

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



# GENDER PROFILE IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

GENDER MONITORING OFFICE  
MARCH | 2017

# GENDER PROFILE IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

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## INTRODUCTION

The Government of Rwanda has made strong political commitment to accelerating the promotion of gender equality, which the country considers as a factor for sustainable development in the lead up to a knowledge-based economy and a middle income country by 2020.

Gender equality has been integrated in all national development frameworks and is now a crosscutting issue in all development sectors including ICT - a central engine for economic transformation, knowledge transfer, and capacity building.

Very recently, in the framework of HeForShe global campaign, H.E Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda committed that Rwanda will bridge the gender digital divide and attain parity in ICT access, usage and innovation by 2020. In this line, the Government of Rwanda will support initiatives aimed at facilitating rural access to ICT facilities especially for women.

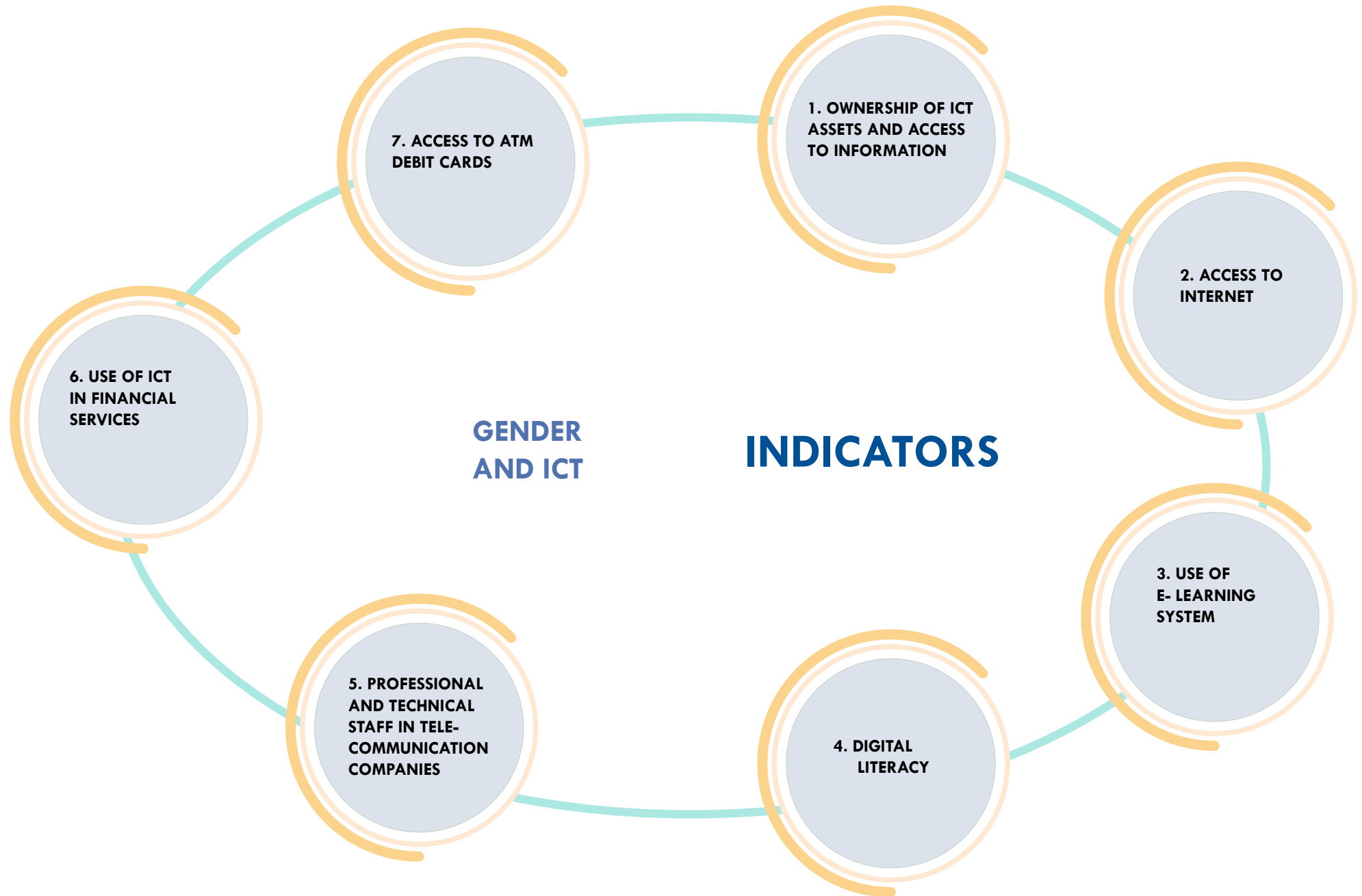
The Government of Rwanda also committed to accelerate telephone penetration especially in rural areas, and connect rural communities to economic opportunities through improved infrastructure including ICT; which will evidently help both men and women contribute and benefit from outcomes of Rwanda's economic transformation.

