

IMAGES Country Study Documentation

Rwanda

2011

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KEY OBJECTIVES

The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) is a multi-country study on men's and women's realities, attitudes and behaviors around gender equality, including childhood experiences of violence, gender relations, partner relations and relationship satisfaction, gender-based violence and sexual behavior. IMAGES surveys are conducted together with qualitative research to map masculinities, contextualize survey results, and provide detailed life histories that illuminate quantitative findings. The questionnaire is adapted to country and regional contexts, with approximately two thirds of the questions being standard across settings.

There is a growing understanding of how gender influences men's and women's expectations, attitudes, and behaviors and how gender is a growing determinant of social and economic wellbeing.

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Sustainable Development Goal #5 includes targets around the elimination of violence and harmful practices, recognizing and valuing unpaid care, ensuring women's participation in leadership and public life, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Reports of gender-based violence in Rwanda have consisted of rape and murder of children and adults. More than one-third of women in Rwanda have suffered from physical violence since age 15. The national police records show that on average, eight women and girl children were raped each day with approximately 80% of victims under the age of 18. Many cases are unreported due to strong cultural beliefs that reinforce and perpetuate violence against women and children.

Other examples of gender-based violence in Rwanda include forced and/or early marriages, sexual abuse, infanticide, physical abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, harassment and intimidation, and neglecting and abandoning a child.

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Rwanda has ratified international instruments addressing women's rights and has expressed a commitment to address gender-based violence for every Rwandan to live a secure life and enjoy his/her rights. These include CEDAW (1980), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the Optional Protocol to the African Charter of Human and People's Rights to Women's Rights in Africa and approved through Presidential Order N 11/01 of 24/06/2004.

The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda provides for higher levels of representation to previously marginalized groups such as women, youth, and people living with disabilities, including mandating at least 30% quota for women in decision-making organs. This has resulted in a higher number of women elected and appointed to decision-making positions within the Government of Rwanda. Vision 2020, a long-term development framework, along with EDPRS, have situated gender equality as a cross-cutting issue.

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The National Gender Policy was developed as a means to translate the cross-cutting nature of gender into action across development sectors, and places an emphasis on capacity building, gender mainstreaming, and women's empowerment. The National Gender Policy is assisted by the National Decentralization Policy, which implements a decentralized structure and encourages villages to address gender-based violence in their planning cycles and encourage a sense of community ownership by different social groups.

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) leads national machinery created to promote gender equality and is responsible for the dissemination of the National Gender Policy at national and international levels.

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The Ministry of Defense and the National Police have established gender-based violence desks and free telephone hotlines. National Women's Councils coordinate Women's Councils and takes part in advocacy and lobbying for changes in women's status. The Gender Monitoring Office monitors progress towards achieving gender equality. Civil society organizations and development partners have also played vital roles in addressing gender-based violence through technical and financial support.

At the root of gender-based violence are gender expectations, norms, and power dynamics which shape behaviors, opportunities, and material realities. Addressing these issues requires interventions that involve men and boys and considers deeply rooted gender dynamics between men and women across multiple dimensions of daily life. The role of men and their own gendered experiences, however, are rarely acknowledged in policies, programs, and public discourse.

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The goal of IMAGES is to provide data and insight to understand how gender and masculinities impact a wide range of well-being and development outcomes. IMAGES is one of the most comprehensive household studies ever carried out on men's and women's attitudes and practices on a wide variety of topics related to gender equality.

The study's emphasis on understanding gendered dynamics influencing a wide range of men's and women's behaviors complements existing research and policy initiatives. The data and conclusions generated from IMAGES have also served as the foundation for program development and have informed national-level discussions and the development of new policies.

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DATA COLLECTION

The IMAGES study in Rwanda collected data through both surveys and qualitative focus groups and in-depth interviews. The primary research question was ‘What is the relation between perceptions of masculinity and the problem of gender-based violence committed by men towards women?’. Sub-questions included, ‘How do men see their male role in relation to partners and women?’, ‘How do women see the roles of males in society?’, and ‘What aspects of Rwandese society may fuel negative perceptions of masculinity that justify VAW?’.

Baseline Survey

The IMAGES survey tool included questions on sociodemographic information and status, childhood information (gender relations in childhood household, gendered experiences, discipline, difficult life circumstances),

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DATA COLLECTION

Household relations (time use and division of labor in the household, final say in the household, empirical and normative expectations), parenting and relationship with children (antenatal care, time use and caregiving, non-residential biological children, child discipline techniques, empirical and normative expectations), women's participation and public life, laws and policies, violence in relationships (relationship control, violence against women, rape myths, empirical and normative expectations), health and quality of life (general health information, health seeking behavior, substance abuse, life satisfaction and locus of control, depression, sexual and reproductive health, attitudes about family planning, fertility aspirations and family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, abortion), attitudes on relations between men and women, life experiences (neighborhood violence, social cohesion), media exposure, and survey satisfaction.

2 DATA COLLECTION

The survey was adapted to include aspects that shaped the Rwandan context, including the recent history of genocide and specific socio-cultural practices.

Respondents were selected through multi-stage sampling. Districts and villages for the study sites were selected by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) through cluster sampling. The sample was stratified so that 1/3 women and 2/3 men from different age groups were included. Each village was divided in three main areas: the center, the area 10 meters from the center, and the remote area more than 30 meters from the center. Local authorities in Rwanda's 30 districts provided collaboration and advice that facilitated data collection.

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DATA COLLECTION

Data was collected between January and June 2010 by 12 field team leaders and 72 data collectors. Given the sensitivity of the topic, teams consisted of male interviewers for those interviewing male respondents, and of female interviewers for those interviewing female respondents.

