of women students in high public institutions represented 38.6% while in private institutions it was 50,5% in 2022/23.

**Figure 44: Distribution of General higher education tertiary students from 2018 to 2023**



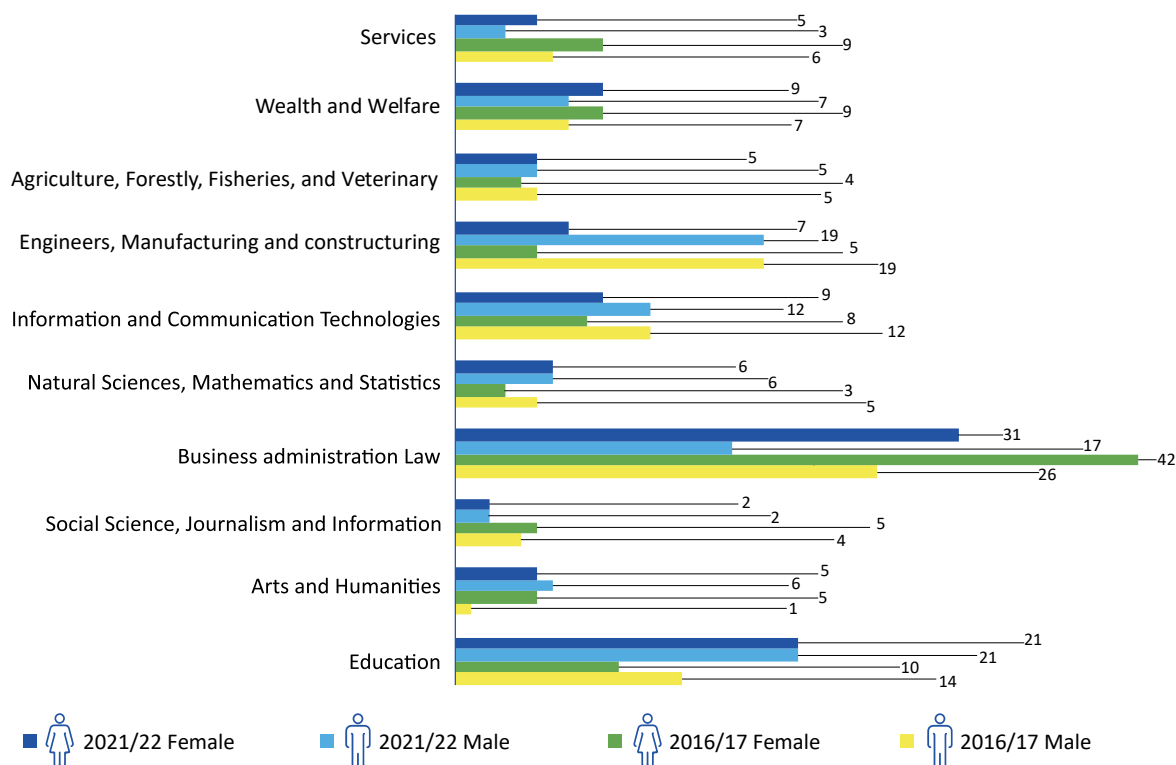
Source: MINEDUC, Higher Education Statistics 2018; and 2022/23 Education Statistics Yearbook

Despite efforts made by the government to increase the participation of women and girls in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related subjects, their participation is still limited and affects women’s chances for employment and enhanced economic empowerment.

Figure 44 shows that, in sciences, there has been an increase of women and girls attending Science subject from 3% in 2016 to 6% in 2022 while for men it increased from 5% to 6% in the same period. In engineering, the data shows that there has been an increase of women and girls attending engineering, manufacturing and

construction subjects from 5% in 2016 to 7% in 2022 while for men it stayed the same from 19% in the same period. However, in Humanities and arts as well as Health and welfare, female outnumber male participation in these subjects.

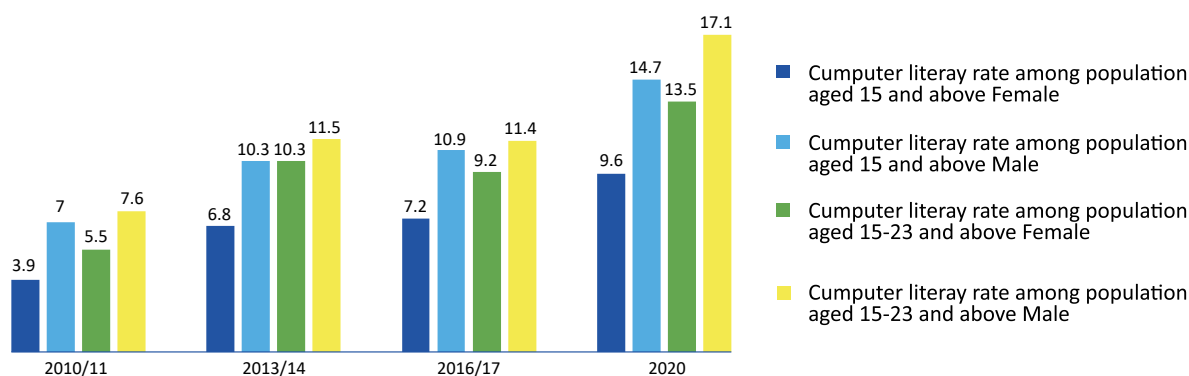
**Figure 45: Distribution of tertiary students by field of education from 2017 to 2022**



