

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF GENDER AND FAMILY PROMOTION

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2018-2019

SEPTEMBER 2019

Our Vision

Creating a conducive environment for the family stability, gender equality and child protection towards sustainable development.

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AWLC: African Women in Leadership Conference
AWLO: African Women in Leadership Organization
BDF: Business Development Funds
CSOs: Civil Society Organizations
DAC: Day of the African Child
ECD: Early Childhood Development
FBOs: Faith Based Organizations
FBF: Fortified Blended Food
FFRP: Forum des Femmes Rwandaises Parlementaires
GBV: Gender Based Violence
GoR: Government of Rwanda
GMO: Gender Monitoring Office
ICRP: Integrated Child Rights Policy
IDGC: International Day of a Girl Child
IDF: International Day of families
IOSC: Isange One Stop Center
IZU: Inshuti z'Umuryango (friends of family)
MIGEPROF: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
NCC: National Commission for Children
NECDP: National Early Childhood Development Programme

NGOs: Non-Government Organizations
NEP: National Employment Program
NST: National Strategy for Transformation
NWC: National Women's Council
OVC: Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
RWAMREC: Rwanda Men's Resource Center
SOS: Societas Socialis- socially responsible society
SACCO: Saving and Credit Cooperative
TVET: Technical and Vocational Education Training
TMM: Tubarerere Mu Muryango (Let's raise children in families)
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
UN: United Nations
VSLA: Village Savings and Loans Associations
AGI: Adolescent Girls Initiative

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Report covers the period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. It represents key achievements performed by MIGEPROF against planned targets in the areas of Gender Mainstreaming and Accountability, Family Welfare, Fight against GBV and Child Protection, Women Economic Empowerment and Participation in development programs, Child participation in local and national decision-making process and Mobilization of Women to benefit from NEP interventions.

The enabling environment created to implement the existing policies and programs has greatly contributed to the promotion of family unity and values as well as platforms such as “Umugoroba w’Ababyeyi” (Evening Parents’ Forum) to open community discussions on outstanding issues constraining family prosperity. Again, a number of activities aimed at preventing and responding to all forms of Gender Based violence, child labour and abuse, malnutrition and others that have direct impact on social wellbeing implemented.

Gender Equality Promotion and women empowerment related interventions have been achieved as follow: 500,000 women mobilized to participate in parliamentary elections and 177 Women Candidates supported with transport facilitations, resulted to 61.3% women in Parliament. Dialogues on gender equality promotion, Sexual reproductive health and fighting teenage pregnancy conducted in 1,291 secondary schools and 38 Higher Learning Institutions. With the purpose of domestication, the UNSCR 1325, the second generation of National Action Plan (NAP) for a period of 2018-2022 was elaborated.

Through different channels, 18,800 people (17,020 women and 1,776 men) mobilized to participate and benefit from National Employment Program (NEP Kora wigire) to attend TVET and Medium Term Vocational trainings and to benefit BDF products that aimed at creation of decent jobs where 1,049 women and girls with viable projects were supported through BDF. To cope with climate change effects in agriculture, 1,180 smallholder farmers from Goma and Nyaruguru Districts supported.

In terms of promoting Family and enhancing GBV Prevention and response mechanism; “Noza Imibanire mu Muryango wawe” training module developed in 2015 was revised to integrate the amended laws and the Government’s new family promotion related programmes and 876 (Gender and family promotion officers, ESs, civil registers and Social affairs officers) were trained on the training manual.

638 couples received trainings on empowering women & men towards the prevention of GBV in communities. Five Isange One Stop Centres (Ruhango, Butaro, Rwamagana, Kigeme and Kabutare) Rehabilitated, four CSO and RBOs' projects related to gender promotion, fighting GBV and child abuse were financially supported.

Regarding child rights promotion and protection, 1078 Orphans or vulnerable children were supported with school fees to attend TVET, 194 children were reintegrated into families. The Children's forum committee election was conducted, where 104,622 children's forum committee members elected from Village to District levels. To increase the quality of ECD service delivery; 3351 people (416 Inshuti z'Umuryango (IZU); 2416 caregivers, 420 social cluster members; 99 master trainers) trained on positive parenting. In addition, mass campaigns conducted in 13 Districts on good practices on nutrition, hygiene, involvement in ECDs services, child protection, early learning as well as inclusion of children with disabilities. 85,002 children <2years received FBF, 16,151 pregnant and lactating women in cat 1 received FBF, 9,676 children under 5 years supported with milk support. Furthermore, 39 low ECD centres constructed in 13 Districts.

I. GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1.1. Introduction

Gender Mainstreaming and Accountability is one of the foundations of National Development agenda. As of the fiscal year 2018/2019, the Ministry through Gender Promotion Unit has conducted many activities in advancing community awareness on gender equality, Implementation of International Commitments and Resolutions related to Gender Equality as well as coordination of the stakeholders intervening in gender equality promotion

1.2. Community awareness on Gender Equality

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion organized awareness on gender equality in the Higher Learning Institutions and secondary schools in order to contribute to GBV prevention and response as well as promoting gender equality in schools. Since October 2018, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with its different stakeholders conducted dialogues in 1,291 out of 1,575 secondary schools and 38 out of 40 Higher Learning Institutions with focus on gender equality, health reproductive and fight against teenage pregnancy.



Student at AUCA University attentively following up on Gender Equality.

During dialogues, the students learnt a lot about the concepts of gender equality and different forms of Gender based violence as well as policies and strategies in place to fight GBV and child abuse in its all forms.

Moreover, students got chance to ask and know more about GBV and how they can prevent it from happening. A student from Kirehe said that ***“many of us were not aware of whether this is GBV related act or not but today we have gained more skills and knowledge on GBV and how to prevent it either from school or in our families”***.