The Rwanda's Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) developed the Gender Profile in Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), to provide the situational analysis in regards to promotion of gender equality in the sector, and serve as a guide for effective planning and monitoring, policy development, gender responsive programming as well as advocacy for more acceleration of gender equality and closure of persistent gender gaps.

The used data were sourced from different national surveys and administrative data provided by relevant government institutions and other stakeholders.

GMO appreciates the contribution of key national stakeholders and development partners, especially One UN and the Embassy of Sweden for providing resources that enabled the development of this gender profile. UN Women's technical support contributed to the development of this gender profile.

Efforts to track and document gender status in ICT will continue in collaboration with key stakeholders in the sector.



# RWANDA POLICIES AND STRATEGIES ON GENDER AND ICT

The Government of Rwanda has made great efforts to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue in all development policies and strategies at both central and local government levels.

**The Rwanda vision 2020:** Requires that gender be integrated as a cross-cutting issue in all development policies and strategies. It prioritizes the use of internet and penetration of telephone especially in rural areas.

**Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS 2013 - 2018):** Identifies ICT as a central engine for national economic transformation, knowledge transfer and capacity building.

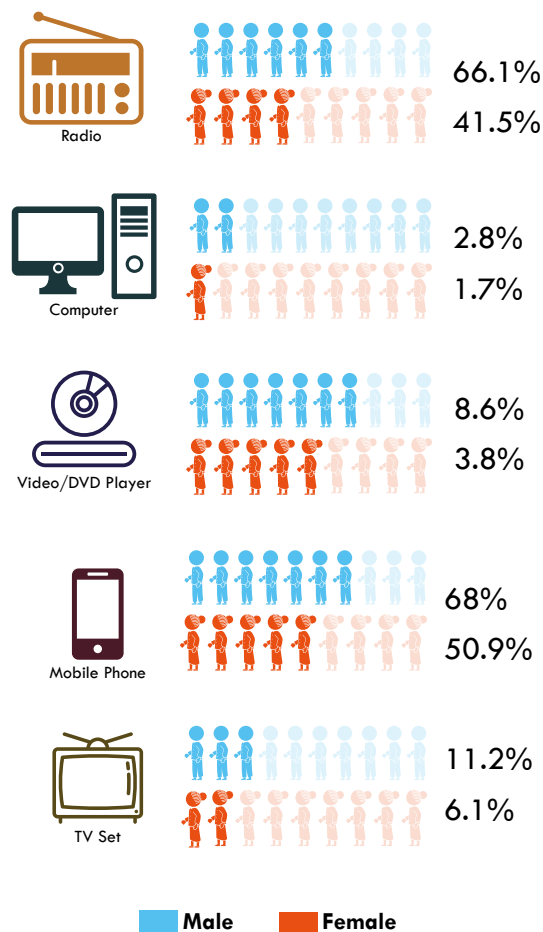
**National gender policy (2010):** Highlights that limited access to ICT contributes to poor access to information, which is an issue mostly faced by women who are more involved in domestic activities and thus have little time for collecting information.

