

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF GENDER AND FAMILY PROMOTION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018

Contents

ACRONYMS	1
ACRONYMS	4
Executive Summary	6
I. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN GENDER EQUALITY PROMOTION.....	7
1.1. Introduction.....	7
1.2. Gender Equality Promoted through Awareness raising	7
a) Dialogue with media houses owners and chief Editors.....	7
b) Gender Responsive Media Training for Gender Equality and Gender Based Violence.....	8
c) Training on transformative leadership for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment	8
d) Gender Responsive Economic Policy Management Training	9
1.3. Documentation of Gender equality and women empowerment achievements	9
1.4. Gender mainstreaming across Sectors, Ministries and Districts	9
1.5. Domestication and Implementation of gender equality related SDGs in Rwanda	9
1.6. Coordination of the Implementation of HeForShe Commitments.....	9
a) Bridge the gender digital divide in ICT and attain parity in access and usage	10
b) Enhance girls’ enrollment in TVET to boost their employability	10
c) Eradicate GBV in all its forms	11
II. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	12
2.1. Introduction.....	12
2.2. Mentorship for young Women and Girls.....	13
2.3. Women Access to Finance Awareness Campaigns and Women Financial Inclusion	13
2.4. Women access to finance campaign and Financial Literacy	14
2.5. Support AGI graduates with toolkits and loan facility.....	14
III. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN FAMILY PROMOTION AND CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION	14
3.1. Introduction.....	14
3.2. Governance and Family Welfare Campaign	15
3.4. The National campaign on anti-teenage pregnancy in schools.....	16
3.5. Gender Accountability day	17
3.6. Reduction of malnutrition among children under five years	18
3.7. Implementation of Tubarerere Mu Muryango Program	19
3.8. Anti-GBV and Child Rights Awareness Raising Campaign.....	22
a) 12 th Children Summit	22

b)	International Day of a Girl Child	23
c)	Christmas for Children	23
d)	Day of the African Child (DAC).....	24
e)	International Day of Families (IDF).....	24
f)	The 24th Commemoration of the remembrance of children and women killed during the Genocide against Tutsi	25
g)	International women’s days (IWD).....	25
4.	Elaboration of regional and International commitments reports.....	26
4.1.	The periodic report on the implementation of the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	26
4.2.	The periodic reports on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.....	26
4.3.	The report on UN Resolutions on Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls”, trafficking in women and girls”, and elimination of female genital mutilation	26
4.4.	The solemn declaration report on gender equality in Africa	26
4.5.	HeForShe Commitments report	27
5.	Strengthening Coordination mechanism.....	27
5.1.	The National Gender and Family Cluster.....	27
5.2.	The Coordination Meetings	28
6.	Prospects for FY 2018-2019.....	29
	Conclusion	29
	Annex 1: Budget Performance for FY 2017-2018.....	30

ACRONYMS

IOSCs:	ISANGE One Stop Center
CoE:	Center of Excellence
CSOs:	Civil Society organizations
GMO:	Gender Monitoring Office
NWC:	National Women’s Council
UN:	United Nation
EDPRS:	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GBS:	Gender Budget Statements
FBO:	Faith Based Organization
H.E:	His Excellency
GoR:	Government of Rwanda
ICT:	Information, Communication and Technology
STEM:	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
DOT:	Digital Opportunity Trust
TVET:	Technical and Vocational Education Training
NEP:	National Employment Program
SACCO:	Savings and Credit Co-operative
BDF:	Business Development Fund
RCA:	Rwanda Cooperative Agency
AGI:	Adolescent and Girl’s initiative
IWD:	The international women’s day
MINALOC:	Ministry of Local Government
NYC:	National Youth Council
NST1:	National Strategy for transformation
CSOs:	Civil Society Organization
NCC:	National Commission for Children
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
IDGC:	International Day of a Girl Child
DAC:	Day of the African Child

ECD: Early Child Development Program
TMM: Tubarere Mu Muryango
DASSO: District Administration Security Service Organ

Executive Summary

This report presents the key achievements made by the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion during the fiscal year 2017/2018 based on the approved action plan and other key planning documents. The key achievements are categorized into four main parts including Gender Equality Promotion, Women Economic Empowerment, Family Promotion and Child Rights Protection, Elaboration of regional and International commitments reports and Coordination mechanism.

To ensure that gender is mainstreamed across sectors, 107 staff from different Ministries and Districts as well as PSF, CSOs and FBOs representatives were trained on Gender Economic Policy Management; 65 Managers from Gender Machinery and private institutions trained on Transformative leadership skills for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, 50 Chief Editors of Media Houses trained on Gender mainstreaming within media houses and Gender sensitive Code of conduct & Ethics for media. For Private sector, 198 PSF chambers leaders' members were trained on Gender mainstreaming strategy for private sector and its implementation within the Private sector.