Even though this awareness raising has been successful considering the high turn up during the campaign events, it is worth noting that the awareness and sensitization should be extended to other youth group. In addition, there is need to increase parental role as this is very important in reducing teen pregnancies and dropouts.

1.3. Implementation of International Commitments and Resolutions related to Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Strengthened.

The government of Rwanda has ratified a number of international commitments that promote gender equality. These include solemn declaration on Gender equality for Africa, HeforShe commitments, United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 among others.

The year of 2018, the solemn declaration report on gender equality for Africa was successfully submitted to African Union. The report focuses on combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases; promotion of Peace and Security; Campaign for Systematic prohibition of the recruitment of Child Soldiers; Fight against Trafficking in Women and Girls; Promote the Gender Parity Principle; Promotion of the implementation of all Human Rights for Women and Girls; Implementation of the Legislation to guarantee Women's Land, Property and Inheritance Rights; Education of Girls and Literacy of Women; Domestication and Implementation of Regional and International instruments on Gender Equality.

In order to engage men and boys in removing social and cultural barriers that prohibits women and girls from achieving their full potentials, the joint action plan has been elaborated and implemented to ensure the full implementation of the three (03) commitment of HeforShe namely: bridging the gender digital divided in ICT attaining parity in access and usage, enhancing girls' enrolment in TVET to boost their employability and eradicating Gender based violence in all its forms by 2020. The implementation of HeForShe joint action plan revealed that the ownership by implementers and timely reporting as well as regular feedback are prerequisite to make HeForShe implementation a success.

For domestication of the UNSCR 1325, the Ministry of Gender and Family promotion in collaboration with Care International Rwanda elaborated the second generation of National Action Plan (NAP) for a period of 2018-2022 which was launched by Right Honourable Prime Minister on 29th March 2019.

This year 2018;

- Rwanda is leading the world in having more seats of women in the parliamentarians (61.3%);
- Women Ministers represent 50% of cabinet;
- Female Judges and Clerks represents 49.6% of judiciary;
- 45.2% are female as members of Districts Councils.



Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard NGIRENTE, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Amb. Soline NYIRAHABIMANA and other officials unveil UNSCR 1325, Gender Status report and NAP 2018-2022 in Women's empowerment month

The National Action Plan of UNSCR 1325 focuses on five key pillars:

- Participation and leadership of women in decision making,
- Prevention of violence against and involvement in conflict prevention,
- Protection from violence,
- Equal access to means of relief, economic recovery and rehabilitation, and
- Women's promotion and gender mainstreaming in Rwanda's foreign services and international and regional cooperation

The implementation of National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 is prepared in the recognition that further efforts should be deployed to improve the participation of the women in the peace building processes. The ownership of this National Action Plan by relevant stakeholders and its incorporation in their individual action plans is one of the factors for its successful implementation.

II. FAMILY WELFARE, FIGHT AGAINST GBV AND CHILD PROTECTION

2.1. Introduction

The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003, revised in 2015, establishes the family as the most basic and fundamental social unit that maintains the social fabric of the Rwandan Society. As stated in NST1, strengthening prevention and response strategies to fight against Gender based violence and child abuse, and ensuring that orphans are raised in families are crucial for moving towards Rwandan Modern Household. During this year, to achieve this objective, the Ministry of gender and family promotion focused on the national vision for socio-economic development, foresees a well-nourished, healthy, educated and socially secure population. The efforts to strengthen family cohesion were manifested through various interventions as detailed below:

2.2. Strengthening Family Cohesion through Integrated Family Promotion Interventions

The Government of Rwanda through Social Cluster Ministries and their affiliated institutions, Development partners and Non-Government Organizations conducted a nationwide awareness Campaign on Governance and Family Welfare under the coordination of Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion from 11th October to 10th December 2018 in the purpose of creating a bigger impact to the family welfare.



Launch of the Integrated Family Campaign coupled with G2Leader campaign & celebration of International Day of the Girl Child, 11th October 2018, at parliament premises

This awareness campaign was organized in a bid to mobilize all stakeholders and the general community to join their efforts to combat family related problems including child defilement, teenage pregnancy, maternal and child health issues, school dropout, hygiene and sanitation issues in schools, health centre and households, child labour, injustice, malnutrition, GBV and family conflicts among others. This Integrated Family campaign was conducted under the theme: “Building the Family We Want: *Say no to Child Defilement*”, translated in Kinyarwanda as: *Twubake Umuryango twifuzza, turwanya gusambanya abana*.

During the launch of campaign which also coupled with G2Leader campaign and the celebration of International Day of the Girl Child, the Speaker of the Parliament, Lower House, Honourable Kabalisa Donatille called upon parents, teachers, children and the youth to continue speaking up and report child defilement perpetrators, to fight against them and responding to their effects in order to protect children, preventing and responding to teenage pregnancies.



Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Honourable Mukabalisa Donatille addressing to the public during the launch of Integrated Family Campaign

Major achievements of Integrated Family Campaign, 2018:

- 45,984 beneficiaries were sensitized on family planning, screening of malnutrition that targeted children aged from 6 to 59 months.
- A number of 5,500 local leaders from 9 Districts and 10,700 Inshuti Z’Umuryango (IZU) operating in 11 Districts were trained on child protection system in Rwanda
- GBV clinics conducted in Gisagara, Musanze and Nyamasheke Districts where 1,308 babies were registered in civil books including children born of teen mothers; 397 couples legalized their marriages and 389 vulnerable persons were supported with health insurance.
- Amount of Frw 47,540,450 purchased materials to support women and girl’s empowerment in the celebration of international rural women’s day given.
- 316 children were removed from hazardous works and reintegrated in their families; and plan to bring them back to school. Additionally, 74 employers including individual persons and companies were identified and punished for engaging children in child labor and 2, 840,000 Rwandan Francs fines were imposed to them.

