

THE MINUTES OF FAMILY PROMOTION & GBV PREVENTION SUB-CLUSTER MEETING

Venue:	Lemigo Hotel, Kigali.
Date:	August 23 rd , 2018
Chaired by:	Goretti Kayitesi as Acting director of the Family Promotion Department in MIGEPROF
Co-Chaired by:	David Museruka, Executive Secretary of RWAMREC

The meeting Agenda

- Opening and welcoming remarks
- Overview and update on previous meeting resolutions
- Presentation of MIGEPROF Annual Plan on Family Promotion and CBV Prevention
- Presentation on partner priorities
- Feedback from participants
- Closing remarks and way forward

The meeting background

The Family Promotion and GBV Prevention Sub-cluster meeting was held at Lemigo Hotel on August 23rd, 2018. This meeting brought together government institutions, development partners, the civil society organizations; faith based organizations, the private sector, and media representatives that intervene in Gender Equality and Women Empowerment domain in Rwanda. The FPGBV sub-cluster is chaired by MIGEPROF and Co-chaired by RWAMREC.

The main objective of the meeting was to strengthen the National Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC) and gather stakeholders' interventions, as it is an important coordination mechanism among FPGBV stakeholders, to share information on key policy and planning processes.

Opening of meeting

In her welcome remarks the meeting chair, Goretti Kayitesi, acting director of family promotion and Child protection Unity in MIGEPROF, started by introducing herself and thanks all participants for joining the meeting. She said that the government of Rwanda has shown a strong political will on family promotion and to prevent and fight gender based violence. In this regards, the Government of Rwanda, in consultation with its development partners, civil society organizations, private sector and non-governmental organization has implemented the necessary political, legal and institutional frameworks to do so.

She also noted that the purpose of the meeting was continue the work of establishing and implementing the strategies which the government of Rwanda focusing on Family Promotion and GBV Prevention Sub-cluster during this fiscal year of 2018-2019. Further, she noted that they were there with a strong hope that this is the time to make our cooperation greater in the implementation of these policies and strategies within family promotion and GBV prevention, but also to increase our cooperation with the entire National Gender and Family Cluster. She closed her welcome remarks mentioning that the meeting marked an important step to joining efforts for strengthening coordination and sharing the information.

The floor was then given to the co-chair to give a short overview of the previous meeting, where the Executive Secretary of RWAMREC, David Museruka, started his remarks by greeting the representatives of different civil society organizations, and noted that it was a pleasure to co-chair this Family Promotion and GBV prevention sub-cluster, of which we are all members. He continued by giving the overview on the last meeting of the Family Promotion and GBV prevention sub-cluster, in which the participants were divided into four (4) groups to discuss future priorities, as a first step in the process of developing a joint strategic plan. One of the questions discussed in the groups was which issue areas the National Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC) should focus on, as well as what concrete results and actions the participants hoped to see come from then NGFC work, and mechanisms and structures that would help the NGFC to function as intended. Museruka also said that participants in the last meeting also discussed on the importance of mainstreaming how we look disseminate our laws and strategies, as well as and how to improve coordination and reporting mechanisms in this sub-cluster.

After reviewing last year meeting resolutions he thanked all partners for their collaboration to achieve goals set by the government of Rwanda focusing in terms of family promotion and GBV prevention last year.

MIGEPROF Annual Plan on Family Promotion and GBV Prevention

Alfred Karekezi from MIGEPROF presented MIGEPROF Family Promotion and GBV Prevention priorities in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. He argued that the Ministry will have to focus on strengthening family cohesion interventions. As such he informed the participants the Ministry were going to organize and coordinate integrated national family campaign, where it would work together with social cluster ministries and partners to fight family issues which are conflicts, gender, GBV, teenage pregnancies, malnutrition, hygiene and school dropout. He explained that this years campaign would be built around 16 days of activism, the day of the African child and the rural women's day.

He further mentioned that the Ministry is going to develop a training manual on family related laws, positive parenting, gender equality to train and educate professionals, such as civil registers, gender and family promotion officers, NGO -, FBO -, CSO employees.

He then noted one of the key priorities of this budget year is to update the national family policy, which was adopted in 2005. The policy was reviewed 2013, but no new policy was ever validated. Therefore, it is of utter importance to update the policy, to be in conformity with family law and other laws that have been adopted by the Government of Rwanda. He noted that the ministry also needed to review and compare that other documents, such as the national GBV policy, all laws related to child protection revised, Umugoroba w'Ababyeyi (UwA) guidelines, to make sure they exist in conformity.