Under family promotion and child rights protection, a number of activities aimed at preventing and responding to all forms of Gender Based violence, child abuse, malnutrition and others that have direct impact on social wellbeing have been implemented. Family Welfare Campaign was conducted resulting to 1,871 couples that legalized their marriages in different Districts; 41,547 children were registered in civil registration register, 1,547,552 children screened for nutritional status, 8,030 Cows, 375 Goats, 30 hens, 16 Sheep and 38 pigs were given to vulnerable families, among others. To safeguard the family against GBV and child abuse, Indashyikirwa model (agents of change) was scaled up in 4 Districts of Eastern Province where 640 couples were trained, 154 District and Sector DASSO Coordinators were trained as training of trainers on GBV Prevention and response; 2 Safe houses constructed at Rwinkwavu and Gakoma District Hospitals. Radio & TV programs aimed at fighting GBV & Child Abuse were also strengthened. In the framework of reducing malnutrition among children under 5 years, the National Early Childhood Development Program (NECDP) established.

Lastly, in relation with job creation for women, 2,074 women and girls graduates from AGI received the loan under BDF Guarantee & Grant scheme for their Projects; 1,661 women and girls have undertaken mentorship program on entrepreneurship, leadership and career guidance. To support

women street vendors by providing decent working environment, MIGEPROF in partnership with Gasabo District built a selling point for 90 women vendors.

I. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN GENDER EQUALITY PROMOTION

1.1.Introduction

The achievements registered in promoting gender equality have been at the backdrop of strong Government commitment enabling legal policy and institutional environment driven by good and visionary leadership in place.

This fiscal year 2017/2018, many have been achieved to promote Gender equality through awareness raising, Coordination and oversight, capacity building, gender mainstreaming in sectors ‘program and implementation of international commitments & resolutions related to Gender equality in Rwanda and beyond.

1.2.Gender Equality Promoted through Awareness raising

a) Dialogue with media houses owners and chief Editors

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with Media High Council, RGB with the support of UN WOMEN and SIDA organized a dialogue (working dinner) with owners of media houses and chief editors. The dialogue gathered 74 people (20 Radios, 12 Televisions, 21 Online Media Houses, 7 Publishing newspapers and 14



Officials present on a roundtable

communication experts from other institutions).

The main purpose of the dialogue was to raise awareness on Gender equality and GBV as well as overcoming the culture of impunity that goes with GBV perpetrators. As results, the participants have gained a common understanding on Gender and GBV issues in media and on how to overcome them. In addition, they have been equipped with knowledge/skills and tools to be able to effectively

mainstream gender throughout their media work, improve media gender-responsiveness as well as how to cover gender related issues including GBV cases through effective media reporting.

b) Gender Responsive Media Training for Gender Equality and Gender Based Violence

To strengthen the capacity of Media staff on gender equality, GBV and child abuse prevention and response, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion organized 3 days training for 50 chief editors (38 males and 12 females) from different media houses (Radios, Televisions, Online Media and Newspapers).

As result, the journalists understood the basic concepts of gender equality and GBV prevention and response mechanisms and they have been equipped with knowledge/skills for mainstreaming gender throughout their daily work and improve media gender-responsive result-oriented.



The group photo of Participants & Facilitators with PS/ MIGEPROF

c) Training on transformative leadership for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment

With the support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through UN WOMEN, The National Gender Machinery institutions were strengthened through capacity building training on transformational leadership for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The targeted 65 people (31 Middle Managers and 34 Executive Managers) from The National Gender Machinery Institutions, public and private sectors) benefited from the training.

d) Gender Responsive Economic Policy Management Training

Regarding gender mainstreaming across public and private sector, 107 staffs from central and local government, PSF, CSOs and FBOs were trained on Gender Economic Policy Management to enable them better analyzing gender situation in their respective programs.

Also, in a bid to promote gender mainstreaming in Private Sector, 198 PSF chambers leaders members (67 women & 131 men) were trained on -Gender mainstreaming strategy for private sector and its implementation within the Private sector.

1.3. Documentation of Gender equality and women empowerment achievements

The Ministry of Gender in collaboration with National Gender Machinery institutions developed a feasibility study for establishment of Gender Resource Hub to showcase and document the gender and women empowerment journey in Rwanda.

1.4. Gender mainstreaming across Sectors, Ministries and Districts

To mainstream gender in employment sector, MIGEPROF in collaboration with MIFOTRA elaborated an employment gender mainstreaming strategy that provides gender guidance in all employment programs. In partnership with Gender Monitoring Office, Gender Budget Statement submitted by Ministries and districts were assessed to ensure the implementation of gender budget statement. 22 districts have already implemented GBS as planned. 13 Ministries out of 16 met GBS criteria while 3 did not due to their mandates.

1.5. Domestication and Implementation of gender equality related SDGs in Rwanda

Based on Rwanda success story in the achievement of most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it remains one of the SDG front-runners in Africa. To enhance localization and implementation of gender related SDGs' indicators and targets, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion has convened a meeting aiming at having common understanding on SDGs, especially Goal 5 and other Gender related indicators and targets with all actors working on the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) interventions.

