

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S *in Burundi* EMPOWERMENT

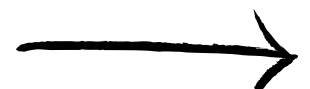
Tuyage:
a project in partnership with USAID



Project Summary:

Since July 2018, “Tuyage: Information Access and Economic Discourse Strengthening project,” has been funded by USAID.

The overall objective of the project is to foster a culture of open discussion on economic concerns and civic engagement that directly affect Burundians in their daily lives, increasing dialogue across divides and building social togetherness.

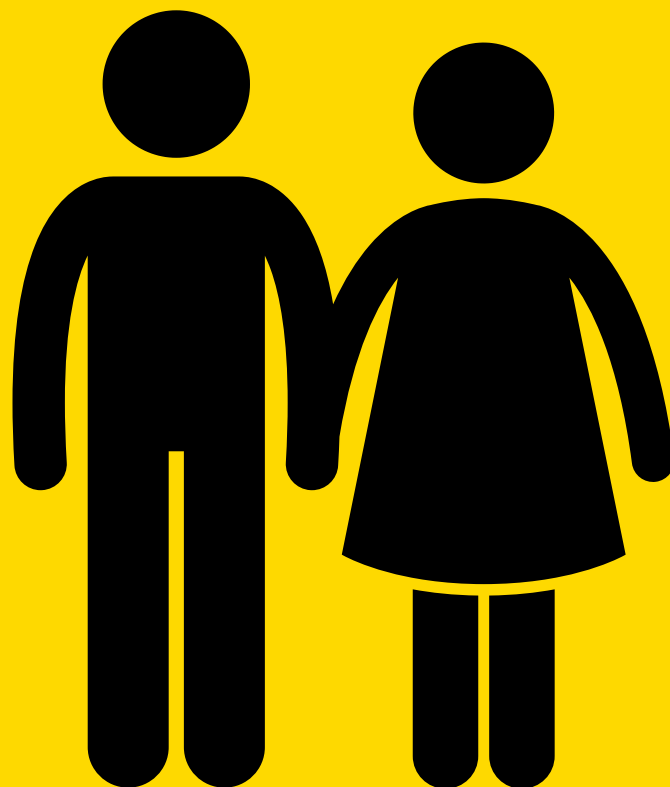


We conducted a study between December 2020 and January 2021 to shed light on the existing cultural barriers to women's economic empowerment (WEE), the social norms that limit or support women's access to economic opportunities.

These are the results:



**With regards to the roles of women
according to **social norms**:**

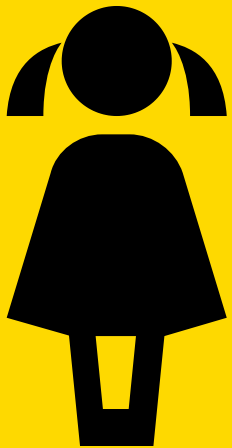


the study emphasised the traditional role of women in charge of the household and obeying the husband. These views are shared more widely in rural areas and among low-educated people.



With regards to the **social barriers to women's economic empowerment:**

Women are expected to take care of the household, women's occupation mainly relies on unpaid work and leaves them with limited time for other activities.



Girls are more likely to be withdrawn from schools and retained at home. Mothers who have not been educated do not see the need to educate their girls, therefore perpetuating a vicious circle

Sexuality is taboo in Burundi and this further hampers WEE. Husbands' reluctance to WEE is for instance linked to fears of sexual misconduct when wives travel for professional reasons, and employers are reluctant to hire women for fear they would get pregnant.

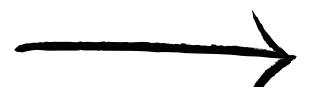


WHAT'S NEXT?

Search will keep supporting WEE through gender awareness programs, women entrepreneur training, mentoring sessions, as well as financial support provided to women-led economic initiatives.



We will continue to promote the concept of positive masculinity through influencing actors such as the media in order to raise awareness, to help men overcome the perceived threat that comes with WEE, rather see it as a win-win opportunity



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Learn more about our work:

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