

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



9TH NATIONAL CHILDREN'S SUMMIT The Summary Report



19th December 2013

REPUBLIKA Y'U RWANDA



RAPORO Y'INAMA NKURU Y'IGIHUGU YA 9 Y'ABANA



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9TH NATIONAL CHILDREN'S SUMMIT

The Summary Report

19th December, 2013

Advancing Child Rights and Protection



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ABBREVIATIONS

12YBE:	Twelve Year Basic Education
9YBE:	Nine Year Basic Education
DAC:	Day of African Child
JADF:	Joint Action Development Forum
MIDIMAR:	Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs
MIFOTRA:	Ministry of Public Service and Labour
MIGEPROF:	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINAFFET:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
MINALOC:	Ministry of Local Government
MINECOFIN:	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MINEDUC:	Ministry of Education
MINIFRA:	Ministry of Infrastructure
MINIJUST:	Ministry of Justice
MINISPOC:	Ministry of Sport and Culture
MYICT:	Ministry of Youth and Information Communication Technology
NCC:	National Commission for Children
NCHR:	National Commission for Human Rights
NCPD:	National Council for Persons with Disability
NURC:	National Unity and Reconciliation Commission
NWC:	National Women Council
NYC:	National Youth Council
PSC:	Public Service Commission

PTC:	Parents Teachers' Committee
RALC:	Rwanda Academy for Language and Culture
RBA:	Rwanda Broadcasting Agency
REB:	Rwanda Education Board
RNP:	Rwanda National Police
UNHCR:	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Funds

1. INTRODUCTION

Thursday 19th December, 2013, about 550 (310 boys and 240 girls) children representatives from all over the country participated in the 9th National Children's Summit simultaneously in all Provinces and Kigali City.

The representation considered the equity agenda too: children living with disabilities and those from refugee camps also participated in the National Children's Summit.

The children provided their contributions to the national priorities: programs and policies as well as influenced decision making on issues affecting them.

Also, about 250 adults including Ministers, religious leaders, local administration leaders (Provincial Governors, Mayors and Vice Mayors specifically for Social Affairs), national security personnel, members of parliament and members of the press attended the event that was themed: **Children and Self-Reliance** (Abana n'umuco wo kwigira).

Before the actual Summit event, children convened on 18th December in their respective provincial headquarters and Kigali City to finalise all presentations to be made during the actual summit proceedings.

2. KEY PRESENTATIONS MADE DURING THE SUMMIT

a) Presentation made by children

- Implementation of the children's commitments from the 8th National Children's Summit (as highlighted in the presentation, the children's commitments were achieved at 99.8%)
- Children pre-summit consultations results

b) Presentation made by NCC

Implementation of the recommendations from the 8th National Children's Summit. Out of 15 recommendations adopted during the 8th National Children's Summit, 12 were implemented, that is, 80%.

c) Presentations in panels

Panel 1: The culture of self-reliance in Rwanda by MINECOFIN, National Itorero Commission and Rwanda Academy for Language and Culture

Panel 2: Child friendly approaches/initiatives as a mechanism to instill the value of self-reliance in children while at home, in school and in the community provided by MIFOTRA and MIGEPROF.

3. SUMMARY REPORT PER PROVINCE AND KIGALI CITY

3.1 KIGALI CITY



- Venue: GASABO, La Palisse NYANDUNGU.
- Children attended: 107 (47 girls and 60 boys).



Alex Murenzi, President of Children forum at National level addressing National Children's Summit participants in Kigali City

The Guest of Honour in the Children's Summit in the City of Kigali was Hon. Dr. Mathias HAREBAMUNGU, the Minister of State for Primary and Secondary Education in the *Ministry of Education*.



