

31ST UNAIDS PCB MEETING

RWANDAN CSO

By

UWIMPUHWE SIDONIE

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Difference to the gender equality agenda in the context of HIV in Rwanda

- CSO perceive an increased awareness among key players of specific needs of women and girls in the context of HIV and their responsibilities to tailor the response accordingly
 - **Influence forums and decisions:** Strategic programmatic action are being deliberate in involving HIV positive women and girls in important decision making processes and fora (*i.e. EMTCT plan, MTR HIV-NSP, Development of new NSP, EAC bill on HIV, engaging Men and boys in HIV and GBV prevention and response, decriminalization of sex work in the national penal code, gathering evidence to understand specific vulnerability factors of women and girls in the context of HIV, etc*)

Main/most notable areas of Success/Change

- Restructuring of the National network of PLWHIV to integrate representations of women, men and the youth; and creation of a gender desk in the executive secretariat of the network
- HIV+ women and girls are given more space to advocate for their rights
- Capacity built among CSOs staff in
 - mainstreaming Gender and HR in their plans
 - Resource mobilization (HIV + women groups)

Main challenges

- Securing a seat for HIV+ women and girls in the CCM as voting members
- Service provision for some services like shelter or safe homes for GBV victims, girl friendly SRH services
- Social and culture norms underlying gender inequalities are hard to challenge

Way forward

- Continued advocacy for:
 - Meaningful participation of women and girls LWHIV including securing a seat in the CCM as voting members
 - Increased provision for women and girls' services especially SRH, legal and protection services.
- Increased funding for the cause of women and girls
- Strengthen coordination mechanisms of gender & HIV interventions by CSOs

THANK YOU