Source: MINEDUC/ 2011-2012 Higher Education Statistics & 2018-2021/22 Education Statistics Yearbook

Women’s participation in the ICT sector is crucial for economic growth. Programs like WEM TECH, Girls in ICT, and Digital Ambassadors aim to bridge the gender digital divide. Despite these efforts, computer literacy remains low, with women aged 15-24 at 13.5% compared to 17.1% for men. The increase in literacy from 2016 to 2021 is minimal for both genders.

**Figure 46: Trend of Computer literacy rate by sex among population from 2016 to 2021**



Source: NISR, EICV-5 Education Thematic Report & RHHS 2019/20

According to the figure above, computer literacy rate among female population aged 15 and above has increased from 3.9% in 2010/11 to 9.6% in 2020, while for male, it increased from 7% to 14.7% in the same period. Other side, computer literacy among female aged 15-24, it has increased from 5.5% to 13.5% while for male it increased from 7.6% to 17.1 % in the same period.

# CHAPTER 4

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PILLAR ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good governance is about ensuring that policies and public institutions in a country respond to the needs of all citizens. There is a range of good governance definitions in use that broadly cover:

- Political and voice dimensions (i.e. how collective decisions are made and how citizens express their preferences),
- Public sector institution dimensions (integrity and accountabilities of the executive branch of government),
- Legal and anti-corruption dimensions (guarantee of human rights and individual liberties and protection against misuse of power for private gain).

Poor systems of governance result in widespread discrimination related to sex, religion and political opinion. Looking across the world, persistent and pervasive gender disparities continue to exist. Women and men do not have an equal level of political representation, freedom of association and expression. Employment and career structures in the public sector also favor men above women. Service delivery systems are discriminating, and services are more accessible to men than to women. Finally, women's human rights and their access to legal services remain critical in many countries. In this context, educating girls is particularly important.

Ensuring gender balance in public decision making has been increasingly highlighted by the United Nations as a key governance issue related to fairness, transparency and inclusive policy outcomes. Only gender balanced and different policymakers can have the know-how to tackle the different needs of citizens.

## 4.2. Equal Representation of Men and Women in Decision-making and Public life

In many developing countries the public and private sectors have an oversized staffing establishment. Costs strain the national budget and civil servants, constituting the bulk of public sector employees, often work without clear direction and incentives. The result is that those who work hard and perform well are not always the ones to receive promotions and financial incentives. There are generally fewer women in the public sector than men; they are often in lower positions, they have lower pay than men, and their access to leadership positions are constrained by a number of factors. Ineffectiveness and inefficiency of public and private sector institutions contribute to poor service delivery. The gender inequality in staffing and management affect services negatively. Experience shows that when women are in management positions there is a better chance of a strategic focus on the particular needs of women and girls.

In many countries, the electoral process often creates serious barriers to the participation of women as candidates, and to a minor extent, as voters. In fact, women only hold around 11 per cent of parliamentary seats worldwide. Several developing countries have therefore introduced quota seats for women in parliament (e.g. Egypt) and in local government councils (e.g. Bangladesh).

In Rwanda women leadership participation is enshrined into the constitution and other laws and policies which has led to significant improvement on women representation in the decision-making spheres.

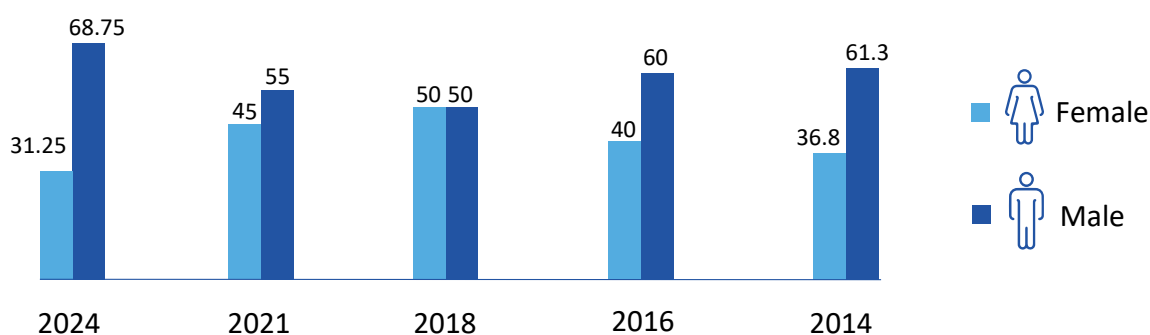
Women's empowerment and participation in decision making is mainly captured by the ratios of women in parliament, ministerial positions, and other positions in various structures of governance both in public, private, and civil society entities. Women's representation at various levels and in different sectors has influenced the design and implementation of policies, laws, and programs that are gender responsive.