The 9th National Children's Summit in Kigali City adopted the following resolutions:

1. Sensitize parents to put in place child 's "Basket" (Agaseke k' Umwana) to familiarize children with saving habit;
2. Establish children's evening platform to enable children to discuss on practical actions that can facilitate them in solving issues affecting them including how to be self-reliant;
3. Community sensitization to encourage child-parent dialogue;
4. Increase the funds given to Districts in support of Children's forums sustainability;
5. Establish Children forum for Rwandan children living in Diaspora;
6. Serious punishment to parents who contribute to children dropping out of schools and adults inducing children in bad behaviours;
7. Involve children's forum in selecting children in need of support;
8. Establish "Children's Talents Competition Day" to enable children identify their talents at early age;

9. Decentralize the “Ndi Umunyarwanda” programme in each school;
10. Gikondo transit center should have a special accommodation hall for children (separating children from adults);
11. Timely surprise visits to homes and Kigali markets checking children employed as domestic laborers as well as those engaged in carrying luggage and other loads;
12. Continuously sensitize families to receive children from institutions.

3. 2. WESTERN PROVINCE



- Venue: Karongi District, Golf Eden Rock Hotel
- Children attended: 112 (47 girls and 65 boys)



President of Children Forum in Western Province addressing National Children's Summit participants

The Guest of Honour in the Children's Summit in Western Province was Hon. Oda Gasinzigwa, the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion



The following resolutions were adopted in 9th National Children's Summit in Western Province as highlighted below:

1. Establish a sustainable system at village level that monitors and coordinates respect of children's rights;
2. Put in place a platform for former children forum representatives so as to continuously collaborate with their successors in advocating for children rights protection;
3. Parents, schools and local administrations were requested to support self reliance among children through child friendly approaches like having their own garden, saving, tree planting, rearing domestic animals among others;
4. Parents were requested to engage and involve children while planning for the family;
5. Districts were requested to periodically meet with children forum representatives to exchange views and ideas on issues affecting children as well as development of the country;
6. Districts were requested to facilitate children studying science subjects in schools without laboratories to access to these facilities in the neighboring schools with these facilities;
7. Children in schools with 9&12YBE programs should be helped to access computer/IT services through sharing with neighboring schools that have them;
8. NCC was requested to increase the number of children participating in the National Children's Summits;
9. Develop a film educating children and adults children's rights and to be presented in schools and cells of the country;
10. Upgrade the 9YBE programme to 12 YBE and establish TVET in refugee camps;
11. Inviting children representatives in different meetings at all levels, as well as involving children in different ceremonies by assigning them various tasks like moderating the events, being time keepers, among others;
12. Planning at each level should consider children's issues;
13. To show in schools the film Coracora presented in the 8th National Children's Summit that talks about dangers of drug abuse.

3. 3. EASTERN PROVINCE



- Venue: Rwamagana District, Dereva Hotel
- Children attended: 111(47 girls and 64 boys)



President of Children's Forum in Eastern Province addressing National Children's Summit participants

The Guest of Honour in the Children's Summit in Eastern Province was Hon. Dr. Alivera Mukabaramba, Minister of State/MINALOC



The 9th National Children's Summit in Eastern Province adopted the following resolutions:

1. Establish the children's week countrywide;
2. Sensitize families to receive children with disability that are in institutions and set up mechanisms of caring of other children in institutions that may not be received in families due to the severity of their disability;
3. Taking care of children with disability who are on streets;
4. To show in schools the film "Coracora" presented in the 8th National Children's Summit that talks about dangers of drug abuse;
5. Facilitate all young boys access inexpensive circumcision services

3. 4. NORTHERN PROVINCE



- Venue: Musanze District, Centre Notre Dame de Fatima
- Children attended: 101(41 girls and 60 boys)



“National Children’s Summit contributes to children’s increased confidence, self respect, competence, an improved sense of responsibility, and increased child-parents engagement. It helped me to form my views on my own and the right to express those views freely. It has encouraged us to become active participants in a democratic society; we hold elections in the children’s forums, and this has enabled us develop skills such as cooperation and communication.”

President of Children’s forum in Northern Province addressing National Children’s Summit participants

The Guest of Honour in the Children's Summit in Northern Province was Hon. Dr. Anita Asiimwe, Minister of State/ Ministry of Health.