**Smart Rwanda 2020 Master Plan:** Is the ICT Sector Strategic Plan developed in 2015. It highlights the empowerment of Women and youth in ICT as one of its pillars. Through the plan, the Government of Rwanda committed to facilitate Women and Girls in ICT capacity building and facilitate projects related to increasing women and girls in ICT related business.

**WEM-TECH Strategy (Women Empowerment through ICT):** In line with the aspirations of the Smart Rwanda master plan, a WEM-TECH strategy is being developed to address digital gender divide which limits women's ability to fully participate towards building an equitable knowledge based society.

# 1. OWNERSHIP OF ICT ASSETS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

## a) Heads of Households Owning ICT Assets



Source: EICV 4 (2013/14)

## b) ICT Devices Ownership Growth

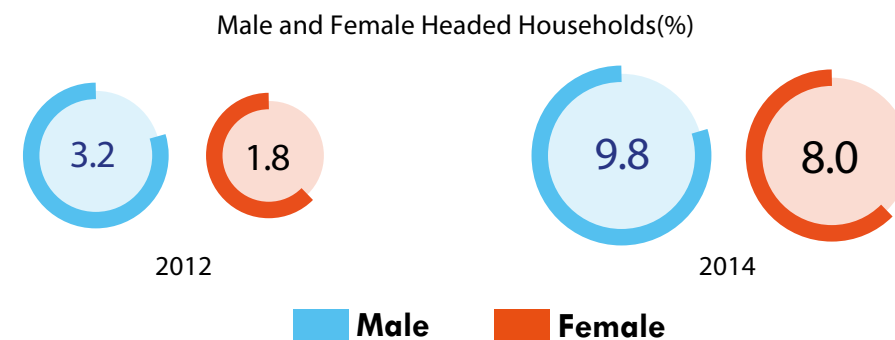
ICT Equipment	2010/ 2011		2013/ 2014	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Radio	60.9	44.1	66.1	41.5
Computer	1.5	0.7	2.8	1.7
Mobile Phone	28.3	24.2	68	50.9
TV Set	7.1	3.2	11.2	6.1
Video/DVD Player	5.4	2.3	8.6	3.8

Source: Adapted from NISR, EICV 3 & 4

There has been an increase in the use of ICT devices, especially mobile phone for both male and female headed households despite the fact that the proportion of female headed households is still low compared to that of men mainly due to the difference in income, literacy and exposure. There is a decrease of the use of radio by women.

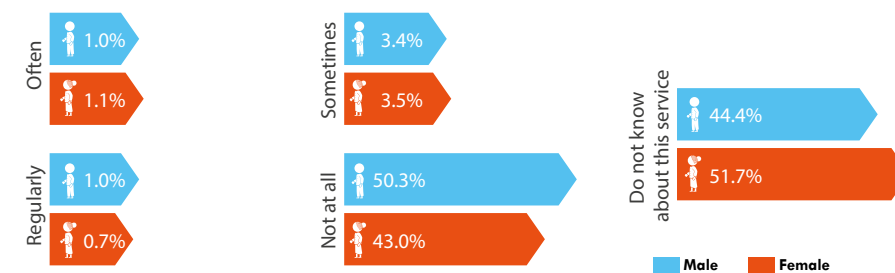
## 2. ACCESS TO INTERNET

### a) Households Accessing Internet from Home



Source: NISR, RPHC4 (2012) & EICV 4 (2013/14)

### b) Usage of Internet Service Facility

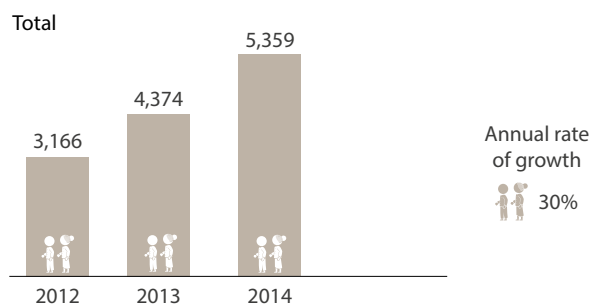
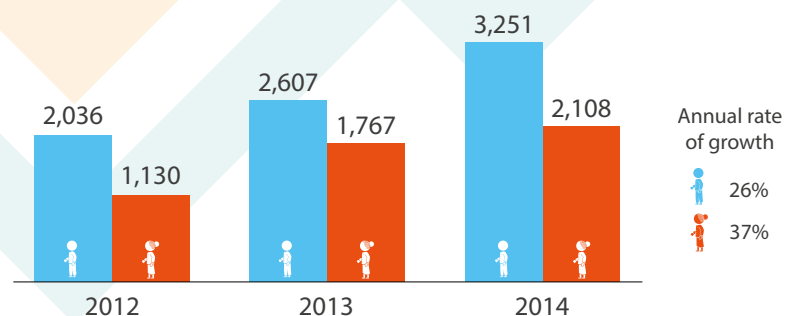