1.6. Coordination of the Implementation of HeForShe Commitments

In 2014, the United Nations through UN Women declared H.E. President KAGAME Paul as one of the 10X10X10 Global HeForShe Champions. This was due to his tangible actions in line with the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Rwanda. Subsequently in 2015, H.E. the President of Rwanda made three impact commitments to be achieved by the year 2020 to further advance Gender Equality.

Those commitments include: ***Bridge the gender digital divide in ICT and attain parity in access and usage, enhance girls' enrollment in TVET to boost their employability, eradicate Gender-Based Violence in all its forms.***

To ensure the coordination of the implementation of these commitments, MIGEPROF with stakeholders elaborate an annual Joint Action Plan for HeForShe commitments. The following are key milestones of the implementation of 2017-2018 Joint Action Plan for HeForShe commitments:

a) Bridge the gender digital divide in ICT and attain parity in access and usage

- 28,795 people trained under Digital Talent Policy implementation framework; among the trainees 10,530 are women;
- The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion partnered with Smart Africa and Girls in ICT Rwanda¹ during Transform Africa Summit to undertake the Africa Smart Women and Girls event where Ms Geek competition was organized to inspire girls into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields and be part of solving the continent's challenges using technology.
- The women empowerment through technology (WEM-TECH) strategy was elaborated to bridge technology access and control gap, assure full participation of women in the envisaged knowledge-based economy, and promote women entrepreneurship in ICTs;
- 940 Young Girls and women were mentored and empowered with tech ability and motivations to build knowledge based society;
- 235 ICT start-ups and innovators (among them, 25 are girls) supported in different activities such attending different trainings, professional's courses, Africa summit Youth connected, different national and international exhibitions, Transform Africa Summit among others.

b) Enhance girls' enrollment in TVET to boost their employability

- The female model TVET School in Nyanza District established and operational. The school has the capacity to accommodate 500 people with the following trades:

¹ Girls in ICT Rwanda is a group of women professionals in STEM serve as role models to mentor Rwandan girls and beyond, encouraging them consider careers in STEM fields.

Construction, technology, mechanical and moto-vehicle technology and computer sciences.

- TVET Gender Mainstreaming Training Module was developed

c) Eradicate GBV in all its forms

MIGEPROF raised community awareness on the issue of gender based violence and child abuse in the community through different channels.

- A total of 81 prerecorded TV and Radio programs broadcasted to increase awareness on GBV and Child Abuse in the community;
- Serial drama production and broadcasting is another sensitization channel used in order to increase the public awareness coverage. MIGEPRPOF hired serial drama production firm, URUNANA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION to raising Awareness on Gender, GBV and Child Abuse in Rwanda through a radio serial drama;
- In order to ensure the sensitization through the population about prevention and GBV fighting, MIGEPROF collaborated with MINIJUST produced and disseminated 7,240 booklets to be used in the community awareness on existing laws fighting GBV and child abuse;
- The Outreach trainings targeting various people & structures were scaled up. These include 154 TOTs District Association of Security Organs (DASSO) were trained to strengthen the community structure in the prevention and response to GBV and child abused, 640 couples trained through Indashyikirwa- Agents of change Model that aiming at empowering women & men towards the prevention of GBV in communities;
- 16 days of activism on fighting violence against women and girls conducted countrywide whereby the walk and key messages



Walk to fight against GBV brought together different actors in prevention and response of GBV

to combat violence against women and girls were provided at National level and in all Districts.

- Again, in the efforts of fighting against gender based violence and child abuse, MIGEPROF piloted IOSC shelter/safe house service in 04 district hospitals: Mibilizi, Ngarama, Rwinkwavu and Gakoma. This service will be given to the SGBV victims who might need more time than expected time of living in existing IOSC safe rooms to avoid the revictimization cases and effective evidence collection. Mibilizi and Ngarama safe houses were fully equipped to ensure service delivery towards GBV victims whereas Rwinkwavu and Gakoma were constructed. (see pictures below)



Gakoma IOSC Shelter/safe house



Rwinkwavu IOSC Shelter/safe house

II. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

2.1.Introduction

Rwanda aspires to become a middle-income country by 2020, which entails socio-economic transformation through the creation of a productive middle class and entrepreneurship development among others. For this objective to be attained, different strategies have been put in place aimed at promoting financial inclusion for women including the establishment of SACCOs at sector level,

extension of BDF services, Women and Youth Access to Finance Strategy and National Employment Program (NEP) among others.

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, implemented a number of interventions to support the empowerment of women which include: Mentorship Program for Young Women and Girls; Construction of selling point for Women Street Vendors and Women Access to Finance Awareness Campaign, linking women to available financial opportunities and provision of guarantees and grants for viable Women and Girls projects under National Employment Program (NEP).

2.2.Mentorship for young Women and Girls

In partnership with Plan International Rwanda under the “*because I am a girl flagship*”, mentorship Program was carried out for Young Women and Girls in Bugesera and Nyaruguru Districts. 1500 girls and women had their capacity strengthened in career guidance, leadership and entrepreneurship. Also, in partnership with Gasabo District, the Ministry constructed a selling point in order to support women street vendors with a decent working environment. At least, 90 women vendors are benefitting from this facility.

