



MINISTRY OF GENDER AND FAMILY PROMOTION

# Gender Strategies: Overview of National Gender & Women's empowerment Policies

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# Presentation on economic, social and governance achievements in gender and women empowerment

- Outline:
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  - Governance and Justice Achievements
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# Introduction

- ✓ After the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, Rwanda was economically, politically & socially devastated. Women were among the most affected victims through killings, rape, unwanted pregnancies, as widows, lose of properties and among others;
- ✓ Women (More than 50% of the Population) immediately assumed multiple roles as heads of household, and financial providers of devastated families and communities.
- ✓ Women were involved during liberation Struggle as Members of RPF Inkotanyi doing different roles such as; negotiations, mobilization and front fighting etc...;
- ✓ To rebuild the country empowering women was seen as a vital precondition to socio-economic transformation, and speeding up country own development.
- ✓ It is from this experience under the leadership of H.E Paul Kagame, Laws, policies, strategies were enacted basing on citizens needs and aspirations to ensure Country's development including Gender equality and Women empowerment

# DRIVERS OF CHANGE: STRONG POLITICAL WILL

- **Strong Political will** : “Leaders must be held accountable by their peers and constituencies, but must also ensure accountability among those that they lead. This includes accounting for commitments made towards Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.” **HE Paul Kagame May 2010**
- **Citizen Participation and involvement** : during the whole processes of Policies development, implementation and evaluation.
  - Grass root level structures NWC, NYC participate so that services to citizens most particularly to women are delivered as planned.
  - Women played a key role in promoting peace, unity and reconciliation as 50% of GACACA judges were women, currently 44,3% of ABUNZI (Mediators) are women
- **Performance Contracts (IMIHIGO)**: accountability based on performance and results. Delivering on all MDGs 3 Gender equality and women empowerment:
  - Gender Sensitive Constitution (30% minimum quota)
  - Gender Responsive Budget, etc
  - Laws discriminating against women were abolished ( women have right to inheritance of property)

# LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

## ○ LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. The Constitution of Republic of Rwanda of 2003 revised in 2015
2. The Organic Law on State Finance & Property
3. Anti-GBV Law
4. Law governing persons and family of 2016
5. Land Law
6. Law governing matrimonial regimes, donations and successions;
7. The Law regulating labour in Rwanda,

## POLICIES

1. National Gender Policy
2. Girls' Education Policy
3. GBV Policy
4. Integrated child rights policy
5. Family Policy
6. ECD Policy
7. Land Mgt Policy
8. Decentralization Policy
9. Community Health Insurance Policy

