

THE MINUTES OF GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT SUB-CLUSTER MEETING

Venue: Lemigo Hotel, Kigali.
Date: September 13th, 2018
Chaired by: Mrs Jackline KAMANZI; Executive Secretary, NWC
Co-Chaired by: Mrs Bena MUSEMBI; Country Director, CARE International

The meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks;
- Round of Introductions by participants
- Presentation of GEWE Priorities -2018/19
- Presentation of Partners Priorities 2018/19
- Presentation on Family Campaign
- Feedback on presentations

The meeting background

The Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Sub-Cluster (GEWE) Meeting was held at Lemigo Hotel on September 13th, 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 GEWE sub-cluster is chaired by National Women's Council and Co-chaired by Care International.

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 Gender and Women stakeholders, to share information on key policy and planning processes.

Opening of meeting

In her opening remarks, Jackline KAMANZI, Executive Secretary of the National Women's Council, pointed out that the meeting is an opportunity to brainstorm on how to improve working modalities of the sub-cluster while using it as a vehicle to usher innovation and creativity to help women unleash their potential in development with a focus on economic empowerment. She also stressed that one of the mandates of the sub-cluster was to facilitate

women to become relevant especially in economic development. “We shall be looking at our priorities and how best to fit-in, knowledge and information to reach out to the communities we serve”: said Jackline KAMANZI.

Accompanying Women parliamentarians/ (support); She mentioned that it is the role of the sub-cluster to influence policy, demand accountability and emphasize women participation, while exploring options on how to promote transformation approaches among women, different value chain segments/sectors, adding value to the services that we give to contribute to the National Development Strategy.

She talked about the upcoming family campaign- opportunity to work together to bring life to the wider community.

The presentation on the NGFC guidelines

Jean Bosco Murangira, Director of Women’s Economic Empowerment, started the meeting programs by giving a presentation on the MIGEPROF priorities for the 2018-2019 budget year. He began with a summary on key achievements from last year’s priorities which included:

- Building skills of Directors and Planners from Public Sector Institutions on Gender Equality and Empowerment.
- Media and PSF members were also trained to mainstream gender into their work.
- Gender Accountability days were organized in some districts, in future all districts will be covered.

He then presented the following the GEWE priorities for 2018-2019:

1. Strengthen and promote gender equality and ensure equal opportunities for all Rwandans:

- Gender mainstreaming in Secondary Schools, gender equality promotion and Sexual reproductive health, including fighting teenage pregnancy in schools

2. Place the family welfare at the center of national development

- Conduct integrated family campaign in 30 districts
- Develop Training Manual on family related law and gender equality for 446 couples
- Train sectors ES and Gender and Family Promotion officers on developed manual

3. Mobilize women to participate in various development programs & build their capacities for their effective empowerment

- Provide grants to disadvantaged 533 women through BDF
- Provide toolkits to 112 girls graduates from AGI project
- Mobilize and support women to participate in 2018 parliamentary elections

Meeting participants were called to collaborate with the MIGEPROF on the various priorities highlighted from the presentation priorities under the NST1; Pillars of economic transformation and transformational governance.

Partnership was especially requested for the following commitments:

1. Finalization of NGFC Strategic Plan.
2. Implementation of HeForShe Commitments.
3. Scale up of Capacity Building- GEPM, GRB, etc. (District Counsellors, MPs, NWC Committees).
4. Assessment of Women (Mutimawurugo) Performance contracts on an annual basis.
5. Initiatives to support teen mothers and other disadvantaged groups.
6. Interventions to support women in different value chain segments.
7. Women's financial inclusion and business development

The presentation on Partner Priorities

Alice Umuhire from the National Womens Council then held a presentation on GEWE Partners Priorities 2018-2019 based on a previous request to all partner to send in their annual action plans. She started by pointing out that only ten organizations had submitted their action plans and requested that the remaining action plans to be sent in.

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After the presentation¹ participants gave the following feedback.

- It was recommended to take these kind of meetings to the grassroots e.g. village level, involve FBOs/religious leaders and to bring up those issues through participatory approaches, engage effectively and linking JADFs at District level.
- NCDP commented on follow up on activities and the importance of having M&E tools to follow up on actions
- Kvinna till Kvinna mentioned that they are working with different partners on SRH and teenage pregnancies, updating a database of partners, and harmonize the messaging around this.
- Another participant asked for a review of the action plans for duplicated commitments.
- A MINADEP representative suggested having more dialogues in schools, talking to teachers and children as young seven years of age to increase awareness around speaking out and reporting violence.
- A representative from MINECOFIN urged all to make use of the Gender Budget Statements to address the GEWE issues.
- A representative from RGB said that mainstreaming gender requires professional capacity building, that we should look for experts on gender analysis to build these kinds of capacities, and that to re-activate this cluster one should redefine its role and understand what Gender and Women Empowerment is, in other words to clearly define roles and responsibilities.

The feedback was taken into account and MIGEPROF committed to work with partners to address issues raised. The co-chair, CARE Country Director Bena Musambi, emphasized that Gender Equality means emphasizing equal opportunities everywhere starting from home, equal pay for jobs and qualifications, teaching our children to give equal respect to both men and women, girls and boys, to build a generation deliberately making these changes. She finally added that this was both an individual and collective responsibility.

The presentation on the Family Campaign

The last presentation was held by Laetitia Dusabimana from Migeprof. She gave a short update on the preparation work for the family campaign with the

¹ Content will be shared in a separate document summarizing the action plans.

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objective to fight child defilement and premature pregnancies. She then summarized key expectations for the campaign listed below:

- Mobilization will be done in 17 of the most affected Districts
- The official launch will be on 11th of October 2018; family mobilization (International day of the girl child)
- Family campaign will be over a period of 2 months
- Expectations include to share activities implemented in these 17 districts, support in the campaigns to reach beneficiaries.


She then informed all that the presentation on family campaign would be shared, so that partners could share their contributions to the campaign.

The closing of the meeting

The co-chair, CARE Country Director Bena Musambi, gave a closing remark in which she re-emphasized the backing of women parliamentarians, to ensure that they are knowledgeable and can articulate gender issues as well as articulate gender budgeting. She said: “it’s not enough to have numbers we want to go beyond the numbers. Instead, to deal with the root cause of teenage pregnancies, we need to empower our young women to make informed decisions, ensure that boys and men understand gender equality”.

She then gave an example of how the empowerment of smallholder female farmers can promote the agriculture economy as a whole. She then stressed the importance of coordination and reminded everyone to send in their action plans, and further work together to align planning with joint priorities, in both budgeting, value chain segments, and supporting the family campaign. She finally concluded by saying that it is our role as a sub-cluster to maintain Rwanda as a leader in the world in Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Minutes taken by:


Alice UMUHIRE
Acting Director of
Gender Promotion
NWC

Minutes approved

by:


Bena MUSEMBI
Country Director
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Jackline KAMANZI
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