- 30,437 people acquired knowledge on provision of ECD integrated services. These include 120 trainers (59 females and 61 males); 2,277 caregivers at district level (one caregiver per ECD center) from 16 districts, 416 Inshuti z' Umuryango (IZU) sector coordinators; 27,624 parents through different channels such as the Community Dialogue organized in 13 districts with the highest number of stunted children.
- As results of hygiene and sanitation assessment, 60 households, 30 schools and 30 Health centers were recommended for improving the level of hygiene and sanitation.
- A number of 2514 of local government officials were trained on the use of Local Governance service charters.
- Country wide, 1,826,702 youth acquired knowledge and practice of positive values and culture through Intore mu birihuko and Urunana rw'urungano in 30 Districts at the village level. These include Imbutu (6-12): 656,920, Indirirarugamba (13-18): 586,918 and Indahangarwa (19-30): 582,303 and 561 Urunana rw'Urungano.
- 51 media representatives were trained on GBV & child abuse prevention & reporting and 3 journalists that have many outstanding publications on gender, GBV and child abuse were awarded in collaboration with RGB;
- Gender Accountability Day was conducted in Ngororero and Rulindo resulted into supporting 100 teen mothers with psycho-trauma counseling services; registering 1308 babies in civil books of whom 22 babies belong to teen mothers; legalizing marriage of 397 couples. Moreover, 389 vulnerable persons provided with community health insurance worth of Frw 1,167,000.
- 32 High Learning Institutions, 60 secondary schools, and 172 youth volunteers benefited from awareness campaign on human trafficking, reproductive health, GBV in the community and in schools.
- A total number of 8,653 people of 6 districts that are Musanze, Kicukiro, Huye, Gisagara, Nyamasheke and Ruhango including 4,401 men and 4,252 women attended the campaign on laws governing person and person
- 26,143 people, of whom 10,756 were females and 15,387 males, participated in outreach campaigns on SRH and HIV/AIDS.
- 320 Young girls from secondary schools, Universities, and Technical Schools attended across the Country were mentored through Girl2Leader.

2.2.1. Strengthening Family Cohesion through financing Family Promotion related Projects

In the framework of strengthening Civil Society Organizations for responsive and accountable governance in Rwanda, Ministry of Gender and Family secured FRW 100,000,000 and partnered with RGB to finance micro-grants for Civil Society Organizations whereby four selected national CSOs implemented their projects as follows:

- **Commission Diocesaine Justice et Paix /Kigali** with the project of “Ensuring family cohesion and fighting against all forms of children’s mistreatment and Sexual Gender Based Violence and supporting families’ initiatives development towards their better living conditions “implemented in Gakenke District.

- **Action pour le Development du Peuple/ADEPE**, with the project of “Enhancing the rights of women in informal cross border trade while protecting the rights of their children for equitable development “, Implemented in Rubavu District.
- **RRP+** with the project of “Improved GBV prevention and response through changed behaviour of local leaders and sero-discordant couples towards violence against their partners “implemented in Nyagatare, Nyamagabe and Gicumbi Districts.
- **Commission Diocesaine Justice et Paix/ BYUMBA**, with the project of “Foyers de paix pour la prevention et la lutte contre les violences domestiques et basées sur le genre dans le Diocèse de Byumba (Phase II) “implemented in Gicumbi District.

2.3. Fighting against Gender Based Violence

2.3.1. Revision of “Noza Imibanire mu Muryango” Module.

“Noza Imibanire mu Muryango wawe” training module developed in 2015, was revised in 2019, to integrate the amended laws and the Government’s new family promotion related programmes. The later were designed to address the issues of family conflicts, different forms of violence, murder, prostitution, and



Trainina on Noza Imibanire mu Murvanoo in the Southern Province

sexual misbehaviour among married couples, divorce, drug abuse, adolescent pregnancies, street children, malnourishment and other similar problems.

Subsequently, training of trainers (ToT) was conducted to develop the capacity of local community structure in prevention and response of GBV, Child abuse and other family emerging issues. The trainings were conducted in phases, from 07th to 31st May 2019 and 876 participants attended the training including Civil Registers Officers (CRO), Executive Secretaries (ES), Social Affairs Officers (ASOC) and Gender and Family Promotion officers (GFPO).

Among the recommendations provided by participants, they emphasized on (1) the provision of psychosocial support to the victims of sexual and domestic violence; (2) provide a platform for victims to meet and advise each other; (3) encourage families to ensure equal distribution of family property in a better way and to respect the rights of every member of the family, (4) seek some advices and respect the laws, (5) promote the respect of values of society that can sustain marriage such as flexibility, unity and cohesion of the family among others.

2.3.2. Couples' Curriculum Training

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion hired Rwanda Men's Resources Center (RWAMREC), to conduct couples' training, which were completed in early September, 2018 using Indashyikirwa approach. The model aims at reducing intimate partner violence by using a gender-synchronized approach, bringing about sustainable social change through the engagement of men and women at the individual, family and community level. After six months of training, 638 couples selected from 08 sectors selected from four (04) districts of eastern province namely Nyagatare, Ngoma, Kirehe and Gatsibo successful completed 22 sessions of couple's curriculum. In November 2018, day-to-day follow up these couples was officially handed over to the district administration.

Additionally, in the same districts, 480 opinion leaders and 176 Women Rwanda Women Network also trained 176 safe facilitators to run the women safe space in the aforementioned sectors.

2.3.3. Awareness on GBV and Child Abuse raised in Secondary Schools

The prevention of GBV and Child Abuse was extended to the student community with focus on the secondary schools. In this regard, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the Ministry of Education and selected districts identified secondary schools where the campaigns happened. Then, the students from selected schools organised internally to present poems, drama, songs as well as debates around the prevention of gender based violence and child abuse.