# National Gender Machinery

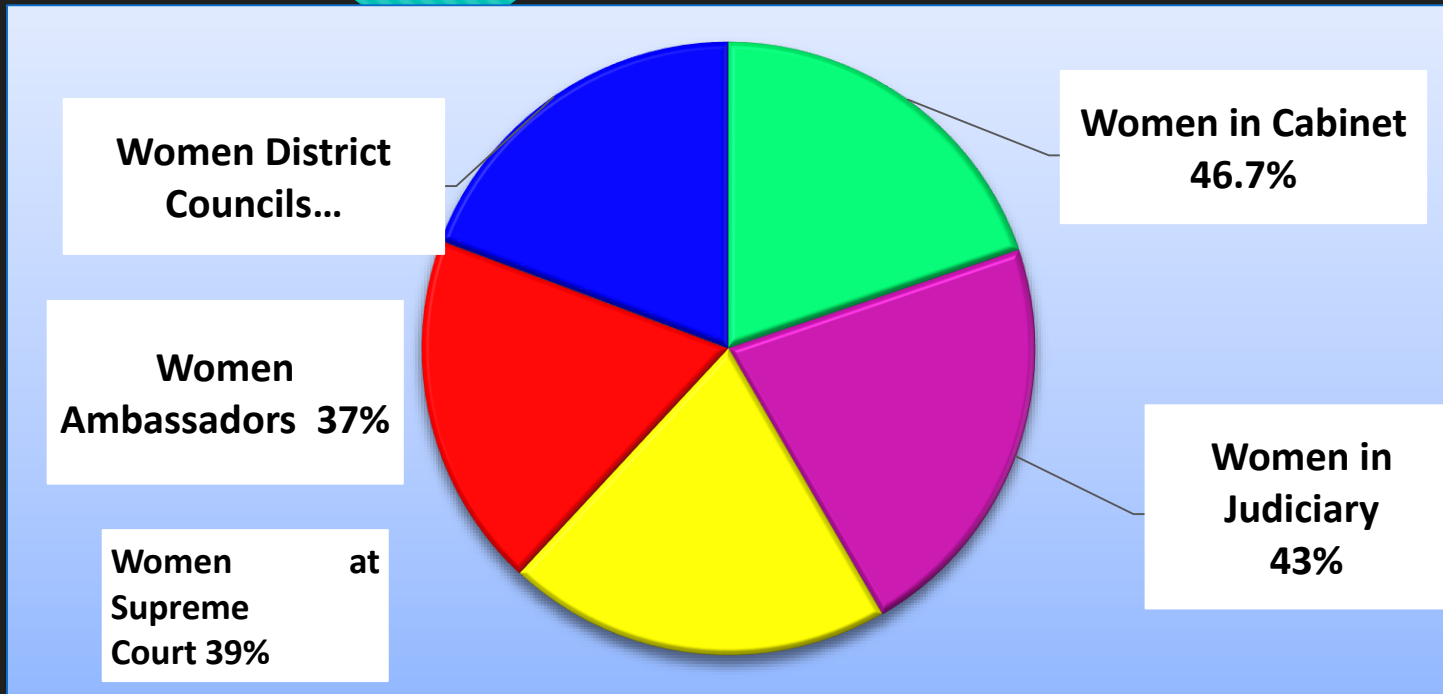


## NGM Institutional Framework





# GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE ACHIEVEMENTS

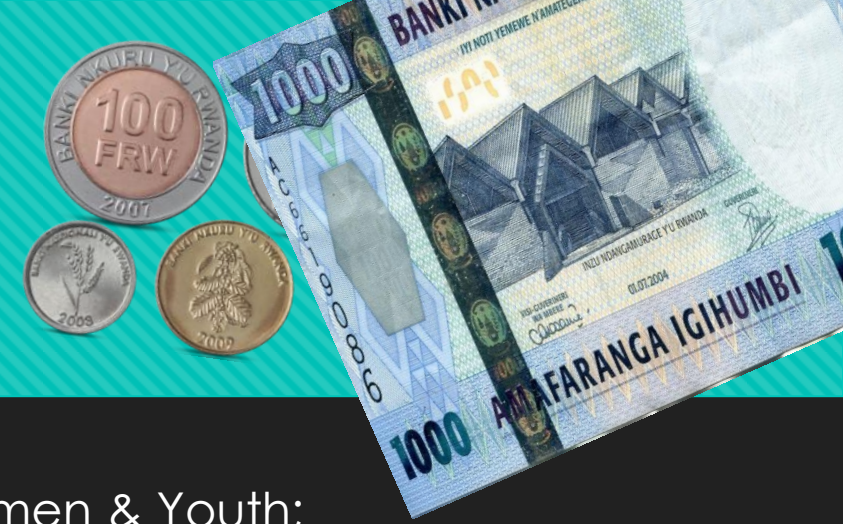


- 44 IOSCs, a model that provides holistic response to GBV victims under one room.
- All services to GBV victims are offered for free
- Each District has an Access to Justice Officer in charge of fighting against GBV.
- GBV clinics conducted
- Set up safe houses for temporary shelter for the victims of GBV



Apart from 64% in Parliament, Women's participation in other decision making organs at all levels marked the beginning of gender revolution & change of patriarchal political culture in Rwanda;

# Economic Achievements



- Adoption & implementation of an access to finance strategy for Women & Youth;
- Financial inclusion for women increased from 36.1% in 2012 to 63% in 2016;
- Establishment of saving & Credit Cooperatives based in each sector (SACCO Umurenge), 46 % of all SACCO members are women;
- 42 % of the 3,116 jobs created in 2013 benefited women;
- Amount of women with savings accounts increased by 58 %.
- 26% Women and 18% men own land and 54% both spouses own Land . This serves as collateral for credits in banks
- Poverty among women has decreased by 32 %. Overall extreme poverty reduced by astonishing 16 %



# Social Achievements



✓ **Primary Education** : Enrollment for both girls & boys is almost equal at 97% for girls & 96. % for boys;

✓ **Secondary education**: Girls show higher enrolment than boys at lower secondary which is the reverse at the upper secondary: in 2015, girls were 51.5% and 48.5% for boys;

✓ **Tertiary education**: enrolment of females in private higher learning institutions is at 52.9% and therefore higher than enrolment in public institutions which is 34.0%;

✓ At Primary level, on average 80.7% girls pass exams, compared to 85% boys;

✓ At Secondary level - 78.2% girls pass exams, compared to 91.6% boys.

- Our maternal mortality rate has decreased by 80 %.
- Our infant mortality rate has decreased by 70 %.
- Community Health Insurance Coverage at 98.4%
- Increased access to appropriate Birth rate down from 6 to 4 children per woman;
- 91 % of births are attended by a skilled care provider.