Regarding on gender based violence and child abuse prevention and response Karekezi noted that, the Ministry will conduct training on forensic evidence collection and DNA testing in collaboration with Rwanda National Police (RNP), Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) and MINIJUST. He then elaborated on the fact that the training would connect to community structures on GBV and Child Abuse across the country. The Ministry will also rehabilitate the Kacyiru Isange One Stop Center in order to improve service delivery to GBV victims.

Further he informed the meeting that the Ministry plans to connect community GBV clinics in four (4) districts to work with journalist for publication awareness message on GBV and child abuse in collaboration with GMO and our other

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partners. Additionally, MIGEPROF will organize school debates and competitions on GBV and child abuse to raise awareness.

He lastly noted that the Ministry is developing a Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) study on GBV in Rwanda as well as review the use of the MIS data collection system by the Isange One Stop Center network. He ended his presentation by mentioning that to reach all Ministry goals they would need support from their partners.

The Presentation on partner priorities

Under moderation of Nadja Piironen, Bilateral Associate Expert at MIGEPROF, the next presentation on partner priorities. The presentation was based on annual plans sent in by partner organizations. Piironen noted that while not all partners sent in their plans, she hoped the presentation could give the participants an idea of priorities among partner priorities, as well as identify possible duplications and possibilities for cooperation. She then went through all reported partner activities, including activities in the following areas:

- **GBV Efforts**
 - GBV Response
 - Campaigns and Media Campaigns
 - Beneficiary Trainings and professional training
 - Media and FBO trainings
 - Materials and tools
 - Studies and evaluations
- **Family Promotion Efforts**
 - Teenage pregnancy interventions
 - Family / Society Dialogs
 - Training, tools, and social interventions
- **Partnership, Cooperation & Information Sharing**
 - Workshops for Professionals
 - Meetings

After the presentation, Nadja reminded the meeting participants that the process to elaborate a strategic plan had started. The floor was then opened for questions, comments and suggestions.

Many of the attending partners were facing the issues of family conflict and teenage pregnancy and asked how the NGFC could actually improve coordination and take joint planning a step further. While some participants wanted to

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develop joint tools and guidelines for issues were there today is duplication, or where different organizations are working on the same issues in different areas, others argued that it's not that easy to simply develop a tool that will work for everyone. They noted that it was important to take the local context and background in consideration, and that if there are organizations that have developed methods they find successful they should not be forced to change methods just because another method had been found successful in another context.

Other people noted that they would appreciate official guidelines or manuals, especially as some were having troubles educating people where religious beliefs were in conflict with the message being advocated and campaigned for.

Some partners thanked MIGEPROF for organizing the presentation, as they found having access to other partners priorities very useful, especially for future planning efforts. Some participants were disappointed not all partners had sent in their plans, and encouraged them to do so to improve cooperation and joint planning. Other said that while they like the idea, they might prefer having access to a data base instead. And also the partners need the action plan (format and deadline) to be followed in order to work on what the government makes as priorities. Piironen replied that it wasn't possible to develop a comprehensive database on the basis of the current plans, however she hoped the development of the NGFC strategic plan would allow for a more comprehensive work in that regard. Meanwhile she encourages the remaining partners to send in their annual plans, and that she could compile a document to share with those who attended the meeting. She also hoped the document could help identify areas where the cluster might organize joint planning workshops among partners whose programs have similar objectives.

Other partners also requested MIGEPROF to continue and increase their cooperation with educational institution to insert in the program the Comprehensive Sexuality Education course in order to educate young people about their reproductive health to minimize the risks of teenage pregnancy and GBV.

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Closing remarks and way forward

The Meeting Chair, Goretti Kayitesi, started her closing remarks by appreciating the kind attention for all participants and active participation in the discussions. She also said that comments, suggestions and recommendations which make our Sub-Cluster to be effective should be considered and encouraging everyone to make it more productive to achieve its objectives. She also reminds that awareness education is the key of achieving the goals of our sub-cluster. Consequently, educating alone would not get far without strong collaboration, which everyone must ensure together through their active participation. She guaranteed that MIGEPROF will continue its active involvement and encouraged all participants to align with its mandate. She closed the meeting by mentioning how impressed he was of the supportive comments and engagement during that meeting, and invited all participants in the events related to Sub-Cluster planned by MIGEPROF and their involvement should be important to this cluster to be successful.

Meeting resolutions:

1. Have remaining partners send in their action plans by August 28th, 2018
2. Compile a document on partner priorities to share among meeting participants.
3. Identify possible areas to organize joint planning workshops in preparation of the following budget year.

Minutes taken by:

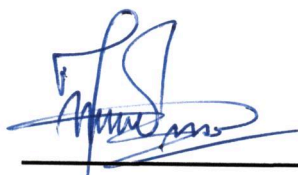


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