***GBV Prevention Awareness Campaign in GS APEPEC
Murambi, Rulindo District.***

In the fiscal year 2018/2019, the aforementioned awareness campaign was conducted in 20 secondary schools of Rusizi, Rutsiro, Rulindo, Kirehe, and Nyanza districts from 25th February 2019 to 2nd March 2019. As result, 25,245 students, teachers and parents, of which 12,340 people were male, were sensitized. Additionally, in the same period, the massages on fighting against teenage pregnancy shared with student in 1,575 secondary schools.

2.3.4. Strengthening Isange One Stop Center Coordination

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in partnership with Rwanda National Police Constructed and Rehabilitated Isange One Stop Centers whereby the rehabilitation works of Kacyiru IOSC were at 40% while the rehabilitation of other IOSCs (Ruhango, Butaro, Rwamagana, Kigeme and Kabutare) have been completed. This is contributing to fast and quality service delivery and support to GBV Victims.

2.3.5. Child Abuse Prevention

Rwanda joined the World in the Celebration of International Day of families (IDF). The United Nations highlighted concluded to celebrate this day on 15th May of each year. The 2019 International Day was celebrated on 23rd May 2019 in Gatsibo District and targeted families as change agents to be more engaged in different activities of preventing GBV, reducing malnutrition among children, promoting hygiene and positive parenting in general the whole well-being of the family at large.



Hon. Min. Nyirahabimana Soline, Launching the “Noza Imibanire mu Muryango” with Mr. Mufulukye Fred Governor of Eastern Province and Mayor of Gatsibo

The day was marked by the launch of “**Noza Imibanire mu Muryango module**”, which will help the family in general to improve their parenthood, children and youth will learn the reproductive health sessions, prevention and response to drug abuse, alcohol and other key measures.

Concerning to the achievements of IDF; a number of 101 teen mothers, their babies and their parents were supported through a GBV clinic held at Gatsibo District from 21st to 23rd may 2019; where they were given a holistic support (economic, psycho- socio, medical check-up and screening, legal).

2.4. Early Childhood Development Program Interventions

The Government of Rwanda has established the National Early Childhood Development Program (NECDP) with mandate to coordinate and implement all programs related to ECD services. It envisages to increase children aged 0-6 years' access to integrated ECD services from 13% to 45% by 2024 as well as reducing stunting from 38% to 19% in the same period.

It is in that regards that all children should receive integrated early development, learning and required nutrition, hygiene and health opportunities at early age.

2.4.1. Reduction of malnutrition among children under 6 Years

Regarding to coordination of all Nutrition and Hygiene interventions, the following activities were undertaken: The coordination of food, Nutrition and WASH technical working group meetings and workshops with different partners from which 4 Technical working group on food, nutrition and WASH provided oversight and strategic guidance on food, nutrition and hygiene interventions.

A. Community campaign on good nutrition practices and balanced diet

The Government of Rwanda, through NECDP and partners organized community campaign on good nutrition practices and balanced diet through cooking demonstration during nutrition week that was conducted in all 30 districts from 24th to 28th June 2019.

Radio and TV sports/ talk shows were organized and media was engaged for coverage of the campaign during nutrition week. Social media platforms were also used for posting through twitter, facebook, youtube and instagram. Cooking demonstration/ igikoni cy'umudugudu was conducted at community level for the promotion of Good nutrition practices and balanced diet. In total, this sensitization campaign on nutrition practices reached 14,841 villages of 30 districts.

B. Community awareness on WASH

NECDP Organized community campaigns to promote community awareness on WASH. This has been done through campaigns organized by NECDP, such as Campaign on ECD Integrated Services and Community Sensitization Dialogue in different districts.



Handwashing show

Handwashing show with soap and clean water from standard latrine, to promote the use of safe water to avoid water borne diseases. All WASH practices were linked with the prevention and reduction of stunting among young children. During these events, parents were fully equipped with all skills required in WASH for a better future of the community especially young children.

These campaigns have been organized and conducted in all districts where WASH activities were taken into consideration as a key strategy to prevent and reduce malnutrition especially stunting among children and the community in general.

C. Community awareness raising on exclusive breastfeeding

Regarding to community dialogue on exclusive breastfeeding, optimal complementary feeding with breastfeeding for children of 2 years old and beyond, awareness and dissemination of key messages on breastfeeding reached to many people. A Sixty (60) seconds Radio and TV spot that was aired for 7 days, was of great importance in awareness raising on exclusive breastfeeding during first 6 months after birth and complementary feeding after 6 months.

D. Nutrition commodities

Campaigns on nutrition commodities such as Fortified Blended Food (FBF), Micronutrient powder/ONGERA were conducted at community level. 880,269 children under 2 years received micronutrient powder (ONGERA). NECDP facilitated the procurement of FBF to health centres. 19,308 pregnant and lactating Women were given FBF and 87,889 Children between 6-24 Months in Ubudehe Category 1&2 were given FBF. In addition, Joint monitoring and inspection of FBF, milk support, one cup per child organized in 75 health centres and 136 schools and ECDs. One cup of milk per child program in schools and ECD centres was monitored and Nutrition Support Services, which includes Milk support to malnourished children, was organized at health centres level. In total 588,737 liters of milk have been distributed to 10,829 beneficiaries (children).

Furthermore, NECDP organized Training for community health Workers (CHWs) on growth monitoring focusing on visualization of height for age of children aged 6-23 month. Three

hundred eighteen (318) length Mats were printed, distributed and used during the MIYCN Training of CHWs in 12 Districts.

2.4.2. Improving the quality of integrated ECD services provision

2.4.2.1. Capacity Building of different stakeholders on integrated ECD services

With the purpose of enhancing the capacity of different stakeholders on integrated ECD services, NECDP organized different trainings:

- **Training of Inshuti z'Umuryango**

The objective of the training of Inshuti z'Umuryango was (1) to create a common understanding on integrated ECD services provision, (2) to improve coordination of integrated ECD service delivery at local level, (3) to build the capacity of IZU at sector level who will support cascading the knowledge on ECD throughout other IZUs on Village level.