Source: EICV 4 (2013/14)

There is limited internet accessibility and usage for both men and women.

### 3. USE OF E- LEARNING SYSTEM

#### Students Using Open Distance and E-learning



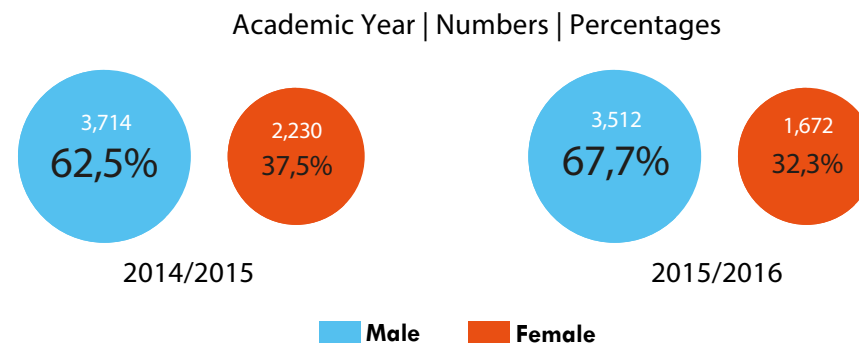
Male Female Combined(Male & Female)

Source: MYICT, ICT Directorate, Administrative Data, 2015

E-learning offers great opportunities for students to access required skills and education without leaving behind the rest of their daily responsibilities. For instance, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and others with little children are able to upgrade their education through e-learning while limiting their mobility and still taking care of their children and homes.

### 4. DIGITAL LITERACY

#### a) Women and Men Attendance in ICT - Related Courses in Higher Education

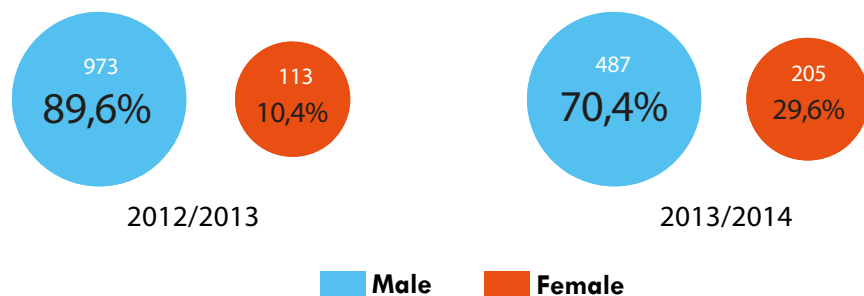


Source: HEC, Administrative Data, 2016

The female representation in ICT related courses is still very limited in both public and private schools.

## b) Women and Men who Graduated in ICT-Related Courses in Higher Education

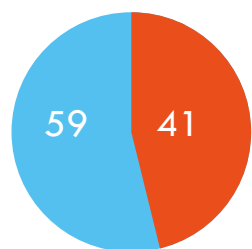
Academic Year | Numbers | Percentages(%)



Source: HEC, Administrative Data, 2016

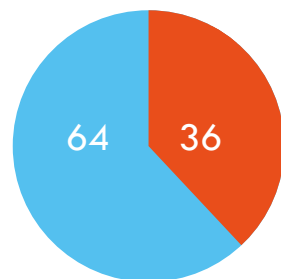
## c) Teachers Trained in ICT

At Primary Level (2014)(%)