Additionally, in partnership with Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe, Enfants Mere and REBEJO organizations, MIGEPROF supported 3057 Teen Mothers in Rulindo and Gasabo Districts through counselling, vocational training, legal aid, toolkits and livestock. 195 teen mothers were also trained on leadership and public speaking.

2.3.Women Access to Finance Awareness Campaigns and Women Financial Inclusion

In NEP joint Imihigo 2017-2018, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion planned to develop, produce and disseminate the NEP user-friendly mobilization tools. The Women mobilization tools were developed to guide all users mainly women and youth about all government initiatives aimed at their economic empowerment. The content was developed and validated by MIGEPROF management meeting after consulting some NEP partner institutions (WDA, RDB- CDE). 4500 of NEP user-friendly mobilization tools were printed and disseminated in 7 districts.

2.4. Women access to finance campaign and Financial Literacy

The government of Rwanda developed and adapted the Women and Youth Access to Finance Strategy as one of the mechanisms for facilitating women and youth access to credit and other financial services including the financial literacy. It is in this context that the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with Rwanda Cooperative Agency, National Women Council and DUTERIMBERE NGO, organized women access to finance campaign that took place from 2nd to 15th May 2018 in Huye, Kicukiro and Rubavu. During this campaign, 600 women were trained on financial literacy.

2.5. Support AGI graduates with toolkits and loan facility

From 2012 to 2014, The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with WDA initiated Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI) Project funded by World Bank. The main intervention of the project was to equip young girls and adolescent mothers with hands on skills. The Programme phased out with 2074 graduates whereby 1511 formed 69 cooperatives. In the framework of job creation under NEP, AGI was considered as a quick win. MIGEPROF signed MoU with BDF whereby the Ministry transferred funds to BDF to support AGI graduates with toolkit. In 2017-2018 NEP joint Imihigo, MIGEPROF targeted to support 100 AGI graduates with toolkits.

This support provided to AGI graduates through toolkits and loan facility has enhanced their self-employability and job creation.

III. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN FAMILY PROMOTION AND CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION

3.1. Introduction

According to article 18 of Rwandan Constitution of 2003 revised in 2015, the family, being the natural foundation of the Rwandan society, is protected by the State. Different assessments or studies revealed that the secured and healthy family is the foundation of sustainable development.

During 2017-2018 Financial year, key achievements related to family welfare and child protection are described below.

3.2.Governance and Family Welfare Campaign

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with other Social Cluster Ministries conducted Good Governance and Family Welfare Campaign in all 30 Districts from 10th October to 10th December, 2017 under the theme: **“Let’s Build Rwanda we want, Improving the Good Governance, Taking Care of the Family”**. During the campaign, the community and local authorities sensitized on fighting family related issues including GBV and child abuse, teenage pregnancy, Malnutrition, Hygiene among others.

The Campaign was launched by H.E First Lady in Kirehe District where citizens sensitized on positive parenting, fighting family conflicts, malnutrition among others. The Early Childhood Development (ECD) built by parents was also inaugurated and health week launched.



First Lady launching ECD at Gatore Sector in Kirehe District during the launch of the Campaign.

The following are key milestones performed during the campaign:

- ✓ 8,030 Cows, 375 Goats, 30 hens, 16 Sheep and 38 pigs were given to vulnerable families, 420 iron sheets were distributed to families; other basic home materials: 400 mattresses, clothes 300 (pieces), Kitchen utensils equivalent to 1,120,000 Rwf and 181 Kitchen Gardens were constructed; etc;

- ✓ 1,547,552 children screened for nutritional status, only 1% was found mal-nourished and among the total mal-nourished children, 0.8% labeled as yellow while 0.2% labeled as Red and 1,508,834 children with MR vaccinated.
- ✓ 41,547 children were registered in civil registration registers and
- ✓ 1,871 couples legalized their marriages in different Districts
- ✓ In addition to that, 60 children with disabilities were given wheel chairs.

3.4. The National campaign on anti-teenage pregnancy in schools

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) in collaboration with MINEDUC and other stakeholders conduct a campaign against teenage pregnancy every year, to address challenges that girls faced and promote girls' empowerment.

The fiscal year 2017-2018, the campaign was conducted in 34 secondary schools in 10 Districts (Gatsibo, Nyagatare, Rubavu, Ngororero, Burera, Gicumbi, Huye, Ruhango, Gasabo and Nyarugenge) under the theme: **“My bright future is in my hands”**. The schools were sensitized on fighting against teenage pregnancy in the spirit of promoting in children the value of self-esteem through child friendly approaches/initiatives (poems, songs/dance and drama competitions. About 64, 030 participants (Students, Teachers and Parents) where (31, 692 (49.5%) were males and 32, 338 females that represent (50.5%) attended the campaign.