### 4.2.1. Gender equality in the Executive Arm of the Government (Central Level)

The executive branch is the pinnacle of political power. In principle, presidents and their cabinets set the political agenda, debate and deliberate on policy initiatives, introduce legislation and oversee the implementation of public policies. Executives are the most visible political actors, representing the public "face" of government. Until very recently, executives were also the most masculinized political institutions, with women totally absent from the posts of prime minister or president until very recently, and, at least until the last decade, occupying only a small number of cabinet positions.

In Rwanda, the figure 45 and 46 shows that women's representation in the cabinet reached 31.2% in 2024, down from 36.8% in 2014, while men's representation reached 68.8%, down from 63.2% over the same period. There has been a slight increase in women's representation in the positions of Permanent Secretaries and Ambassador since 2018 to 2021 as illustrated by the figure.

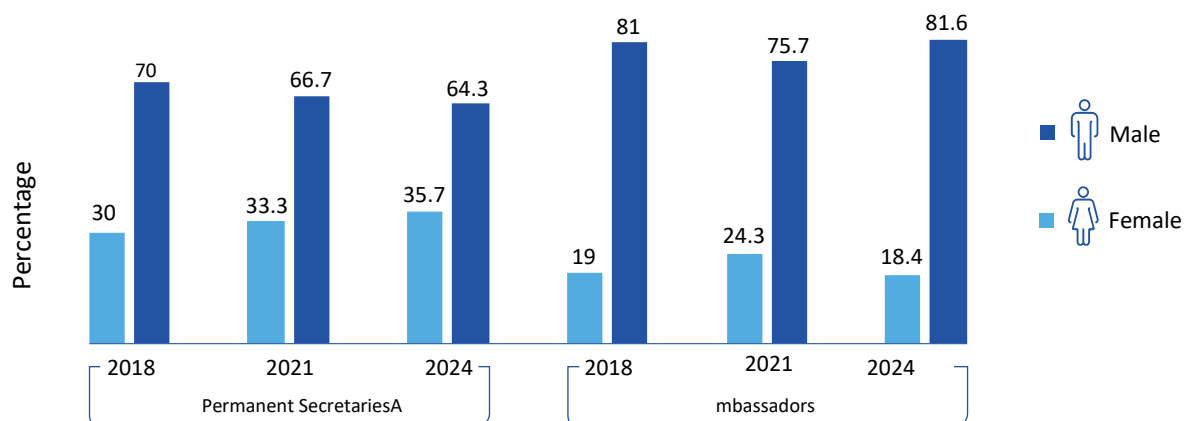
**Figure 47: Gender equality in the roles of Rwanda's ministers from 2014 to recently.**



Source: <https://www.gov.rw/cabinet>

The figure below shows gender representation trends among Permanent Secretaries and Ambassadors in Rwanda from 2018 to 2024. For Permanent Secretaries, male representation decreased from 70% in 2018 to 64.3% in 2024, while female representation increased from 30% to 35.7%. Among Ambassadors, male dominance is evident, though it has slightly decreased from 81% in 2018 to 81.6% in 2024, with female representation decreasing marginally from 19% to 18.4%.

**Figure 48: Trend of Permanent Secretaries and Ambassadors from 2018 to 2024**

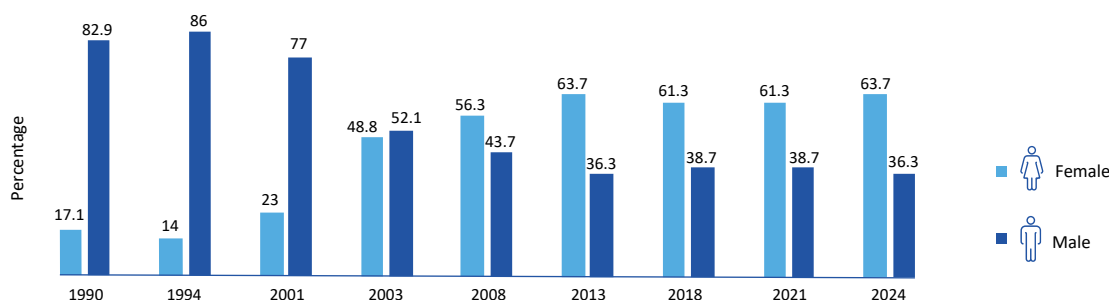


Source: GMO/ The State of Gender Equality in Rwanda/2018, MIFOTRA administrative data 2021 and MINAFEET