The 9th National Children's Summit in Northern Province adopted the following resolutions:

1. Put in place equipped public libraries in every Sector that will help children develop a culture of reading hence lessening children roaming during holidays;
2. Expand the one lap top per child programme in all schools to enable all children benefit from the program;
3. To expand the "Ndi Umunyarwanda" programme in all primary and secondary schools;
4. Train parents on children rights and positive parenting skills which will in the end facilitate raising children in a loving family;
5. Increase centers helping children victims of violence (Isange One Stop Center);

6. Facilitate all young boys access inexpensive circumcision services.
7. Reintegrate children affairs in “parents evening”/Umugoroba w’ababyeyi but also put in place house hold monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to make sure that commitments made in that “umugoroba w’ababyeyi” are respected;
8. To put in place “Gira itungo rigufi mwana” programme with reference to adults “Gira inka” programme;
9. Making lists of children who dropped out of school in every village and share it with local administration to support these children getting back to school;
10. Increase sensitisation campaigns aiming at combating violence against children and their abandonment;
11. Show in schools the film “Coracora” presented in the 8th National Children’s Summit that talks about dangers of drug abuse.

3. 5 SOUTHERN PROVINCE



- Venue: Huye District, Centre Saint Jean Baptiste/PROCURE D’ACCUEIL
- Children attended: 119 (57 girls and 64 boys)



“There is still need to increase parents-children engagement as a motivation to enable children do what they are required to do with a purpose of life to attain commitments they make during Children’s Summits.”

President of Children’s Forum in Southern Province addressing National Children’s Summit participants

The Guest of Honour in the Children’s Summit in Southern Province was Hon. Anastase MUREKEZI, Minister of Public Service and Labour:



The 9th National Children's Summit in Southern Province adopted the following resolutions:

1. Parents should encourage their children to carry out activities appropriate to their age early in their age so as to grow up with self-reliance attitudes;
2. Equip schools with 12 YBE programme with laboratories to enable students learn sciences appropriately;
3. Continuously sensitize parents having children with disabilities including epileptic children to take them to schools;
4. The Day for the African Child should be celebrated in schools and the information regarding this event should be communicated to students as early as possible;
5. Expand solar energy system in non-electrified areas of the country so as to enable children revise their books when at home;
6. Schools should give children an opportunity to exercise their skills and talents through competitions;
7. Report children who dropped out of schools and especially schools expelling children because their parents have not paid fees charged by schools in the form of teachers' allowance;
8. Promoting talents of children in the framework of instilling the culture of self-reliance among children by constructing game facilities like playgrounds;
9. MINEDUC should put in place the mechanisms for teaching sign language in schools to enable children with hearing impairment learn without any difficulties;
10. The officials from Southern Province committed to meet every 6 months to evaluate the implementation of the resolutions of the National Summit;
11. The Ministry of Health is requested to decentralize the circumcision programs up to health centers.

The Summary on Summit Resolutions

N ^o	Resolution	Institution Responsible of Implementation	Other institutions concerned	Indicator	Timeframe
1	Sensitize parents to put in place child's "Basket" (Agaseke k' Umwana) to familiarize children with saving habit	Districts	MINEDUC, Partners	Number of children with child's baskets.	September 2014
2	Community sensitization to encourage child-parent dialogue	MIGEPROF	NCC, NWC, RNP, District,	Number of sensitisation campaigns	September 2014
3	Establish children's evening platform to enable children to discuss on practical actions that can facilitate them in solving issues affecting them including how to be self-reliant	NCC	Districts	Districts with children's evening programmes	September 2014