Male Female

At Secondary Level (2014)(%)



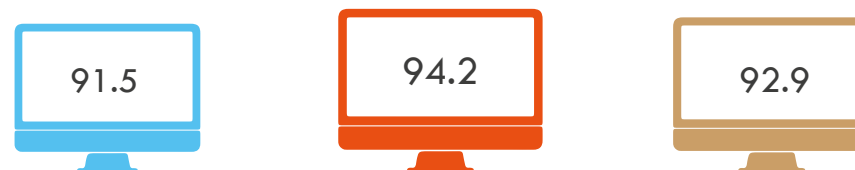
Source: MYICT, Administrative Data, 2015

## d) Computer Literacy Rate of Population Aged 15 Years and Above

i. Confident to Use Computer (%)



ii. Do not Know to Use Computer(%)



Male Female All Rwandans

Source: EICV 4 (2013/14)

In terms of computer literacy women are more illiterate than men representing 94.2% and 91.5% respectively.



## 5. PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL STAFF IN TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES

### Numbers of Professional and Technical Staff in Telecommunication Companies

Year	MTN			TIGO			AirTel			New Artel		
	F	M	Female (%)	F	M	Female (%)	F	M	Female (%)	F	M	Female (%)
2008	39	45	46%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2010	45	97	32%	2	46	4%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5	40	11
2012	60	140	30%	5	61	8%	8	25	24%	3	30	9%
2014	77	185	29%	4	33	11%	21	77	21%	3	33	8%

F: FEMALE M: MALE n.a.: Not Applicable

Source: RURA, Administrative data, 2015

There has been improvement in recruiting both male and female staff though some gender imbalances persist. The imbalances are also translated on the labour market where men are highly predominant in telecommunication companies.

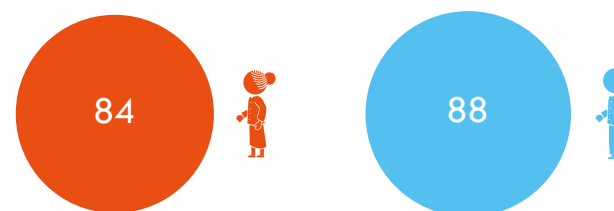
## 6. USE OF ICT IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

### a) Access to Mobile Phone

Cellphone access and ownership continues to increase in Rwanda with 84% of women owning/having access to a cellphone compared to 88% men.

The increase of mobile phones ownership has boosted rapid information sharing among Rwandans in the country and outside the country but has also helped to increase access to financial services

Access to mobile phone by gender (%)



Uptake of mobile money services (%)



Source: Women and FinScope, 2016

Increased access to mobile phones by women has led to an increased uptake of mobile money services with a slight gender gap between men and women.

## b) Mobile Phone Financial Transactions

Have/used other formal remittances channels, i.e. Mobile money (%)

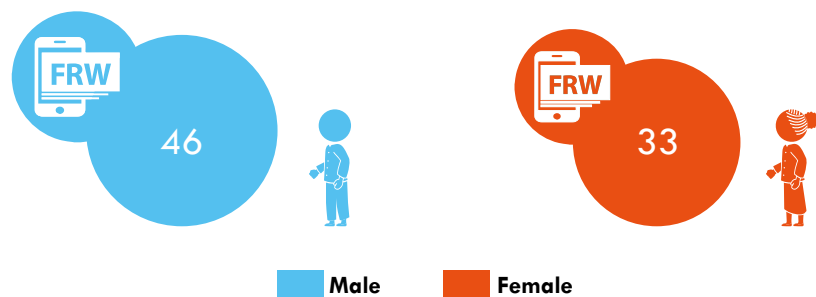


Source: Women and FinScope, 2016

The mobile phone ownership has also helped in rapid access to banking information through SMS banking which helps to be updated on each transaction done on bank account. In addition, ICT through the use of mobile phone has helped both men and women to do quick transactions on bank accounts and other transactions such as buying and payment of electricity bills, payment of TV subscription, Tax bills, water bills among others.