### 4.2.2. Gender equality in the legislative arm of the Government (central level)

Parliament should reflect the diversity of the population it serves. Achieving gender equality ensures that women, who make up roughly half of the population, have an equal voice in decision-making processes that affect them and society as a whole. Gender equality is a fundamental human right. Ensuring equal representation in Parliament is a step towards achieving broader societal equality, challenging discriminatory practices, and promoting fairness in political participation. Many countries have committed to achieving gender equality in various international agreements and conventions. Increasing the representation of women in parliament is a tangible way of meeting these commitments and demonstrating progress towards gender equality goals. Overall, gender equality in Parliament is not just about fairness; it is about improving governance, fostering inclusion and creating a fairer society where everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute and flourish.

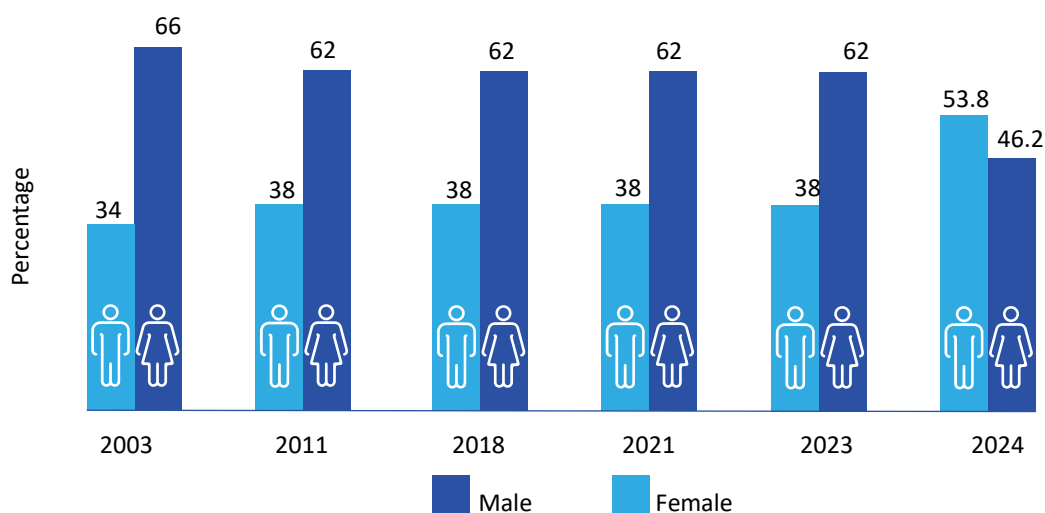
**Figure 49: Rwanda Parliament, chamber of Deputies, from 1990 to 2024**



Source: <https://www.parliament.gov.rw/chamber-of-deputies-2/member-profile/deputies-profiles> on 30/09/2024

The graph above highlights the changing gender representation in Rwanda’s Parliament (Chamber of Deputies) from 1990 to 2024. It shows a dramatic increase in female representation starting in 2003, with women consistently occupying a larger share of seats from that point onward. By 2024, women held 63.7% of the seats, while men held 36.3%. This demonstrates Rwanda’s continued progress toward gender parity in political leadership over the past few decades.

**Figure 50: Proportion of seats in national parliament, chamber of Senate in from 2003 to 2024**



Source : <https://www.parliament.gov.rw/senate-2/senators-profiles/senators-profile-1> on 30/09/2024

Data show that women parliamentarians stand at 63.7% in 2024 in the chamber of Deputies up from as low as 17.1% in 1990, while for male it stands at 36.3% and down from 82.9% in the same period. With regard to the Senate, figure shows that, women represent 53.8% in 2024 up from 34% in the 2003, while men represent 46.2% down from 66% in the same period.

### 4.3. Gender equality at Decentralized level

Gender equality at the decentralized level refers to ensuring that local governance structures, policies, and practices uphold principles of gender equity and women’s empowerment. It involves promoting equal opportunities, representation, and participation of both men and women in decision-making processes and access to resources at the local or community level.

Key aspects of promoting gender equality at the decentralized level include ensuring women have equal representation in local councils, committees, and community leadership roles. This may involve promoting affirmative action policies or quotas to increase women’s participation. Equal representation enables integrating gender perspectives into local development plans, policies, and programs. This ensures that the specific needs and priorities of women and men are addressed adequately. By prioritizing gender equality at the decentralized level, communities can foster inclusive development, improve social cohesion, and ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable and equitable development.