During the National Anti-teenage pregnancy campaign, Best performing students were given rewards

3.5. Gender Accountability day

MIGEPROF in collaboration with GMO and other stakeholders conducted a Gender Accountability day in two districts namely (Nyagatare and Rulindo). The accountability day aimed at enhancing gender accountability and GBV prevention and response mechanisms at institutional and community levels.

Activities done in the Gender Accountability Day were mainly the regularization of illegal marriages, registration of children in civil books, the support to less advantaged families and individuals, the support schools with girls room equipment to facilitate girls stay in school and avail safe space especially during their menstrual periods, solve cases of gender based violence including teen mothers and provide them support in the framework of their effectively reintegration in the communities, among others.



During GAD, Government officials were presented in Rulindo District

✚ A couple of results registered from the GAD in Rulindo District include:

- a) *Regularization of illegal marriages:* during the event, 130 couples from the 13 sectors of Rulindo district regularized their marriages.
- b) *Registration of children in civil registration books:* 334 children were registered across the 13 sectors of Rulindo District.
- c) *Economic Empowerment to less advantaged families and individuals through “Kuremera”:* different vulnerable couples and individual women/girls and men were supported in various ways including 30 health insurance cards from Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe, livestock (5 cows, 100 goats), 100 Mattresses and 100 Kitenge.

✚ **A couple of results registered from the GAD in Nyagatare District:**

- ✓ Vulnerable households were supported with 360 cows for their economic Empowerment and family wellbeing;
- ✓ A total of 156 couples from 5 sectors in Nyagatare District namely Rwimiyaga Tabagwe, Ryabega, Nyagatare and Karangazi legalized their marriages.
- ✓ A total of 1,229 children were registered across all 14 sectors of Nyagatare District.



During GAD, Families were given cows and goats at Nyagatare District

3.6.Reduction of malnutrition among children under five years

Following the set-up of the National Early Childhood Development Program (NECDP) in October 2017, the GoR envisions to reduce malnutrition among children under 5 years from 38 to 29.9 % by 2020.

As part of this move, knowledge on ECD interventions was increased through awareness campaigns that were conducted in 17 Districts on good practices on nutrition, hygiene, involvement in ECDs services, child protection, early learning as well as inclusion of children with disabilities conducted. 30 ECD Model centers were established across the country to provide holistic services to children under 6 years. In addition, 244Caregivers trained on the integrated ECD services.

In May 2018, The Prime Minister, Right Honorable Edouard Ngirente launched ‘Rwanda Stunting Prevention and Reduction Project’ (SPRP) which is supported by the World Bank. The project worth of \$ 55 million aims at reducing stunting rates among children under age 5 in 13 of Rwanda’s

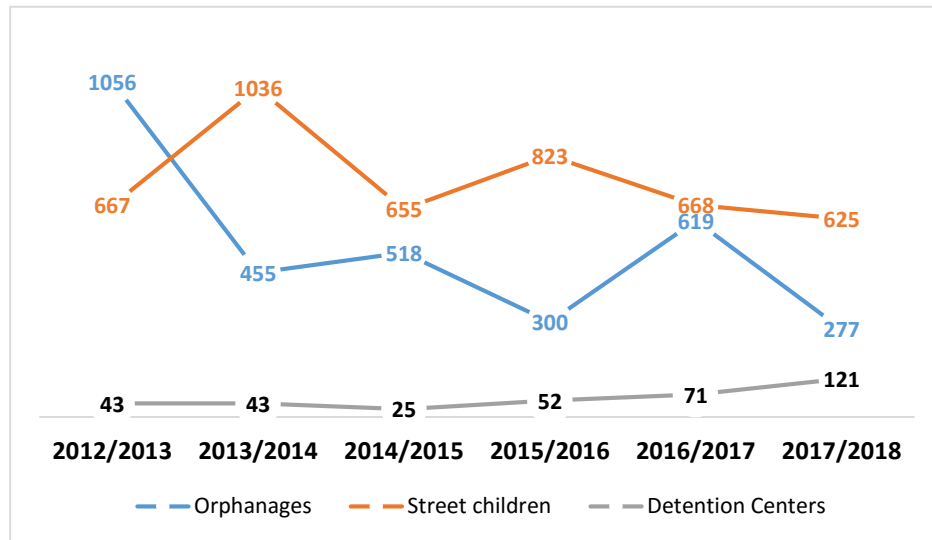
highest-stunting districts. This will be achieved by supporting community-based approaches, improve the delivery of high-impact nutrition and health interventions, incentivize frontline community health workers and health personnel, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and promote a learning-by-doing approach to draw lessons on what works and how it can be scaled up.



Rt.Hon. Edouard Ngirente at the launch of SPRP Project in Nyabihu, May 2018

3.7.Implementation of Tubarerere Mu Muryango Program

During this fiscal year, 973 children (227 from orphanages, 625 from Streets Children Centers and 121 children of three years of age with their mothers in detention centers) were reintegrated into families. To ensure sustainability of children reintegration, families are provided with support depending on their needs, 920 families were financially and economically supported with education, household equipment, and income generating activities among others. 468 permanent foster care families were identified and trained.