4	Increase the funds given to Districts in support of Children's forums sustainability	NCC	Districts, Partners	Additional funds given to Districts in support of Children's Forums	September 2014
5	Promoting talents of children in the framework of instilling the culture of self-reliance among children by constructing game facilities like playgrounds in all cells of the country	MINISPOC	MININFRA, Districts	Number of Cells with playgrounds and other game facilities	September 2014
6	C o n t i n u o u s l y sensitize families to receive children from institutions	NCC	MIGEPROF, MINALOC	Report on the sensitization campaigns	September 2014
7	Establish a sustainable system at village level that monitors and coordinates respect of children's rights	NCC	MIGEPROF, MINALOC, Districts, Parents, Partners	Report on establishment of a system at village level that monitors and coordinates respect of children's rights	November 2014

8	Establish Forum for children living in Rwanda to facilitate their invitation in the next Children's Summit all for the purpose of teaching them Rwandan culture and social values including the culture of self-reliance	MINAFFET	NCC	Countries that established Forums	July 2014
9	Seriously punish parents who contribute to children dropping out of schools and adults inducing children in bad behaviours	Districts	RNP	Report on conducted activities	September 2014
10	Involve children's forum committees in selecting children in need of support and in other programs aiming at promoting and protecting children's rights	NCC	MINALOC	Report on the activities of selecting children in need of support in which children's forums committees were involved	Every time

11	Gikondo transit center should have a special accommodation hall for children (separating children from adults);	CITY OF KIGALI	NCC, RNP	A special accommodation hall for children	September 2014
12	Timely surprise visits to Kigali homes and markets and in other towns of the country checking children employed as domestic laborers as well as those engaged in carrying luggage and other loads	MIFOTRA, CITY OF KIGALI	RNP	Report on the inspection	September 2014
13	Establish the children's week countrywide	NCC	Districts/JADF	Report on the activity	July 2014
14	Sensitize families to receive children with disability that are in institutions and set up mechanisms of caring of other children in institutions that may not be received in families due to the severity of their disability	NCC	MINALOC, Districts, Partners	Report on the children reintegrated into families and the situation of children that are still in institutions as well as the number of sensitisation campaigns made	November 2014 and after

15	Taking care of children with disability who are on streets	NCPD	MIGEPROF, NCC, Districts, Partners	Report	October 2014
16	Facilitate all young boys access inexpensive circumcision services .	MOH	Districts, Partners	Number of circumcised young boys	October 2014
17	To show in schools the film "Coracora" presented in the 8 th National Children's Summit that talks about dangers of drug abuse	NCC	MINALOC, MINEDUC, REB, RBA, Districts	Number of schools in which the film was presented	September 2014
18	Put in place equipped public libraries in every Sector that will help children develop a culture of reading hence lessening children roaming during holidays	MINEDUC	MINALOC, MINECOFIN Districts, Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Sectors with new libraries • Number of libraries at Sector level with child-friendly books 	Fiscal year: 2014-2015

19	Expand the “one laptop per child” programme in all schools to enable all children benefit from the program ”	MINEDUC	MINECOFIN, MYICT	Number of new schools and students beneficiary of the programme	September 2014
20	To expand the “Ndi U m u n y a r w a n d a ” programme in all primary and secondary schools	NURC	MINEDUC, National Commission MINALOC, Itorero	Number of schools where the programme has been expanded	September 2014
21	Train parents on children rights and positive parenting skills which will in the end facilitate raising children in a loving family	MIGEPROF	MINIJUST, NWC, Districts, Partners	Number of training sessions and participants	September 2014
22	Increase sensitisation campaigns aiming at combating violence against children and their abandonment	NCC	MINALOC, MIGEPROF, RNP, Districts, children’s institutions (orphanages) Partners	Number of sensitization campaigns and participants	September 2014

23	Reintegrate children affairs in “parents evening”/Umugoroba w’ababyeyi but also put in place house hold monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to make sure that commitments made in that “umugoroba w’ababyeyi” are respected	MIGEPROF	NWC, Districts, Partners	Report on the activity	September 2014
24	Parents should encourage their children to carry out activities appropriate to their age early in their age so as to grow up with self-reliance attitudes	National Itorero Commission	MIGEPROF, Districts MINALOC,	Report on the activity	September 2014
25	Increase centres helping children victims of violence (Isange One Stop Center)	RNP	MIGEPROF, MOH, MINECOFIN, Partners MINALOC, UNICEF,	Number of new centres	September 2014