In line with the commitment to gender equality enshrined in the decentralization policy, the participation of women in certain management positions at local level has steadily improved. However, further efforts are needed to close existing gaps and ensure that the constitutional requirement for a minimum quota is met at all levels. For example, the table.21 shows that female district mayors for the current term (2021-2026) represent 33% in 2023, compared to 7% in 2014, while male mayors represent 67%, compared to 93% in 2014.

Overall, the data in the table below show that there is still a remarkable gap in the equal representation of both sexes in key management positions at local level in Rwanda.



**Table 22: Leaders in Local Government (%)**

Position	2014		2016		2018		2021		2023	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mayor	93	7	84	16	73	27	70	30	67	33
Sector Executive Secretary	91	9	89	11	83	17	84	16	83	17
Cell Executive Secretary	62	38	65	35	64	36	64	36	72	28
District Executive Secretaries									87	13
Directors at the Decentralized level									80	20

Source: MINALOC, Administrative data 2023

With regard to local government advisory councils, the data in table 20 show that women on district consultative councils for the current term (2021-2026) amount to 46% in 2023, compared to 45% in 2016, while men amount to 54%, down slightly from 55% in 2016. The data also shows that 48% of advisory board members at sector level were women in 2023, compared to 52% men, whereas in 2016 women accounted for 43%, compared to 57% men. At cell level, the data show that 47% of cell advisory council members are women in 2023 against 53% for men, while in 2016 it was 35% in against 65% for men in the same period. For the village committee, only 40% of members are women, while 60% are men in 2023.

**Table 23: Membership in local government consultative/advisory councils (%)**

Council	Sex	2016	2018	2021	2023
District consultative Council	Female	45	45	46	46
	Male	55	55	54	54
Sector consultative Council	Female	43	43	48	48
	Male	57	57	52	52
Cell consultative Council	Female	35	42	47	47
	Male	65	58	53	53
Total members of villages committees	Female			40	40
	Male			60	60

Source: NEC Local Government Elections Report 2021, data from NEC in 2024

#### 4.4. Gender equality in the Private Sector Federation

Gender equality in the Private Sector Federation (PSF) refers to ensuring equal opportunities, treatment, and representation for both men and women within private sector enterprises that are members of the federation. This involves ensuring that women have the same opportunities as men for employment, promotion, and leadership roles within private sector companies affiliated with the PSF. This includes fair recruitment processes and policies that prevent discrimination based on gender. The Private Sector Federation plays a critical role in advocating for and supporting gender equality among its member companies, thereby contributing to broader societal efforts towards gender equality and women’s empowerment in the economy.

Progress in women’s representation (table.23) in the private sector has been observed, and the current rate of participation varies between 50% for the executive committee at national level. At district level, women represent only 37% of executive committee members.

**Table 24: Distribution of elected men and women in the Executive Committees of PSF at National and Local Levels**

Position	Presidency		1st Vice President		2nd Vice President		Total (numbers)		Total(%)	
	Men	women	Men	women	Men	women	Men	women	Men	women
National	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	50	50
Clusters	4	1	1	4	4	1	9	5	64	36
Province	4	1	4	1	0	5	8	7	53	47
District	27	3	19	11	11	19	57	33	63	37
TOTAL	35	6	25	17	16	25	76	47	64	36

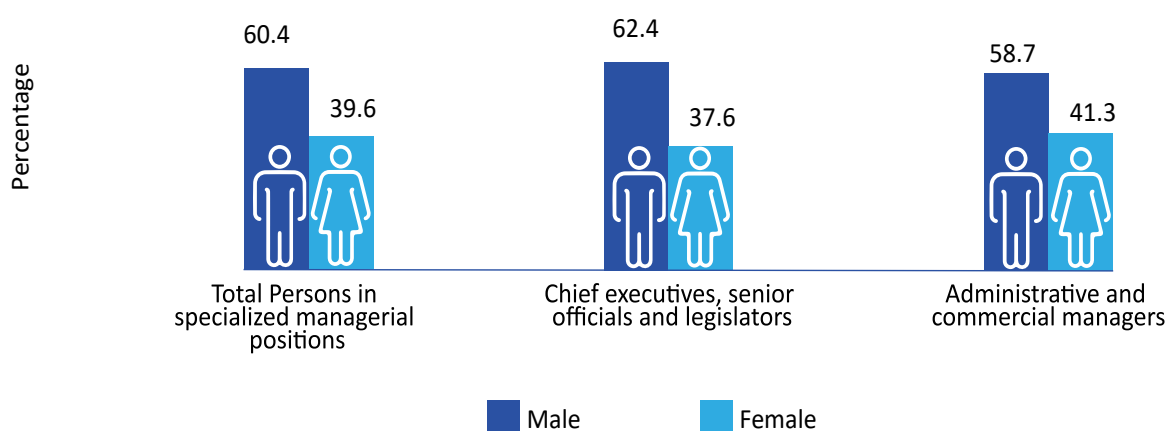
Source: PSF Administrative data, 2023

#### 4.5. Women and men in managerial positions

Based on data from the Labour Force Survey (2023), women accounted for 46.8% of the labor force in Rwanda. The overall female labor force participation rate was 52.2% in 2023, compared to 45.8% in 2019 when the Beijing +25 report was presented. However, the majority of working women are engaged in jobs like crop farm laborers, domestic cleaners and helpers, stall and market salespersons, shopkeepers, and tailors, dressmakers, furriers, and hatters – jobs or occupations that generally pay less. The agricultural sector plays a significant role in absorbing women’s labor, contributing to a large portion of female employment, particularly in subsistence farming.