To assess the level of implementation of TMM Programme’s Phase I (2012-september 2016),NCC in partnership with UNICEF commissioned an evaluation of the TMM Phase 1. The evaluation took place in five districts, one from each of the five provinces of Rwanda. The evaluation generally showed that the TMM has had many successes:

- ❖ From December 2012 up to September 2016, 2,388 out of 3,323 children(72% of the target) who used to live in registered institutions have been placed in families and other alternative care while other children were prevented from entering institutions or being separated from their families as part of the Rwanda government’s policy shift towards family-based childcare;
- ❖ All children interviewed during assessment reported that there is added value in family-based care, where they feel more loved, freer to play or associate with others, feel a stronger sense of belonging and are taught the importance or value of working hard and to adhere to Rwandan culture. “In the institutions, we were treated the same regardless of our different needs, and time for play was very limited and controlled”;
- ❖ 1,102 foster care givers supported with capacity building related to childcare skills .and 1,601 hosting families benefiting from social assistance services including social work and psychosocial support. The accessibility of biological and extended families to financial support for starting income-generating activities before children were placed into their households depended on the availability of funds

- ❖ 68 social professionals, including 34 social workers and 34 psychologists, were successfully recruited to implement the child deinstitutionalization process by placing and reintegrating children into families;
- ❖ 29,764 community-based childcare workers providing first-hand support to families

Despite these successes, the evaluation also revealed that some challenges remain:

- Approximately 900 children still need to be reintegrated into families or placed into foster care.
- Further support is needed for children with disabilities and their caregivers;
- New cases of child abandonment;
- Spousal conflict, death and separation or divorce;
- Poverty. Rwanda’s poverty prevalence is 39%, and the evaluation revealed that most children in childcare institutions were from poor households in the first place. “Young mothers who dumped their children on the doorsteps of orphanages did so because they felt incapable of meeting the financial demands of caring for their babies because of poverty
- Social welfare staff workloads need to be reduced; to this end, enhancing the capacity of community volunteers is vital.
- Some care home managers remain resistant to change.

Street children phenomenon

In order to work out a sustainable solution to the street children phenomenon, during this fiscal year, NCC commissioned a study to conduct a “comprehensive assessment on the street children phenomenon in Rwanda. The assignment involved mapping of street children, identifying root causes of street children phenomenon and developing a reintegration and prevention strategy”.

Overall 2,882 street children were enumerated, including 2,621 boys and 261 girls; 1,915 enumerated in the street and 967 in street children centers and transit centers. The study indicated that the main driving factors of children’s street life were summarized into three major causes: family poverty, parental/extended family irresponsibility and family conflicts.

As way forward, two strategies were recommended: (1) taking off all the 2,882 enumerated children and reintegrate them to their families after a rehabilitation process; and (2) initiating preventive measures to pre-empt the phenomenon from occurring.

3.8. Anti-GBV and Child Rights Awareness Raising Campaign

During the celebrations of key national and international events, the Ministry and her partners organized awareness raising campaign on fighting GBV and child abuse among the communities. Those key events include the following:

a) 12th Children Summit

Since 2004, an annual national children’s summit that brings together children delegates from all the administrative sectors of Rwanda is held. This summit gives children a special opportunity to meet with high Government officials and other child rights stakeholders in the country to express their views and wishes about nation building and matters affecting them. On 7th December 2017, the 12th National Children’s Summit was organized under the theme “Positive Parenting: Foundation of the Rwanda we want”, and brought together 488 children from all Districts. These include heads of children’s forum committees at the sector level; 30 heads of children’s forum committees at district level and 30 child representatives for children with disabilities at district level. Others include representatives of children living in refugee camps, a child representing children in street children center, mentors of children in refugee camps, members of the cabinet, parliamentarians, district mayors, vice mayors in charge of social affairs, and development partners.

The main resolutions adopted include among others punishing perpetrators of defilement as well as those who are responsible for child labor and school dropout, enforce laws punishing irresponsible parents who do not care for their children, increase campaigns about positive parenting at all levels, ensure that the rights for children with special needs are equally respected and children’s commitment of being characterized by positive Rwandan cultural values reflected through good behaviors, like

patriotism, love of work and education, avoidance of unclean practices as well as respecting and supporting their parents.



The 12th National Children’s Summit, Parliament building, Kigali on 7th December 2017

b) International Day of a Girl Child

This day has been celebrated annually since October 11, 2012. IDGC focuses attention on the need to address the challenges faced by girls and to promote girls' empowerment and fulfillment of their human rights. The international theme of the year is always adapted to fit into the Rwandan context and the prevailing situation.

On 11th October 2017, in Gatore Sector, Kirehe District, the IDGC was celebrated on the theme “Twubake u Rwanda twifuza, duteza imbere imiyoborere myiza, twita ku muryango”. During this occasion, the First Lady Jeannette Kagame called upon parents to find time and talk to their children about education as well as adequately providing them with what they need to grow and study well.

