

GENDERED DESIGN IN STEAM (GDS) - PROJECT TEAM POSTERS

GDS, Carleton University

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GENDERED DESIGN IN STEAM



ID73

Improving the gendered design in housing and public spaces based on women's experiences in Rwanda



This project explored gendered design in housing and Public spaces in Rwanda to identify gendered issues and suggest guidelines to make spaces more accessible for all genders. Data was collected through visits to different universities, institutions and public spaces and surveys given to policymakers and beneficiaries. A gender analysis tool helped to identify how gender can be implemented in the design of spaces and a report with guidelines was written.



Picture on the field at INES Ruhengeri during the field visit

Team

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Institution

Rwandan Association for Women in Science and Engineering (RAWISE) and University of Rwanda (UR)

Findings

The following statistical findings are representative of the data collected from the participating institutions:

- Over 55% of the houses are not accessible to disabled and vulnerable people.
- 96% of houses had toilets, however, only 0.4% had toilets dedicated to disabled people, in addition, institutions had only 41% of toilets designed for women. In the remaining men and women shared toilets. This can make women and disabled people uncomfortable and not meet their specific needs.
- 52% of institutions had kitchens however 75% of those kitchens did not have any amenities available (sit, spoons, kettle, microwave, fridge, etc..) this makes them less functional. This can be challenging for vulnerable people (pregnant women and disabled people) since they may have limited ability to access a restaurant or have specific dietary needs.

- 72% of institutions have an infirmary on the premises or nearby. 89% of the houses that had an infirmary nearby were multistorey buildings. This shows the effects of government policies implemented since many multistorey buildings are new in Rwanda.

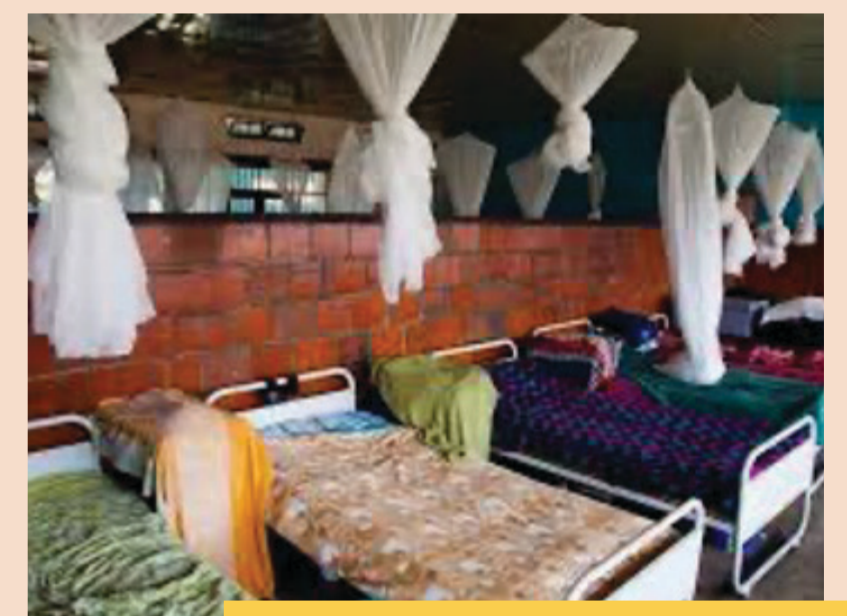


Image of Hostel at UR Campus Huye, some improvement still needed

Methods

- This study employed qualitative and quantitative methodological approaches. The combination of those two methods led to a broader understanding of targeted buildings and people's needs.
- A questionnaire was used to collect information and evaluate beneficiaries' as well as policymakers' and implementers' views on gender inclusivity in housing.
- The questionnaire was sent to twenty-two different institutions with fifty beneficiaries responding to the questionnaire and 40 policymakers and implementers.
- The quantitative data was analyzed using Excel and GIS for geographical data presentation. Data obtained from close-ended questionnaires were analyzed using google forms and SPSS software.



I&M bank breastfeeding room one place looked at in field work; INES Ruhengeri and university of Rwanda UR CST during the field visit.

"There is a gender disparity in the field of constructions, architecture and also in the decision making position to influence the policy makers to make sure that there is an inclusiveness of gender design."

— Marie Chantal Cyulinyana

Lessons & Future Directions

- The research team learnt a lot about data analysis tools, writing skills and computer literacy and developed their negotiation skills as they had to adapt methods, timetables and approaches with stakeholders.
- They found that advocacy is a key action to raise awareness of the importance of gender consideration towards sustainable development.

Learn more



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