Data also show that the share of women in non-agricultural paid employment increased from 32.5% in 2019 to 37.7% in 2023. The overall share of women in specialized managerial positions, including chief executives, senior officials, legislators, and administrative and commercial managers, was 39.6%. Specifically, women make up 37.6% of chief executives, senior officials, and legislators, and 41.3% of administrative and commercial managers. Despite progress, men continue to hold the majority in these managerial positions.

**Figure 5: Share of women in specialized managerial positions**



Source: LFS 2023, Annual report

## 4. 6 Justice, Human Rights and Gender Based Violence

### 4.6.1 Introduction

Gender equality in judiciary is a significant issue globally, reflecting broader societal attitudes towards women’s roles and capabilities in positions of authority and decision-making. Historically, the judiciary has been male dominated, with women often underrepresented at higher levels. This lack of representation can influence judicial decisions and the perception of justice itself. Women may face barriers in entering the judiciary, including cultural biases, lack of mentorship, and stereotyping of judicial roles as traditionally masculine. There is concern that gender bias can affect judicial decisions, both consciously and unconsciously. This bias may influence perceptions of credibility, competence, and appropriateness of women in judicial roles. Addressing gender equality in the judiciary requires systemic changes in legal education, recruitment practices, and societal attitudes towards women in leadership. By promoting diversity and inclusion within the judiciary, societies can enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of their legal systems while advancing broader goals of gender equality.

Rwanda has a robust legal and policy framework as well as, institutional mechanisms to create and sustain a peaceful and conflict-free nation. In addition, Rwanda has developed a National Action Plan to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women peace and security, as a practical step to sustain and expand registered gains in the women, peace and security agenda. A lot has also been achieved by the Government of Rwanda in promoting and protecting the human rights of women. Rwanda has made significant strides in both its judiciary and gender equality efforts over recent years, reflecting a commitment to inclusive development and justice reform.

### 4.6.2 Justice and Human rights.

It’s worth noting that at all levels, women play a visible role in judicial structures and conflict management. As shown in Table below women account for 33% of Supreme Court judges in 2023, down slightly from 42% in 2019, while for men the percentage has risen from 58% to 67% over the same period. As for Supreme Court inspectors, women and men represent an equal percentage (50%), which is an improvement since in 2019, female inspectors represented 40%.

**Table 25: Percentage of judges and inspectors in Supreme Court from 2014 to 2023 (%)**

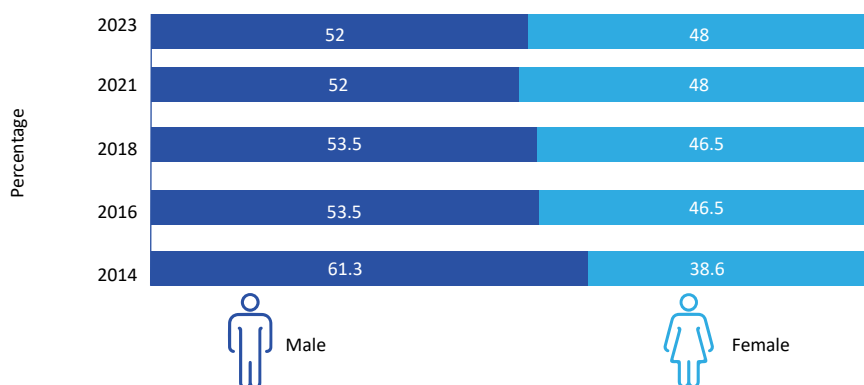
	2019		2022		2023	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Judges in Supreme Court	42	58	43	57	33	67
Judges in Court of Appeal					46	54
Judges in High Court					28	72
Judges in Intermediate Courts					46	54
Judges in Primary Courts					52	48
Judges in Commercial High Court					29	71
Judges in Commercial Court					33	67
Inspectors in Supreme Court	40	60	50	50	50	50

Source: Supreme Court, Annual report 2022/2023

With regards to Prosecutors at national level, figure51 shows that women represent 48% of prosecutors in 2023 up from 39% in 2014 while men represent 52% down from 61% in the same period.