## c) Mobile Money Account Holders

Having and Using Mobile Money Account (%)

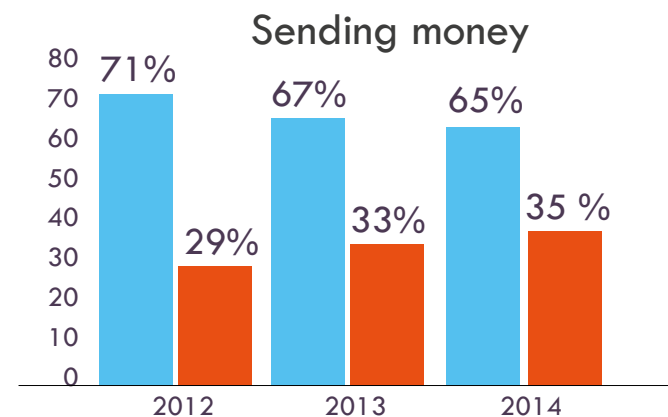


Source: Women and FinScope, 2016

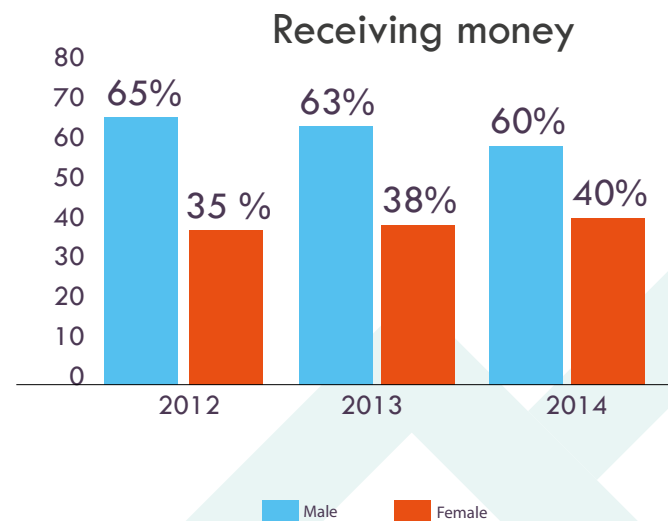
More men compared to women have or use mobile money accounts.