Inshuti z'Umuryango were trained at provincial level, 416 IZU were targeted for this one day training for one person from each sector in Rwanda.

- **Training of Master Trainers**

The objective of the training of master trainers was to create a pool of National ECD trainers at central level who have the knowledge and capacity to train ECD Trainers at decentralized (district and sector) levels in order to (1) Gain mastery of integrated ECD services provision, and (2) Gain the skills to provide training of trainers in integrated ECD service provision. The training was conducted for 10 days in November 2018 in Musanze. A pool of 30 master trainers was reached by this training. Furthermore, another training of master trainers was conducted on “delivering integrated ECD services” for 24 master trainers from UMUHUZA.

- **Training of social cluster and sector staff**

In August 2018, NECDP conducted training for 745 sectors staff and social cluster members intervening in social welfare of citizens on Provision of integrated ECD services, Integration of Early Childhood Development in Plans and reduction of stunting through provision of ECD services:

120 training of trainers from 30 districts (4 ToTs per district) were trained on ECD standards and interventions. The training taken place from 26th to 30th November 2018. ToT together with Master trainers facilitated different trainings of caregivers and parent leaders.

- **Training of caregivers and parent leaders**

Throughout this fiscal year 2018/2019, in total 4,766 ECD caregivers and 15,452 parents' leaders were trained on quality and integrated ECD services across the country.

Training of District Disability Mainstreaming Officers: In partnership with Humanity and Inclusion (HI), NECDP facilitated a 5 day of training involving 30 DDMO (one per district) on “Inclusion of Children with Disabilities and Special Needs in ECD services”.

Training of religious leaders: 174 religious leaders from 5 districts (Gicumbi, Musanze, Burera, Gakenke, Rulindo) were trained on “provision of integrated ECD services”. Those religions were committed to invest in ECD by using their churches and building that they have.

- **District staff / ECD focal persons training on ECD standards**

The training targeted social cluster members in districts and sectors. The target was 420 people. However, in total, 879 people were reached.

Table: Summary of Training conducted on integrated ECD services

Category	Targets	Achievements		Total	Balance	%
		Female	Male			
Parents	15,000	11,026	4,426	15,452	452	103.0
ECD Caregivers	4,416	3,687	1,079	4,766	350	107.9
IZU	416	161	255	416	-	100.0
Social cluster members	420	745	134	879	459	209.3
Master trainers+TOT	99	81	93	174	75	175.8
Religious leaders	-	174	0	174	-	-
Total people trained on ECD	20,351	15,874	5,987	21,861	1,510	107.4

2.4.2.2. Monitoring of New ECD settings at decentralized level

Regarding New ECD settings at decentralized level, during this fiscal year, National ECD Program monitored the construction of 39 ECD centers in 13 Districts most affected by stunting. Those districts are Nyamagabe, Karongi, Ngororero, Rutsiro, Huye, Ruhango, Rusizi, Rubavu, Nyabihu, Gakenke, Kayonza, Nyaruguru and Bugesera. Each district constructed three centers, each center comprises two classrooms, one kitchen, 1 toilet and a fence.

NECDP monitored the construction of these ECD centers and provided guidance of designs and bill of quantities to use. Also monitoring visits took place from quarter two to quarter four. By the end of quarter Four, construction works was at 92%. Most construction work was completed but some centers needed finishing work or correction of minor errors in construction.

2.5. Child Rights Protection and Promotion

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion through National Commission for Children (NCC) is continuously working together to ensure child rights are preserved and creating children friendly environment.

To achieve this, NCC conducts various activities based on the seven pillars outlined in the Integrated Child Rights Policy (ICRP) namely: Identity and Nationality; Family and Alternative Care; Survival, Health and Standards of Living; Education; Protection and Justice and Child Participation.

2.5.1. Promotion of children rights to identity and nationality

In an effort to increase the number of children registered at their birth as per 2014-2015 RDHS, only 56% Rwandan children are registered on the due time, during this fiscal year NCC has increased public awareness on benefits of birth registration through: Radio spots; Umuganda and other fora.

The District officers in charge of civil registration and notary of Sectors from Northern Province, Southern Province and the City of Kigali were trained on how to legalize placements of children and young adults who were living in orphanages before NCC place them into family or alternative care. The legalization must be done through guardianship and adoption as prescribed by the law governing persons and family.

2.5.2. Improving quality family-based child care and protection system

A number of 189 children from various orphanages as well as detention centres were reintegrated into families and 53 children have been prevented from institutionalization and family separation.

In collaboration with SOS Children Villages Rwanda, NCC conducted an assessment of 167 children who were living in SOS Children Villages Rwanda before the Tubarerere Mu Muryango programme place them into families then the assessment showed that all children who have been visited have no problems after being integrated into families.

2.5.3. Improving universal access to quality health services for children.

NCC has supported 10 children and young adults with severe cases to access health care both in Rwanda and abroad. A total of eleven million two hundred and twenty-three million five hundred and five Rwanda francs (11,223,505 Frw) have been provided for their cases.

2.5.4. Access to quality education for all children

In order to ensure effective education of needy children especially orphans and other

In the framework of Day of African Child celebration, NCC conducted a gender-based violence clinic whereby 150 teen mothers and their 126 parents from Rutunga, Nduba, Gikomero, Jali and Bumbogo Sectors were provided with psycho-social services, HIV testing as well as education on IOSC services provided.



Pycho-social services counselling to teen mothers

vulnerable children (MVC), NCC through the Global fund project supported 318 (188 girls and 130 boys) and 1076 MVC (496 girls and 580 boys) in 12 years' basic education (YBE) and technical vocational educational training (TVET) respectively through provision of school fees, school feeding fees for 12 years' basic education, school materials and health insurance.

