

PRESS REELEASE

NCC is conducting community outreach activities to increase awareness on the importance of rising Children in family

Since 24th May up to 16th June 2017 the National Commission for Children (NCC) in partnership with UNICEF is conducting community outreach activities through performance art and drama to increase awareness on the importance of rising Children in family.

During that period, “Mashirika” the famous cultural troop in Rwanda will conduct 10 live performances county wide. On the 24th May the performance will be held in Kamonyi, 25th May in Huye, 26th May in Rwamagana, 27th May in Ngoma, 28th May in Gasabo, 31st May in Rubavu, 2nd June in Gicumbi, 3rd June in Rulindo, 4th June in Nyarugenge while it will be conducted in Rusizi District on 16th June.

According to the Executive Secretary of NCC Dr. Claudine Uwera Kanyamanza, the aim of this campaign is to reinforce the needed attitude and behaviour change at community level towards raising children in family/community environment and child protection in general.

“We want every Rwandan to be part of Tubarere Mu Muryango Programm through creating a safe and friendly family/community for children where they can enjoy their rights. We don't doubt that drama is the best channel as it entertains, counsels, informs, stimulates debate, educates and provides an opportunity for the target audience to participate”.

The key areas to be covered in the drama include the importance of rising Children in family, effects of institutions on children, the role of Malayika Murinzi and Inshuti z'umuryango (Friends and family), importance of preventing child labor, sexual abuse, child abandonment, school dropout, child abandonment, family break out among others.

The objectives of the campaign include:

- To reinforce the needed attitude and behaviour change at community level towards raising children in family;
- Increase awareness about services provided by Inshuti z'Umuryango and TTM social workers operating in different Districts;

- Encourage families to re-unite with their children living in institutions
- Encourage people to foster children living in institutions
- Increase awareness about the importance of preventing child labor, sexual abuse, child abandonment, school dropout, child abandonment, family break out ...

The message that are transmitted through drama and art performance are in the same line with other messages delivered through other communication channels since the Tubarere Mu Muryango programme (TMM) started in 2012.

Background to TMM

TMM was initiated by the National Commission for Children (NCC) and UNICEF as a comprehensive programme to implement the Government of Rwanda Strategy for National Child Care Reform through the creation of a national alternative care system whereby children are returned from residential institutions to family and community care, to ensure that Rwandan children are supported by a strengthened child protection system.

Since 2012 until March 2017, TMM has facilitated more than 2,691 children placement into family-based and other alternative care through a professional process where 68 Social Workers and Psychologists are deployed in different Districts to ensure safe placement of these children. Psychologists and social workers are well trained civil servants whose main responsibilities are to facilitate the child placement through family tracing, child and family preparation and post placement activities.

Under this programme, about 2500 children have been prevented from being separated with families. With the same total of 29,674 community based Family and Child Protection Volunteers commonly known as “Inshuti z’Umuryango” (Friends of Family), were put in place. “Inshuti z’Umuryango” are two well recognized volunteers, a man and a woman selected by the Community members (Inteko y’abaturage) for each Village to prevent, protect and respond to family, GBV and child protection issues in their Villages.

As of today, about 1200 children remain in 15 institutions across the country.

Kigali, on the 25th May, 2017