Some villages in the Northern and Western provinces were difficult to reach due to weather conditions. A smaller sample was selected from Kigali province due to the fact that interviewers worked during the day and found it difficult to find people at home, since they were at work.

Quantitative data was processed through SPSS and analyzed by univariate and bivariate analysis. Associations between variables were measured through chi-square tests.

2 DATA COLLECTION

Findings from analysis of quantitative data were matched and compared with findings from qualitative data to validate or invalidate associations. Quantitative and qualitative data were further used to provide a holistic understanding of the dynamics that influence the way women and men relate to each other.

Qualitative Focus Groups

Five focus group discussions and ten in-depth interviews were conducted by two key researchers. Two focus group discussions took place in two villages with representatives of that village participating. Two other focus group discussions were held with women affected by gender-based violence and women working with gender-based violence victims.

2 DATA COLLECTION

The fifth focus group was held with the 12 field team leaders of the 72-trained data collectors. All focus group discussions and in-depth interviews were carried out with written or oral consent from participants.

Findings from qualitative data were further used to validate and invalidate quantitative findings as well as provide a holistic understanding of the dynamics that influence the way women and men relate to each other.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Data from the IMAGES baseline survey was collected from 3,612 respondents from ages 18 to 60, 2,301 of whom were male and 1,311 who were female, in all five provinces of Rwanda. The following table shows the completed questionnaires per province.

Province	Districts	Proportion of Total Sample
Eastern province	Bugesera, Gatsibo, Kayanza, Kirehe, Ngoma, Nyagatere, Rwamagana	24.3%
Kigali province	Gasabo, Kicukiro, Nyarugenge	11.0%
Northern province	Burera, Gakenke, Gicumbi, Musanze, Rulindo	19.2%
Southern province	Huye, Gisagara, Kamonyi, Muhanga, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Nyanza, Ruhango	25.0%
Western province	Karongi, Ngororero, Nyabihu, Nyamasheke, Rubavu, Rusizi, Rutsiro	19.8%

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

The majority of women in the study earned less than half of the income of men, and almost three times as many women earned less than 200 RWF a day based on five working days a week. The following table shows characteristics of participants.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Background Characteristics	Women (n=1,311)	Men (n=2,301)
Marital status		
Divorced/separated	5.1%	1.8%
Legally married	53.2%	67.3%
Living with partner	19.6%	11.5%
No stable partner	11.0%	11.5%
Single/never married	11.0%	17.9%
Widow	11.0%	1.4%
Religion		
Adventist	10.5%	10.0%
Catholic	45.2%	51.8%
Muslim	3.1%	5.2%
Protestant/Anglican	38.3%	30.9%
Other	2.9%	2.0%
Educational Level		
B degree and higher	0.1%	0.4%
Incomplete degree/diploma	0.9%	0.7%
Incomplete secondary school	7.9%	8.1%
No school	24.4%	17.6%
Primary school	30.0%	35.3%
Primary school grade 4	28.1%	29.0%
Secondary school	5.6%	5.5%
Vocational school	3.0%	3.3%
Employment		
Average monthly income	12.409 RWF	24.870 RWF
Income less than 4,000 RWF	44.5%	17.7%
Work for money	89.6%	95.6%

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RESPONSE RATE

A total of 3,612 interviews were conducted for the IMAGES baseline survey. Response rates are unknown. Information about the number of partial interviews, non-interviews (including respondents who refused or were unable to complete the interview), and other cases of ineligibility are also unknown.

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WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

No additional information available in this section.

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MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

No additional information available in this section.

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QUALITY CONTROL

No additional information available in this section.

8 INTERVIEWER TRAINING

72 data collectors were trained in a six-day training in early March 2010. The training was informed with technical assistance from an ICRW researcher from India and consisted of information on survey instrument application and awareness-raising in gender issues.

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DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

The study was coordinated by Rwanda Men's Resource Center (RWAMREC). UNDP Rwanda provided financial support and cooperation. Rwanda Men Engage Network, Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs (MINALOC), Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), CARE International, Population Services International (PSI), the Imbutu Foundation, Rwandan Collective of Leagues and Associations for the Defense of Human Rights (CLADHO), Rwanda National Police's Gender Desk, Rwanda Defense Forces Gender Desk, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), and Men's Resources International (MRI) played key roles in the research process.

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DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

Two consultants, one international lead consultant and one local key researcher, assisted in study design and data collection. An ICRW researcher from India assisted in the training of 72 data collectors. NISR assisted in cluster sampling.

Acknowledgements are also due to key individuals involved in the study including, Mr. Ajay Singh, Dr. Annet Nugter, Dr. Gary Barker, Dr. Manuel Contreras, Dr. Steven Botkin, Mr. James Arana, Mr. Phil Vernon, Ms. Marie Françoise Umulinga, Mr. Jean de Dieu Kayiranga, Ms. Henny Slegh, Mr. Augustin Kimonyo, and Fidele Rutayisire.

10 ETHICAL APPROVAL



The study design was approved by the National Institute of Statistics Rwanda (NISR).

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NOTES ON STUDY

This study was constrained by budget and was limited to training fieldworkers within six days. Additionally, respondents did not like answering questions that addressed sensitive issues such as sexual violence, and there may be bias in these answers. Another study limitation related to conducting field work in remote areas. Due to relatively short preparation time and communication problems, some community leaders were not well informed about the overall study purpose and needed explanations before allowing interviewers access into their villages. The rainy season also influenced the survey as some villages were difficult to reach. Interviewers in Kigali found difficulties finding people at home during the day while they were at work.

The field teams completed the planned number of interviews and received warm welcomes in almost all the villages in which they worked. Most respondents expressed gratitude that RWAMREC sent interviewers to listen to their stories and opinions on gender-based violence and new gender policies.



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