2.5.5. Elimination of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children

To strengthen child protection system at local level NCC trained Inshuti Z'Umuryango (IZU) operating in all Rwandan Villages on Rwanda's Legal and Policy Framework for child protection, introduction to basic psychosocial support, understanding conflict, communication, community asset inventory, and referral pathways.

In addition to IZU training, NCC also trained 10,580 local leaders from remaining 19 Districts on various areas such as understanding Rwandan child protection system, identification of foster parents and volunteer management. Besides, mobilization campaigns about benefits of family planning, birth registration and the dangers of child labour and teenage pregnancy have also been conducted through different channels.

NCC conducted training of 36 children’s legal service providers (12 prosecutors, 12 judicial police and 12 lawyers assisting minors) that aimed at highlighting the importance of restorative justice for children, explaining why is it important to protect integrity of the child before and after trial and treating every child with dignity and compassion, to name but a few.

NCC in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and other partners has also assisted 42 children through free representation in courts of law.

2.5.6. Child participation in local and national decision making process

In a bid to promote respect for children’s voices at different levels, NCC has organized and conducted elections of children’s forum committees. During these elections that were organized in December 2018, 104,622 children representing children’s forum at the Village, Cell, Sector and District levels were elected. At each level, the general assembly that is made of children of 6 to 18 years old elected 6 representatives including the president, vice president, secretary, 2 advisors and a representative of children with disabilities.



Elected children in training

In April 2019, NCC trained all elected children to equip them with skills and knowledge that will enable them to accomplish the responsibilities they were elected for.

Children forums are the main platforms that enable children to express their views and opinions which are then incorporated into government plans of action and also considered during the development of various policies and programs.

2.6. Celebration of Key Annual Events

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with her partners organizes and celebrates children annual events to raise public awareness, call for action and advocate for strengthening the wellbeing of different categories of children. The children’s events

celebrated during 2018/ 2019 fiscal year in addition to the family campaign as mentioned above, include Christmas day and the day of African Child.

2.6.1. Christmas Party for children

The celebration of Christmas for children was held on 27th December 2018, with minors detained in Nyagatare Juvenile prison. During this celebration, NCC provided food stuffs and drinks, clothes, shoes and other items to children who are serving their sentences in Nyagatare juvenile prison.

The event was organized to wish them Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and show the Rwandan Government's commitment to take care of all children without any discrimination. It was also an opportunity to remind all Government, non-Government institutions as well as all Rwandans in general to respect children's rights.

2.6.2. Day of African Child

The Day of the African Child is celebrated every year on the 16th June. For the 2018/ 2019 financial year, it was celebrated in Nduba Sector, Gasabo District in City of Kigali. The celebration was under the theme: "We are children with a bright vision, we say no to teenage pregnancy".

The event attracted hundreds of people including government officials, security organs officials, civil society and partner's representatives as well as parents and children. In addition to a live drama performance aimed at awareness raising on sexual violence affecting children and teen pregnancies made by "Mashirika", the event was also characterized by speeches including the one delivered by the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Amb. Soline Nyirahabimana who was the Guest of Honor. She requested all parents to do all they can to protect their children from teenage pregnancy.



While speaking on behalf of her colleagues, Gisele Umukundwa commended the Rwandan government for its commitment to protect and promote children's rights and request for more partnership to eradicate teenage pregnancy.

III. WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

3.1. Introduction

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion implemented a number of interventions in relation to women empowerment. These include implementation of Women and Youth Access to Finance strategy, Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI) project under National Employment Program (NEP), Gender climate change and agriculture support program (GCCASP), Celebration of important events to mobilize women for decent and productive jobs for economic development.

All the inventions of the fiscal year 2018/2019 were grouped in two main components: (1) Provision of skills, grants, equipment and toolkit loan facilities to disadvantaged women for self-employment; and (2) Support to women smallholder farmers to cope with climate change.

3.2. Provision of Entrepreneurship Skills & Support for Women Access to Finance

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in partnership with different partners have been implementing Women and Youth Access to Finance Strategy (W&YA2F); adopted in 2012 and revised in 2016. The implementation of this strategy started in 2014, under National Employment Program (NEP) whereby Women and Youth are facilitated to access finance in the framework of job creation and employability.



Awarded TVET graduate posing for a group photo

In that framework, MIGEPROF transferred to BDF funds amounting Frw 334, 927,722, for the fiscal year 2018/2019, to support women bankable projects. With consideration of the existing revolving funds, the total amount is Frw 1,203,508,726. According to the NEP implementation, progress reports of NEP for a period 12 months (July 2018 to June 2019) highlights that BDF supported 290 women project worthy Frw 918,351,578. In addition, through AGI Project, 16 out of 100 adolescent girls were support with tools kits loan facilities. From 2012 to 2019, a total number of more than 3,399 Adolescent Girls and Young Women benefited this scheme.

As challenges, the low performance against AGI target was due to; firstly, Inability to fulfil financing requirements of targeted women. The existing financial products cannot be adapted to service the poorest potential women borrowers, meaning that they cannot secure residual 25% Guarantee cover and operational bank accounts. Secondly, the women’s perception of BDF facilities as hand-outs by GoR reduces their willingness to service their loan obligations. It raises moral hazard at the borrower and financial institution level resulting in loan defaults that affect BDF’s reputation & financial position.