She also advised parents to nourish children with foods rich in nutrients especially in the first 1000 days of the child's life. She reminded children and youth that their lives depend on the good and wise choices they make. She further recommended to combat teenage pregnancies, drop out, street children, stunting and all forms of child abuse.



Her Excellency the First Lady of Rwanda addressing the Public during the IDGC celebrations

c) Christmas for Children

NCC organizes and celebrates Christmas with children as a sign of the Government's commitment and compassion for ensuring the best for its children especially the most vulnerable. On 28th December 2017, in Musanze District, NCC celebrated Christmas event with children living with their mothers who are serving their sentences in Musanze prison. During this celebration, NCC provided food stuffs and drinks, clothes, shoes and other items as gifts for kids to wish them Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This event was also used as an opportunity to sensitize all Rwandans to respect children's rights in general and the rights of children living with their mothers in Prisons in particular.

d) Day of the African Child (DAC)

In Rwanda, DAC commemoration provides an occasion for the Government and various stakeholders in childcare and protection to renew their ongoing commitments of raising awareness on issues affecting children in general and particularly vulnerable children.

This year, DAC was under the theme: “*Twitabire gahunda mbonezamikurire y’abana bato, dutegure ejo heza h’u Rwanda*”. This year, the celebration of DAC 2018 and the World Day against child labor was an occasion to reiterate the Rwandan Government’s commitment to promote inclusive development by ensuring the child’s well-being and good future as well as reducing social inequities within a generation through the holistic approach of Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme.



Her Excellency the First Lady addressing the public in Gakenke district during the celebration of the Day of the African Child

During the event that attracted 3,000 participants including government officials and development partners, First Lady cemented that, to efficiently celebrate the two events, promotion of children’s rights and fighting all obstacles to their healthy growth should be everyone’s priority.

e) International Day of Families (IDF)

Every year on 15th May, the World to celebrate the International Day of Families (IDF). The International Day of Families, established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1992. The International day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes that affecting families.

This year, MIGEPROF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other stakeholders joined the World to celebrate the International Day of Families and its celebration was combined with the launch of the health week campaign at Rubavu District on 14th May 2018. The main activities in the health week campaign were building kitchen gardens, awareness raising on cooking demonstration, feeding children with a balanced meal cooked and giving them milk, community work to improve hygiene and sanitation (gukurungira amazu, building toilets...), among others.

f) The 24th Commemoration of the remembrance of children and women killed during the Genocide against Tutsi

The remembrance of children and women killed in the Genocide against Tutsi was organized in partnership between the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) through the National Women Council and the National Commission for Children (NCC), the National Commission against Genocide (CNLG) and other stakeholders.

At National level, the remembrance of children and women killed in the Genocide against Tutsi took place in BUGESERA district, KAYUMBU cell, KARAMBI village on 13th May 2108 and focused on the theme “*Remember – Unite – Renew*”.

The event was an opportunity to honor the memory of all children and women who lost their lives during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, offer comfort to those families who survived, mobilize community on fighting genocide ideology and provide support to genocide survivors.



Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Honourable Mukabalisa Donatille addressing the participants during Kwibuka Abana

g) International women’s days (IWD)

The international women’s day is celebrated on yearly basis on March 8th and it is an occasion to reflect and celebrate great achievements accomplished in Gender Equality and women empowerment. IWD 2018 was celebrated at national level in **Muhanga** District, **Shyogwe** Sector, **Kinini** Cell in **Musezero** Village under the theme: “**Time is now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives**”, At country level: “**Munyarwandakazi, komeza umurava mu iterambere twubake u Rwanda twifuza**”. During the celebration of IWD, women were mobilized to benefit from NEP Interventions including TVET schools as mechanism of graduation from poverty. 142 (76 women and 66 men) graduates were supported with toolkits.

4. Elaboration of regional and International commitments reports

4.1.The periodic report on the implementation of the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The State parties of UNCRC are required to report on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized in the Convention and on the progress made on the enjoyment of those rights. This year, the Government of Rwanda elaborated and submitted the fifth and sixth periodic reports on the implementation of the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) . The report covers the period from July 2013 to February 2018.

4.2.The periodic reports on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Rwanda ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC): To comply with the requirements of state members, the government of Rwanda submitted the fourth and fifth periodic Reports presenting the key amendments in the domestic laws, policies and programs since 2014 and also reflects the implementation of the recommendations made on the second and third periodic reports by the African Committee of Experts

4.3.The report on UN Resolutions on Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls”, trafficking in women and girls”, and elimination of female genital mutilation

The UN Member States have to report on the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, trafficking in women and girls, and intensification of global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation. The information provided in the report included measures taken to implement the above-mentioned resolutions from 2016 to date.

4.4.The solemn declaration report on gender equality in Africa

The Government of Rwanda is committed to gender equality promotion and confirmed by subsequent international, regional treaties, conventions and agreements that promote gender equality. The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) is among them and the Government of Rwanda has to report on it yearly basis. MIGEPROF with key stakeholders, elaborated report on the implementation of Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa for two consecutive years 2016 and 2017.