## d) Use of Mobile Phone Financial Transfer Systems

### i. Use of Tigo-Cash to Send and Receive Funds

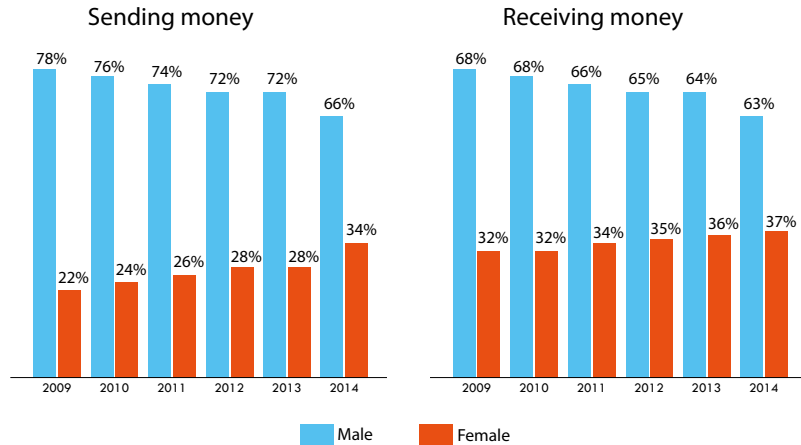


Source: RURA, Administrative Data, 2015



Source: RURA, Administrative Data, 2015

## ii. Use of MTN Mobile Money to Send and Receive Funds

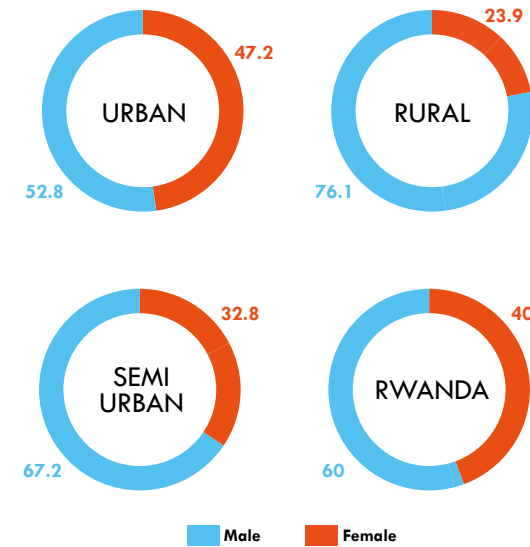


Source: RURA, Administrative Data, 2015

From the table above it is noted that there is an increase of women receiving and sending money using mobile phones although their proportion is still very low compared to that of their men counterparts.

The number of men using mobile phone for transaction of money is high from 2012, and this number is decreasing progressively. Meaning they are upgrading to the use of ATM and Banks transfers.

## 7. ACCESS TO ATM DEBIT CARDS



Source: FinScope, 2012

The higher proportion of men using ATMs in rural areas may be explained by men's greater mobility and their access to financial institutions in urban areas. Women in rural areas mostly access financial services through SACCOs that, generally, do not provide ATM debit cards.

## 8. GOOD INITIATIVES ON ICT

- **RapidSMS24:** The Government introduced RapidSMS in 2009 to track and address the high rate of maternal and newborn deaths, as a national development priority. RapidSMS is a community-based approach used by Community Health Workers (CHW) to transmit maternal and child health-related indicators (early pregnancy, antenatal care, post-natal care, nutrition, disabilities, immunization and life threatening emergencies) to the Ministry of Health central servers for diagnosis and response.
- **Girls in ICT:** Girls in ICT Rwanda is a group of women, young and old – professionals and students, who are passionate about STEM and have come together to inspire more girls to join these exciting fields. It was founded in December 2011 when Rwanda decided to join the rest of the world in celebrating the international ITU Girls in ICT day which happens every last week of April.
- **Ms Geek Competition:** The MsGeek competition is an annual competition designed to inspire female university/TVET students to think critically and design solutions to issues faced by Rwandans today. In this competition, young women compete based on the innovative ideas as well as their ability to develop a certain technology or develop a business idea. The purpose of MsGeek is to demonstrate that girls and young women can also excel in the technologies and build their confidence in competing in the open market.
- **TechKobwa BootCamp:** This is a one week bootcamp gathering high schools girls especially from remote high schools where the access to technology and computer is very limited. For that week, the girls have the chance to learn basic programming, internet and other computer skills. They also have access to mentors from various sectors who help them discover the good things about technology. Techkobwa is an initiative of Peace Corps with Girls in ICT in partnership with Klab and other stakeholders.
- **ICT Awareness campaigns:** In partnership with the Ministry of ICT and Youth, Girls in ICT conducts awareness campaigns across the country mostly in high schools. These campaigns consists of educating these girls about various career paths in STEM fields and sharing their own experiences.
- **Ni Nyampinga:** Ni Nyampinga.com is Ni Nyampinga's mobile website. On the site Ni Nyampinga fans can find all their favourite stories, advice from Baza Shangazi and games and quizzes. And you can also now get Ni Nyampinga on your phone by calling 1019 and selecting from the options - to hear the recent talk radio show, to listen to the latest episode of the youth drama Ni Nyampinga Sakwe or to get the latest advice from agony aunt Baza Shangazi. Plus, as always, Ni Nyampinga follows can text us directly on 1019.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ensure that the next ICT sector strategy is gender responsive with clear targets and strategic interventions that aims to narrow gender digital divide as enshrined in the HeForShe Rwanda commitments.
2. Institutionalize the collection of sex-disaggregated data and equip public ICT-related institutions with capacities, tools and skills for effective implementation of designed policies and strategies.
3. Support women and girls to access and use services from existing tele-centers especially those in rural areas.
4. Increase women's participation in STEM as well as in leadership positions in ICT sector including in tele-communication companies.
5. Enhance digital skills for women and girls through ICT-mentor-ship programs, engineering scholarships for women, and women's associations for girl's education advancements and awareness on the benefits of ICT for both boys and girls.

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