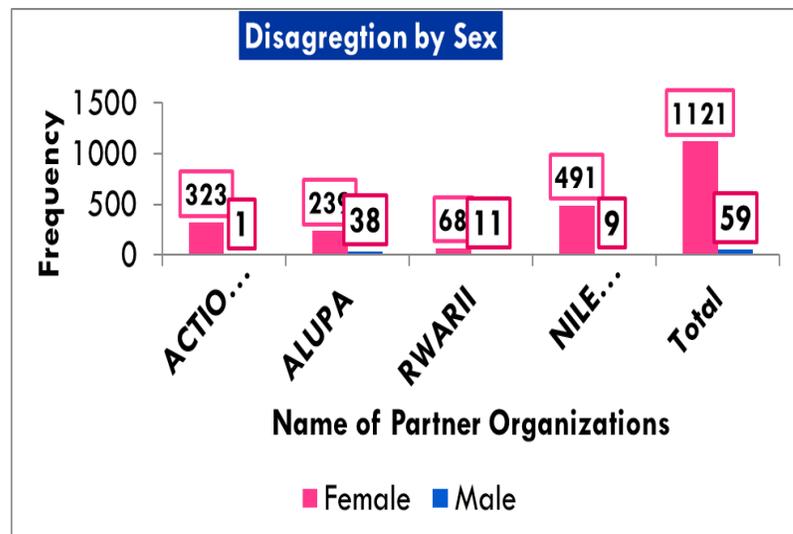
3.3. Women Mobilization on BDF Products

During the period of three (3) months, October-December 2018, mobilization of women performed around International Rural Women Day (IRWD 2018). The later was celebrated in all Districts and at National level, in Gisagara District, where TVET Graduates were given toolkits such as sewing machines, modern cooking stoves and others were given bicycles and cows as part of ‘Kuremera’ initiative.

Additionally, between February - March 2019, the mobilization continued in 6 poorest Districts of Nyamasheke, Gisagara, Karongi, Rulindo, Nyaruguru and Gicumbi. Ministry of Gender and Family promotion collaborated with partners including Rwanda cooperative Agency (RCA) Nation Women council (NWC), NEP/RDB, MINALOC; SACCO jointly conducted a field visit in Saccos to assess how women benefit women tailored BDF Products. The assessment of 32 SACCOs revealed that all signed MoU with BDF to serve the women bankable projects, performed well. Moreover, about 3,755 people (2,006 women and 1749 men) were mobilized on BDF products.

3.4. Supporting Women Smallholder Farmers to cope with Climate Change

The Gender Climate Change and Agricultural support programme (GCCASP) aims at empowering rural women and in particular, smallholder women farmers to enhance their resilience so that they can better cope with the potential adverse impacts of climate change. With support of NEPAD, its piloting phase implemented in two selected Districts of Ngoma in Eastern Province and Nyaruguru in Southern Province for a period of six months, December 2018-May 2019, under the



Coordination of MIGEPROF. Four (4) implementing partner's organizations were involved namely Nile Basin Club, ActionAid, RWARRI and ALUPA.

This programme supported 1,180 smallholder farmers, of which 59 are men, to increase their capacity to cope with climate change effects in agriculture. The areas of intervention included:

1. **Installing a greenhouse for tomatoes and vegetables production in Ngera Sector, Nyaruguru District**, for not only household consumption but also with a vision of practicing market-oriented agriculture.

It is a greenhouse of 9 meters of width and 30 meters of length has been installed in a land located in Murama Cell / Ngera Sector



2. **Post-harvest handling of dry harvest and fresh produce using hermetic storages and the cooling room** in Ruheru sector, Nyaruguru District;



3. **Distributing Solar Home Systems “SHS” and Improved Cooking Stoves “ICS” to Group leaders (Farmers’ Trainers).**

Each of the 75 Farmer Trainers “FTs” has received 1 Solar Home Systems “SHS” and 1 Improved Cooking Stoves “ICS” (75 Solar Home Systems and 75 Improved Cooking Stoves distributed).



4. **Installation of Irrigation infrastructure on the Gafunzo and Nkana sites.**

The project is focused on building the capacity of beneficiaries in using water efficient irrigation technologies to water crops during drought period, this method of production enables the beneficiaries to produce crops all the year round with specific emphasis on high value crops rotated seasonally.



The Gender Climate Change and Agricultural support programme (GCCASP) had a record of other achievements related to the aforementioned interventions. These include:

- ActionAid provided post-harvest handling facilities: Cooling room with a capacity of keeping 3 tons of fresh produce and Hermetic storage facilities with a capacity of storing 40-50 tons of dry harvest

- The Nile Basin Club provided 25 composts piles (one per group) to produce 5 tons of organic manure has been completed in each group (183 tons harvested) and installed 412 new kitchen gardens in beneficiary individual households Distribution of solar panels and cooking stoves
- ALUPA installed the Green house for 277 beneficiaries (512 kilograms of tomatoes harvested and sold at 325,000 FRW)
- RWARRI distributed 10 pigs and 10 Goats (Mainly for the production of manure)

As way forward, the program intends to collect and report on project success stories, Prepare the Implementation of full-fledged programme (Phase 2), Conduct a Robust GCCASP baseline survey, set project indicators (both output and outcome) and set targets with timelines as well as Design a functional GCCASP Logical framework (Clarify project Goals/Objectives, Activities, project outputs, project outcomes and Impact).

3.5. Women Empowerment through High Level Conferences

3.5.1. African Women in Leadership Conference

The African Women in Leadership Conference (AWLC) is an annual meeting organized by African Women in Leadership Organization (AWLO) aiming at engaging key decision makers to increase women's leadership participation by generating solutions, implement best practices, and build partnerships for women's development.

The tenth conference happened in Rwanda, on dates of 04th to 05th April 2019, at Kigali Marriot Hotel, through collaboration African Women in Leadership organization (AWLO), Ministry of Gender and Family promotion (MIGEPF) and Rwanda Convention Bureau (RCB) hosted the African Women in Leadership Conference (AWLC). Around 356 participants attended the conference including 156 AWLO Members, 120 Rwandan delegates and 80 Other International delegates.

In his remarks, Dr Elisha, the Founder of AWLO said that Rwanda was chosen as the host country of AWLC as an exemplary case study for other African countries to copy the blueprint Rwanda is using to empower and bring women into leadership. "AWLO is proud of the strides that His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda has taken to create institutions that enhance the leadership and development of women. Said Dr Elisha.

