



Fight against Gender Based Violence

Rwandan experience

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Rwandan situation



- Population: 8.2 million
 - F:52%
 - M:48%
- Increase rate: 2.6
- HIV National prevalence:
 - 3%
 - Women : 3.6%
 - Men: 2.3%





- **Definition**
- **Key statistics**
- **General consequences**
- **Strategies to address women and AIDS**
- **Forms of violence based on gender**
- **Factors leading to violence**
- **Factors of violence acceptance**



GBV: Situation in Rwanda

- More than 25 % of women victims of sexual violence
- Majority of acts of violence are carried out by partner or ex-partner
- 300 women killed by their partners (2003-2006)

(MIGEPROF Study)



Why a linkage between Gender and HIV

- HIV prevalence is higher in places where violence is based on gender (Rwissa Rwanda 2006).
- All those forms of violence are factors favoring the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Important to tackle HIV/AIDS on basis of gender to break the vicious circle
- Important to change attitudes and behavior not to justify or excuse violence (using culture and tradition)



Effect of violence on HIV +/- women



- 943 member cohort: 722 HIV + and 221 HIV - women. in each group 50% experienced « genocidal rape »
- 21.5% are alcoholic
- 5% to 31% Depression (19-20 years)
- 18.5% of rapes occurred in children < 17 years old
- 67% rapes occurred among younger women 14-25 years old (RWISA Study)
- 80.9% of survivors of violence remained traumatized
- 66.7% of women raped during genocide have HIV (AVEGA, local NGO)



Linkages for women and children

- 41.6% witnessed violence as a child
- 38.5 % were abused as children
- Over 50% of male spouses who are perpetrators of violence were abused as children
- 21.4% of acts of infanticide were carried out by mothers (2005)
- 95.2% of women abused as children knew the identity of the perpetrator

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Opportunities

- Looking at violence against women and children in one policy offers the opportunity to disrupt the cycle of violence.
- Strong political will (see Policy context MIGEPROF) and will to prevent
- Decentralization
- Creation of Gender Observatory Commission and Children's Rights Commission
- Civil Society and International Donors very supportive and active
- Policy is an investment in human resources in Rwanda

Opportunities (2)

- A legal and political environment that strengthens power of a woman and protect her against violence (ex: the national policy on gender, poverty reduction programme).
- Education for all, programmes that ensure protection of women against violence, Law on inheritance, marriage settlements and liberalities);
- Existence of men who do not act in conformity with traditional masculine stereotypes ;



Policy environment to deal with Children & GBV

All forms of violence against women and children are unacceptable. All are preventable

1. The policy upholds the commitment of the GOR to a society free of all forms of discrimination and injustice.
2. Enshrines the principle of equality, and recognizes the participation of children in the process.
3. Enshrines the rights of children and young people.
4. Coherent with the long-term development approach to reduce poverty



Policy Context



- Constitution
- Vision 2020
- Law on Rights and
- EDPRS
- Protection of Children, National Gender Policy
- NEPAD
- MDGs
- National Policy on OVC
- National Policy on Family Promotion
- National Decentralization
- NIS
- GBV Bill
- will contribute to addressing human rights, poverty reduction and economic growth.



Our vision



- The policy spans adulthood and in so doing is meant to disrupt the cycles of violence and to address gaps in service delivery.
- Disrupt the cycles
 - Girls who are victims of violence and who see women victimized and in subservient positions become women who are themselves oppressed and who perpetuate much of the same oppression on to children.
 - Boys who are beaten and abused become men who exert their power over women and children.

Solutions

- Increase intellectual capacities to avoid the vicious circle: *Ignorance* → *Poverty* → *HIV/AIDS*.
- Increase economic power of women
- Provide a framework that guides the integration of a protective framework for women into the overall national development processes.
- Increase proximity services
(Educational, justice, health-related, psycho-social support)
- Community mobilization to break the silence
- Research and documentation



Achievements



- 48.8% women seats in Parliament
- 32 % women seats in the Executive (In the Cabinet)
- 42 % women seats in the Judiciary
- 43 % women seats in the Local Government (up to the lowest administrative level).
- 30% of the membership of all Boards of Public Institutions.
- The National Police; Auditor General's Office; The National Revenue Authority; The National Community Development Fund (CDF); The Ombudsman's Office; The National Tourism Office; CNLS Gacaca Unity and Reconciliation Commission; Human Right's Commission; National Insurance Society, and The Central Bank.