26	Increase the number of children participating in the National Children's Summits when the event is held at Provincial level	NCC	MIGEPROF, MINECOFIN, Provinces, Districts, Partners	Increased number of children	December 2014 and in every Summit
27	Shoot a film educating children and adults on children's rights and to be presented in schools and Cells of the country	NCC	MINALOC, MINECOFIN, UNICEF, NCHR, Districts Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of copies of films distributed • Number of schools where the film was presented • Number of Cells where the film was presented 	<p>July 2014</p> <p>October 2014</p> <p>October 2014</p>
28	Establish a sustainable system at village level that monitors and coordinates respect of children's rights	MIGEPROF	MINALOC, MINECOFIN, NCC, Partners	A document on the establishment of the system	November 2014

29	Put in place a platform for former children forum representatives so as to continuously collaborate with their successors in advocating for children rights protection	NCC	MYICT, NYC, MINEDUC, Districts	Platform established (group email, facebook) is operational	A u g u s t 2014
30	Help children in schools with 9&12YBE programs to access to computer/IT services through sharing with neighboring schools that have them	MINEDUC	MINALOC, REB, Districts	Number of schools with partnership	A u g u s t 2014
31	Upgrade the 9YBE programme to 12 YBE and establish TVET in refugee camps	MINEDUC	MINECOFIN, MINALOC, MIDIMAR, UNHCR, Partners	Number of refugee camps where schools with 9YBE programme were upgraded to 12YBE	A u g u s t 2015
32	Integrate children's issues in Districts through planning performance contracts	PROVINCES	MINALOC, Districts	Number of Districts integrated issues in planning processes	July 2014

33	Promote self-reliance among children through child friendly approaches like having their own garden, saving, tree planting, rearing domestic animals among others	MIFOTRA	MIGEPROF, MINALOC, Districts	Report on the sensitisation	November 2014
34	Facilitate children studying science subjects in schools with 9&12 Programme without laboratories to access to these facilities in the neighboring schools with these facilities	MINEDUC	REB, MINALOC, Districts, Parents	Number of schools facilitated to access to laboratory facilities	November 2014
35	Continuously sensitize parents having children with disabilities including epileptic children to take them to schools	NCPD	MINEDUC, MINALOC, Districts, Parents	Number of new children with disability reintegrated in schools	November 2014

36	The Day for the African Child should be celebrated in schools (when on holidays) and the information regarding this event should be communicated to children as early as possible	NCC	MINEDUC, MINALOC, MIGEPROF, NCC, Districts, Parents, Partners	Number of schools where DAC was celebrated	November 2014
37	Expand solar energy system in non-electrified areas of the country so as to enable children revise their books when at home	MININFRA	MINALOC, MYICT, Districts, Partners	Number of new households with solar energy system	November 2014
38	Report children who dropped out of schools and especially schools expelling children because their parents have not paid fees charged by schools in the form of teachers' allowance	MINEDUC	REB, Districts, PTCs, Partners	Report on the inspection of schools expelling children	September 2014

39	Train children on the social value of cadreship rooted in the Rwandan culture	National Itorero Commission	MINEDUC, MINALOC, RALC, REB, Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on training • Number of training materials given to children 	November 2014
40	Put in place the mechanisms for teaching sign language in schools to enable children with hearing impairment learn without any difficulties	MINEDUC	NCPD, Partners	Programmes put in place to teach sign language	September 2014
41	Establish "Children Talents Competition Day" to enable children identify their talents at early age	NCC	MINEDUC, UNICEF, Districts,	Number of competitions and children that participated	September 2014

4. CONCLUSION

Generally, the 9th National Children's summit went on well as a number of children planned turned up, were ready and enthusiastic about the participation.