In her address, Hon. Minister Amb. Nyirahabimana Soline, the Guest of Honour

Key Notes of the conference.

1. AWLO commends and applauds the efforts of the President, His Excellency, Paul Kagame and the people of the Republic of Rwanda for developing institutions and frameworks to check, evaluate and monitor how gender issues are dealt with and how different institutions and organizations adhere to or implement gender policies
2. AWLO commends and applauds the Republic of Rwanda's affirmative action in ensuring 61.3% participation of women in Parliament, 50.1% in the Cabinet and 49.7% in the Judiciary
3. Empowering women must be intentional, planned and implemented by all stakeholders including governments, non-government actors, civil organizations and the private sector. Hatt empowerment must be taken out of politics and women must take ownership of their own development.
4. Issue of empowering women must be intentional, planned and implemented by all stakeholders including governments, non-government actors, civil organizations and the private sector
5. There is need for young women to work harder to make their dreams and aspirations a reality. They can achieve this by coming together as a group of two or three to affect change.
6. Women and men must see themselves as partners and harness their potentials and abilities to transform, develop and shape our society.
7. Women and men must see themselves as partners and harness their potentials and abilities to transform, develop and shape our society.
8. There is need for women in leadership positions to move from mentoring to sponsoring the next generation of women leaders bearing in mind that empowerment without capacity building is a sham.
9. AWLO will organize a conference for her HeforShe Ambassadors so more men will be brought into the discussion of women empowerment.
10. Finally, that the power of women is in their stories as it is from them that they grow from resilience to resistance and to revolution.

asserted that gender equality is a prerequisite at every level to both men and women. She shared her belief that there is no doubt that if African women are given opportunity and space it can greatly impact development.

3.5.2. Participation in 63th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63)

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW) is the premier intergovernmental global forum for gender equality and women's empowerment related policy dialogue and review as well as norms and standards setting for Action. Brings together Governments, UN entities, NGOs, Academia, FBOs and other international and regional organizations to promote women's rights and advance gender equality

The CSW63 Meeting took place at UN Headquarters in New York from 11th to 22nd, March 2019; under the theme "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It was vital for the Rwanda delegation to attend the CSW63 Meeting and use the platform and opportunity to share Rwanda's achievements in relation to Gender Equality and Women and learn from the UN member states. There was Effective Participation of Most of the Rwanda Delegation.

3.5.3. Women Mobilization for Economic Transformation

Through different channels, the National Women's Council and its partners mobilized 18,800 people (17,020 women and 1,776 men) to participate and benefit from National Employment Program (NEP Kora wigire), to attend TVET and Medium Term Vocational trainings and to benefit BDF products that aimed at creation of decent jobs. 6731 women and girls were mobilized the benefits of being member of cooperatives and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). Additionally, 22 cooperatives were provided with loans and startup toolkits whereas 335 girls graduated from TVET and 848 VSLAs established.

3.5.4. Mobilization for Social Transformation

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in close collaboration with NWC and other different partners mobilized 2,310 people on hygiene and sanitation, 76,080 people (71,555 Women and 4,525 men) were mobilized on family planning and reproductive health; 10,700 people (9,308 women and 1,392 men) on fighting against GBV: 18,035 people (10,704 women and 7,331 men) were mobilized on fighting malnutrition and stunting among children and 51,045 people (29,864 women and 21,181 men) were mobilized on fighting teenage pregnancy. Additionally, 13,170 kitchen garden were set up, 1,004 houses countrywide were deeply cleaned (gukurungira).

3.5.5. Mobilization for transformational leadership

The National Women’s Council worked in partnership with different stakeholders in mobilizing women to participate in parliamentary elections of September 2018; 500,000 women were mobilized in election and 177 Women Candidates are supported with transport facilitation that helped them to fully participate in parliamentary elections. This support resulted to 61.3% of women in Parliament.

IV. STRENGTHENING COORDINATION MECHANISM

4.1. National Gender and Family Cluster

During the Fiscal Year 2018/2019, the Steering Committee meeting took place on 20th December 2018 to strengthen the National Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC) as an important coordination mechanism to promote gender equality, family promotion, and child rights protection, as well as to utilize partner efforts to improve interventions, synergize and avoid duplication. During this meeting, key discussion points included the Coordination Mechanism in gender equality and family promotion to “Build the Family we want”; the National Gender Machinery Priorities for 2019-2020; the Preparations for the International Women’s Day 2019 and the briefing on the preparations for the Beijing +25 report and CSW 2019.

4.2. Quarterly Provincial Coordination Meetings

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with provinces and other different stakeholders organized provincial coordination meetings with the main objective of assessing the status of the Implementation of various programs related to gender, family and human capital development. During the year 2018/2019, the provincial coordination meetings focused on ECD program, nutritional rehabilitation, teenage pregnancy, school dropout, Child abuse and children on street, the status of Umugoroba w’Ababyeyi, challenges faced during the implementation of the previous resolutions and way forward for year 2019/2020.

The meetings also discussed on the human security issues that Rwandan family is still facing as various reports show that they are increasing year after year.

CONCLUSION

As detailed in this report, the Government of Rwanda has invested and is still investing a lot in promotion of family welfare and peaceful co-existence of its members, protection of the rights of children and ensuring that they are free from exposure to any risk and abuse.

Despite that gender and family are cross cutting in their nature, The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion recognizes the need to strengthen the family ties as a foundation for continued national building. To meet this, a close collaboration between the Ministry and its stakeholders will be sustained in developing new approaches and innovations towards the promotion of Gender equality, family promotion in Rwanda.

It is therefore pertinent to note that we are all members of a family and it all starts with family, therefore worth to protect from now and for generations to come.