With regards to Prosecutors at national level, figure 51 shows that women represent 48% of prosecutors in 2023 up from 39% in 2014 while men represent 52% down from 61% in the same period.

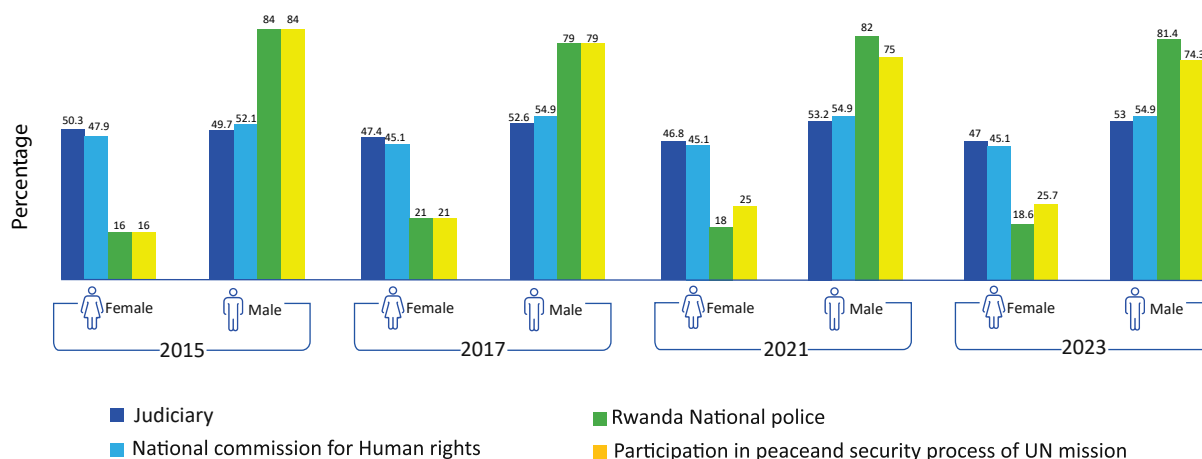
**Figure 52: Percentage of women and men National Prosecutors**



Source: Supreme court, Annual report 2023

In general, as figure 52 shows, women constitute 47% of all judiciary sector staff in 2023 down from 50.3% in 2015, while men constitute 53% up from 49.7% in the same period. Currently, women constitute 45.1% of the total staff of the National commission of Human rights in 2021 down from 47.9% observed in 2015, while men constitute 54.9% in 2021 up from 52.1% in 2015. Though women’s representation in the police stands to be low (18.6% in 2023), a gender policy was developed by Rwanda National Police to guide gender responsive interventions including efforts to mobilize more women to join the police. Participation in peace keeping missions of Unite Nations by female officers has seen an increase from 16% in 2015 to 25.7% in 2023.

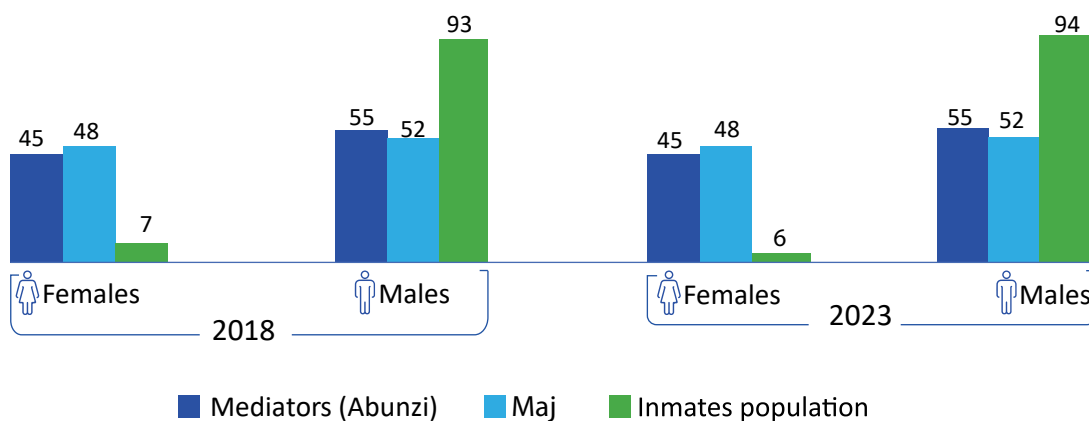
**Figure 53: Women Representation in the Judiciary, National Commission for Human Rights and Rwanda National Police**



Source: Supreme Court: Annual report of 2017/18; GMO State of Gender equality in Rwanda, 2019, administrative data/ judiciary 2023, RNP administrative data 2023

With regards to the community mediators (Abunzi), in 2021, women represent 45% compared to 55% of men, while women constitute 48% of the access to Justice Bureaus or Maison d’Access a la Justice (MAJ) compared to 52% of men who also contribute to providing free legal services to citizens including victims of GBV and child abuse (figure 53). It should be noted that 6 % of the total inmate population in 2021 are female compared to a majority of male (94%).