# Challenges

# Solution-Strategies

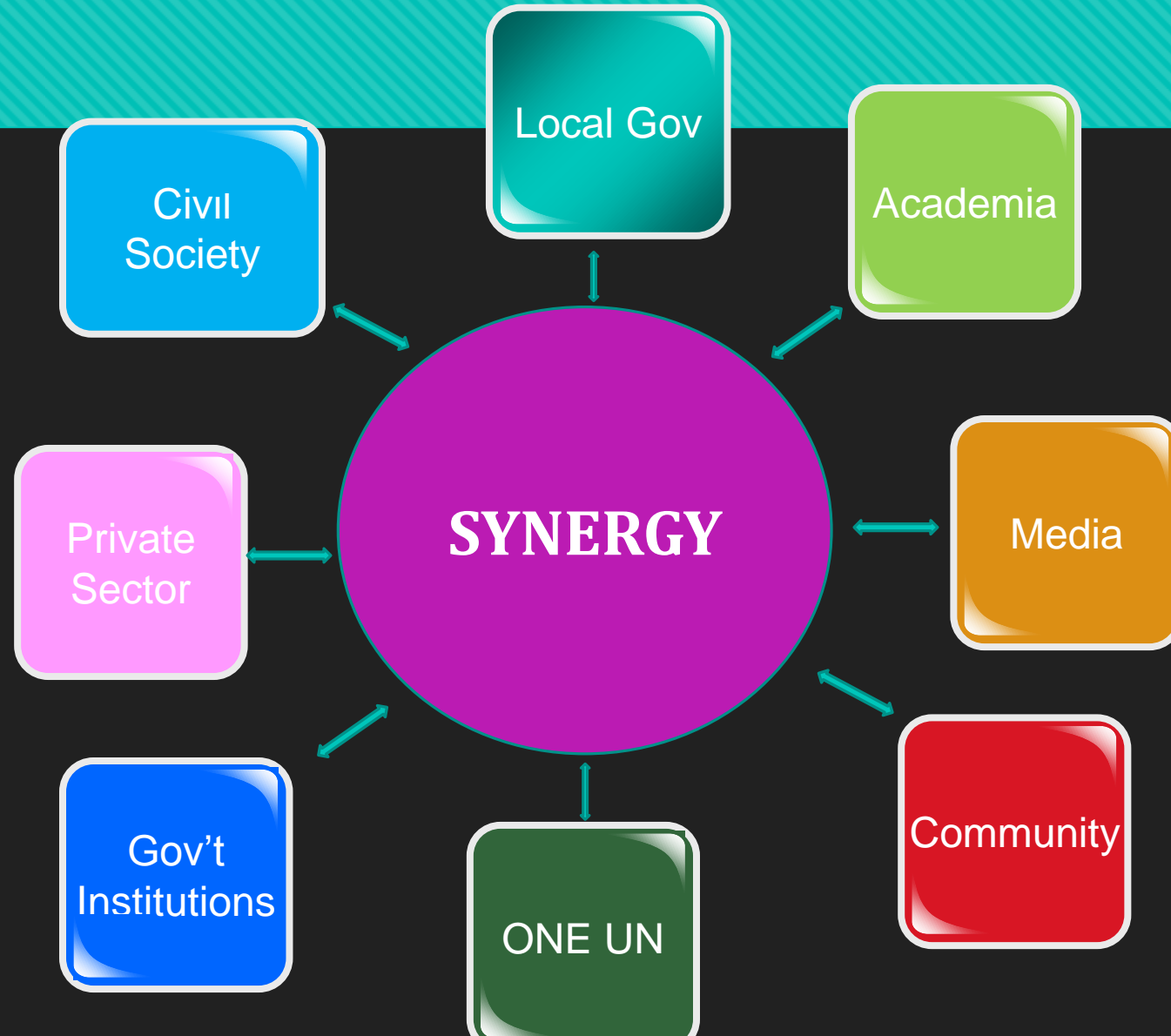


- Insufficient skills in gender analysis
- Miss-understanding gender/Mindset due to cultural constraints;
- Women's heavy workload limits their mobility and economic opportunities
- Women still constitute the majority of the poor and a big number of women are in subsistence farming
- Limited women's access to formal financial services and loans as well as Gender Digital Divide
- Limited representation of women private

- Capacity Building on gender analysis & mainstreaming
- Intensity dissemination of policies and laws using existing fora (Parent Evening, Community Works.
- Men engage approach in gender equality Promotion
- Women Empowerment in Technology (WEM-Tech)
- Programs to transform agriculture sector and develop capacity programs for women in entrepreneurship skills and agribusiness
- Mentorship programs for young women and girls as well as award of scholarships to girls in primary & secondary schools:



# PARTNERSHIP



# CONCLUSION



- Strong political will towards gender equality is critical if women's participation is to be increased
- Political will must be supported by Accountable governance that delivers on its promises
- Women leaders have a crucial role to play. Wherever women are empowered, the nation attains sustainable development
- Rwanda's experience in the progress towards gender equality is strongly linked to the role of political leadership, women's' organizations, strong institutional frameworks, support of donors, and its own cultural and historical context.
- However, critical challenges remain to be overcome to advance & sustain the gains

# But we have only just begun



*“When women advance, everyone benefits. The key principle, in addition to understanding gender equality as a human right, is to use the talents of all our people to the full potential, in politics, business and elsewhere. This is common sense if we want to advance and improve our societies,” H.E Paul Kagame*

**‘Finally, it is more useful to register achievements that will be sustained. I want to challenge us all – as leaders and people of influence – to find new and innovative ways to sustain and accelerate progress towards gender equality and women’s empowerment around the world.’ H.E Paul Kagame**