The 9th National Children's Summit started with national wide local authorities briefing that was conducted throughout the month of November.

These meetings brought together representatives of Children's Forum committees at Sector and District levels in order to explain the theme of the year, and to better understand how the pre-summit consultations were to be conducted in the following weeks.

The briefing meetings in all Provinces and Districts nationwide were followed by grass root consultative meetings aimed to consolidate children's views, opinions and suggestions on the theme and its objectives.

These consultative meetings convened all members of the Children's Forum committees of the Villages in the Cell, while the consultations at Sector level gathered members of the Children's Forum committee of the Cell.



Madam Oda Gasinzigwa/Minister of MIGEPROF & Ms Noala Skinner, UNICEF Country Representative attended National Children's Summit in Western Province

The 9th National Children's Summit gave participants the understanding of engaging children in age appropriate activities to improve the quality of self reliance skills at young age. It also resulted in recommendations for different government institutions to implement.

The National Children's summit was organized by National Commission for Children in collaboration with Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion as well as in line Ministries, public organizations, Provinces and Kigali City. International development partners like UNICEF, and NGOs engaged in child rights protection interventions provided support in terms of human resources and funds towards the organisation of the 9th National Children's Summit.

Annex: Agenda

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
<i>Opening ceremony</i>		
<i>7:30-8:20</i>	<i>Arrival of invitees</i>	<i>Protocol</i>
<i>8:20-8:30</i>	<i>Arrival of the Guest of Honour</i>	<i>Protocol</i>
<i>8:30-8:35</i>	<i>National Anthem</i>	<i>All participants</i>
<i>8:35-8:45</i>	<i>Welcome remarks by the Children's representative</i>	<i>Child</i>
<i>8.45-9:00</i>	<i>Presentation of Pre-summit consultations results</i>	<i>Child</i>
<i>9:00-9:10</i>	<i>Implementation of the children's commitments from the 8th National Children's Summit</i>	<i>Child</i>
<i>9:10-9:20</i>	<i>Children's sketches, songs and poems</i>	<i>Children</i>
<i>9:20-9:30</i>	<i>Implementation of the recommendations from the 8th National Children's Summit</i>	<i>NCC</i>
<i>9:30-9:45</i>	<i>Discussions</i>	<i>NCC</i>
<i>9:45-9:55</i>	<i>Speech by the representative of partners</i>	<i>Partner</i>
<i>9:55-10:05</i>	<i>Speech by the Governor</i>	<i>Governor</i>
<i>10:05-10:15</i>	<i>Speech by MIGEPROF</i>	<i>MIGEPROF</i>
<i>10:15-10:25</i>	<i>Keynote speech by the Guest of Honour</i>	<i>Guest of Honour</i>
<i>10:25-10:35</i>	<i>Group Photo</i>	<i>Official photographer</i>

10:35-10:50	Coffee break	Hotel
Panels		
<i>10:50-11:00</i>	Panel 1: <i>The culture of self-reliance in Rwanda</i>	Chair: <i>Child, Presentation: MINECOFIN, Members of the Panel: National Itorero Commission and Rwanda Academy of Language and Culture</i>
<i>11:00-11:20</i>	Discussions	All participants
<i>11:20-11:30</i>	Panel 2: <i>Child friendly approaches/initiatives in promoting self reliance at home, school and in the community</i>	Chair: <i>Child, Presentation: MIFOTRA, Members of the panel: MIGEPROF, MYICT,</i>
<i>11:30-12:00</i>	Discussions	<i>All participants</i>
Closing ceremony		
<i>12:00-12:15</i>	<i>Recommendations of the 9th National Children's Summit</i>	<i>Child</i>
<i>12:15-12:25</i>	<i>Vote of thanks</i>	<i>Governor</i>
<i>12:25-12:35</i>	<i>Closing Speech</i>	<i>Guest of Honour</i>
<i>12:35</i>	<i>Entertainment, Lunch and Departure</i>	<i>Artists, Hotel & Participants</i>