**Figure 54: Percentage of women and men mediators, MAJ and inmates’ population**



Source: GMO/State of Gender equality in Rwanda, 2019

## Annex1: Resident Population with detailed tables and Indicators

**Table 26: Resident population in 2012 & 2022 by age group, by sex and by residence (2022)**

Count												
age-group	2012			2022			Urban in 2022			Rural in 2022		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Total	10,515,973	5,064,868	5,451,105	13,246,394	6,429,326	6,817,068	3,701,245	1,854,525	1,846,720	9,545,149	4,574,801	4,970,348
0-4	1,540,027	768,049	771,978	1,708,460	856,228	852,232	476,206	238,913	237,293	1,232,254	617,315	614,939
5-9'	1,522,986	757,421	765,565	1,697,005	849,389	847,616	431,408	216,386	215,022	1,265,597	633,003	632,594
10-14'	1,265,070	623,440	641,630	1,551,347	775,772	775,575	360,474	178,399	182,075	1,190,873	597,373	593,500
15-19	1,113,075	546,863	566,212	1,509,341	750,163	759,178	392,964	183,178	209,786	1,116,377	566,985	549,392
20-24	1,028,385	499,416	528,969	1,174,549	572,543	602,006	392,928	192,193	200,735	781,621	380,350	401,271
25-29	928,094	456,642	471,452	1,007,307	494,594	512,713	371,753	189,192	182,561	635,554	305,402	330,152
30-34	760,884	367,917	392,967	950,747	465,744	485,003	345,484	178,965	166,519	605,263	286,779	318,484
35-39	509,666	232,822	276,844	869,983	425,313	444,670	274,836	147,185	127,651	595,147	278,128	317,019
40-44	415,560	190,876	224,684	724,954	346,800	378,154	211,344	113,177	98,167	513,610	233,623	279,987
45-49	340,856	155,557	185,299	479,255	215,314	263,941	128,894	66,456	62,438	350,361	148,858	201,503
50-54	338,309	151,797	186,512	393,788	178,670	215,118	94,326	49,237	45,089	299,462	129,433	170,029
55-59	241,323	106,829	134,494	316,729	142,329	174,400	66,666	33,937	32,729	250,063	108,392	141,671
60-64	176,349	76,489	99,860	311,001	136,793	174,208	57,188	27,532	29,656	253,813	109,261	144,552
65-69	102,543	40,176	62,367	214,001	92,098	121,903	37,154	17,061	20,093	176,847	75,037	101,810
70-74	92,285	35,351	56,934	147,138	60,277	86,861	25,366	10,826	14,540	121,772	49,451	72,321
75-79	60,228	23,470	36,758	77,805	28,476	49,329	13,760	5,071	8,689	64,045	23,405	40,640
80-84	45,014	18,167	26,847	57,999	20,408	37,591	10,240	3,628	6,612	47,759	16,780	30,979
85+	35,319	13,586	21,733	54,985	18,415	36,570	10,254	3,189	7,065	44,731	15,226	29,505

Source: NISR, RPHC 2012 & 2022

## Annex 2: Adjusted net enrollment in Primary education from 6-11 Years.

**Table 27: Adjusted net enrollment in Primary education from 6-11 Years**

Sex	Primary	Lower Secondary	Population	Total Learners	Adjusted Net enrollment
Male	910,297	800	1,006,058	911,097	90.6%
Female	898,078	1,049	1,004,148	899,127	89.5%
Total	1,808,375	1,849	2,010,206	1,810,224	90.1%

Mineduc Statistics, 2024

## Annex 3: Unemployment rate from people with disability

**Table 28: Trend of Unemployment rate for people with disability from 2017 to 2023**

Year	Male	Female	total
2017	18.2	16.6	17.4
2018	15.5	12.7	14.1
2019	14.5	14.0	14.3
2020	24.6	18.5	21.3
2021	26.8	15.5	21.1
2022	16.8	15.8	16.4
2023	20.6	17.2	19.0

Source: RLFS 2017 to 2023

**Annex 4: List of Institutions providing administrative data for this Report**

- 1 NISR National Institute of Statistic
- 2 MINALOC Ministry of Administration and Local Government
- 3 MINEDUC Ministry of Education
- 4 Supreme Court Supreme Court
- 5 NEC National Electoral Commission
- 6 RNP Rwanda National Police
- 7 GMO Gender Monitoring Office
- 8 PSF Private Sector Federation
- 9 CRS Rwanda Correctional Services
- 10 RSSB Rwanda Social Security Board
- 11 RMC Rwanda Media Commission
- 12 RNPA Rwanda National Prosecution Authority
- 13 NLA National Land Authority

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