4.5.HeForShe Commitments report

The year of 2017-18, Government of Rwanda produced HeForShe 2018 Champions report on Eradicate Gender-Based Violence in all its forms as case study. The report shows the efforts made by Government of Rwanda towards the prevention and response mechanisms to avoid Eradicate Gender-Based Violence in all its forms.

5. Strengthening Coordination mechanism

5.1.The National Gender and Family Cluster

The National Gender and Family Cluster was revived in a bid to boost up coordination and synergizing efforts among MIGEPROF, National Gender Machinery Institutions and other partners intervening in Gender and Family Promotion areas. The cluster consists of sub clusters namely: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE), Family Promotion and GBV Prevention, Child Protection and Early Childhood Development sub-clusters.

Key Resolutions include:

- Integrate women and girls with disabilities and boys' gender related issues in upcoming joint UN Women and MIGEPROF equality program.
- Ensure operationalization of new NGFC guidelines for sub cluster to meet four times a year to improve coordination and communication.
- Build capacity of professional (social workers and psychologists) and para-professional (IZU) to ensure sustainability of child protection interventions at decentralized levels (follow up of reintegrated children, prevention and response to child abuse e.g. teenage pregnancy, child labour, dropout, street children, etc...)
- Empower and operationalize children forum committees to contribute to child protection system
- Enhance coordination through effective data collection, analysis, storage and use (MVC database, IMS)
- Advocate for review the functionality of JDAF and involve Gender and Family Promotion Officers in all activities of the sector
- Elaborate a joint action plan and establish a communication system which will facilitate to share information between partners.

- Elaborate Strategic plan for the gender cluster and establish gender and family cluster at decentralized level
- Proceed for checking and addressing duplications in the intervention targeting youth and women for synergy.
- Establish and operationalize sub- cluster data storage for monitoring and evaluation of the achievements, best practices and subsequent programming.
- Urgently put a NGFC Secretariat in place to coordinate establishment NGFC work

5.2.The Coordination Meetings

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion conducted coordination meetings in 4 provinces and the City of Kigali as well as stakeholders under JAF coordination (RBO, CSOs and private sector). The overall objective of the coordination's meetings was to discuss and take measures on family related issues mainly on prevention of unwanted pregnancies, school dropout, and GBV prevention and response among the population, on how couples should live in the family without conflict and ensure their children are well educated. Among the key resolutions from these coordination meetings, the following were highlighted:

- To strengthen household hygiene where Districts committed to put more efforts in mobilizing HHs without latrines to have them;
- Districts were requested to jointly plan with RBOs and CSOs on annual basis on family related issues;
- Local authorities have to work with NWC structures to improve the operationalization of Umugoroba w'ababyeyi (by full participation of local leaders);
- Scale up Community based ECD at Village level and mobilize parents to enroll their children in ECD centers;
- To put in place mechanisms to resolve family conflict and child rights protection;
- The meetings requested the close collaboration among CSOs, FBOs, and Women Councils and youth councils to fight against family conflicts, GBV and teenage pregnancy.

6. Prospects for FY 2018-2019

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion is looking forward for the 2018- 2019 prospects that are aligned with NST1:

- ✓ Strengthening coordination mechanism through operationalization of Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC);
- ✓ Reducing chronic malnutrition-stunting among under 5 Children from 38% (2016-17) to 19% by 2024 through distributing Food and vitamin supplements using Fortified Blended Food (FBF), one Cup of milk per child to those already affected, promoting at the village level the 1,000 days,
- ✓ Continue working closely with the Private sector, CSOs, Religious Based Organizations in fighting malnutrition and stunting, raising awareness on ECD services, family promotion and gender equality via men engage approach;
- ✓ Supporting the disadvantaged groups of women to help them to graduate from poverty
- ✓ MIGEPROF will keep putting much effort in sensitizing the public on strengthening the family cohesion towards human capital and sustainable development that are in line with NST1 and building a stable family, free of malnourished/stunted children, GBV, domestic violence and poverty

Conclusion

MIGEPROF achievements for the fiscal year 2017/2018 in the area of gender equality, women empowerment and family promotion and child rights protection were a result of synergy of all actors in efforts of MIGEPROF with stakeholders.

As gender and family are cross cutting issues in their nature, MIGEPROF will continue to ensure they are brought at the centre of the national development agenda. To this end a close collaboration between the Ministry and its stakeholders will be sustained in developing new approaches and innovations towards the promotion of Gender equality, women empowerment and family promotion in Rwanda.

Annex 1: Budget Performance for FY 2017-2018

Description	Revised Budget	Expenditure	Balance	Performance (%)
Ordinary Budget	1,015,374,595	1,010,273,540	5,101,055	99
SGBV Project	3,324,776,344	2,217,367,148	1,107,409,196	67
SIDA Project	289,293,237	289,293,237	0	100
Total	4,629,444,176	3,516,933,925	1,112,510,251	76

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