



Republic of Rwanda

Ministry of Gender and
Family Promotion

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT FY 2022-2023

September, 2023

Our Vision

Creating a conducive environment for family stability, gender equality, and child protection towards sustainable development.

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

Dear Partners,

I am delighted to present the Ministry of Gender and Family promotion's Annual report for the year 2022/2023.

I believe that our collective efforts geared toward achieving a common goal always bring more success; without our political will, and strategic partnership, we couldn't have achieved more as we have seen this year of 2022/2023.

To recognize this, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to our key partners and the entire Ministry staff for your tireless contribution toward achieving our common goal.



Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge

Minister of Gender and Family Promotion

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

AWLN: African Women Leaders Network

CSOs: Civil Society Organizations

DG: Director General

ECD: Early Childhood Development

FBF: Fortified Blended Food

FBOs: Faith-Based Organizations

FY: Financial Year

GBV: Gender-Based Violence

GMAGs: Gender Mainstreaming and Accountability Guidelines

HBECD: Home-Based Early Child Development

HLIs: Higher Learning Institutions

IZU: Inshuti z'Umuryango

MIGEPROF: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion

MUAC: Mid-Upper Arm Circumference

NCDA: National Child Development Agency

NGOs: Non-Government Organizations

NYC: National Youth Council

OVC: Orphans and Vulnerable Children

RIB: Rwanda Investigation Bureau

UWI: Umugoroba w'Imiryango

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Report covers the whole period of the year 2022/23, starting from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. It presents key achievements resulted from putting together our collective efforts toward achieving our common goals in the areas of Gender equality mainstreaming, Family Welfare, GBV & child abuse prevention and response, as well as Women Empowerment.

As revealed, all planned targets in the FY 2022-2023 have been achieved at 99%, the one remaining was due to the budget constraints. Some remarkable achievements in the FY 2022-2023, include 8,455 community members from Northern and Southern provinces were trained on addressing family issues, among them 415 were trainers of trainees (ToT).

In line of fighting against GBV and child abuse, **963** of people (girls, parents and opinion leaders) from 5 districts namely: Nyanza, Nyamasheke, Gakenke, Nyabihu, and Kirehe were reached during GBV clinics. Additionally, a total number of 23,545 (100%) GBV victims who reached IOSCs received integrated services (medical and non-medical services).

To promoting gender equality and women empowerment programs, a number of trainings and community outreaches were organized and conducted in 6 districts (Nyanza, Nyamasheke, Gakenke, Kirehe, Nyabihu, and Ngororero), 598 and 3068 people from different institutions and HLIs respectively were trained on Gender equality related matters

In partnership with IPRC Kigali- Rutongo Campus, MIGEPROF supported 60 women and girls to acquire theories and practical skills and knowledge in mining sector through Joint program with UN agencies and NGM. In women's empowerment related programs, 42 Women in Informal Cross Border Trade cooperatives operating in Rubavu and Rusizi received 62,000,000 and 38,000,000 Frw respectively as capital seeds to enhance their businesses mostly affected by the covid-19.

In child Development and Protection programs, 84% (1,550,332 out of 1,841,434) of under 5 years children were screened for acute malnutrition using MUAC; 88% (146,093.9 out of 166,256) of the children aged 3,6,9,12,15 and 18 months were screened using a length mat for stunting visualization. 554,202 tons of FBF were distributed to 66,828 children with moderate malnutrition and 42,670 pregnant and lactating women in Ubudehe categories 1 &2. Lastly, 210,160 liters of milk served to 4,299 children from all over the country.

O. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion has successfully implemented all interventions as planned in FY 2022/2023 in partnership with its stakeholders. The following are the summary of the key achievements:

I. FAMILY WELFARE AND FIGHT AGAINST GENDER -BASED VIOLENCE

The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003, revised in 2015, establishes the family as the most basic and fundamental unit that maintains the social fabric of Rwandan Society.

During this FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion focused on the implementation of key interventions from its annual action plan, High level dialogue resolutions and NST1 frameworks.

I.1. Strengthening Family Cohesion Interventions

I.1.1. Implementation Status of the Previous recommendations from coordination meetings

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion conducted field visits in all provinces and City of Kigali to assess the implementation status of the previous recommendations from coordination meetings. Recommendations included strategies to speed up the implementation of agreed interventions.

Key findings related to family promotion in all Provinces and City of Kigali

As clearly indicated, some resolutions taken during coordination meetings were implemented as agreed, however, a few ones still need more efforts.

Key recommendations identified to address the issues

- Mobilize families living in illegal unions to legalize their marriage;
- Prevent polygamy and drunkenness which are mostly sources of conflicts in the community ;
- Collaboration with key partners (CSOs, FBOs) in fighting against family conflicts;
- Raise awareness on family planning and reproductive health;
- Breaking silence and mediation on GBV cases between GBV victims and perpetrators;
- Educate families to prepare a healthy diet to eradicate malnutrition and stunting;

I.1.2. Dialogue with key stakeholders on Family-related issues at provincial and city of Kigali levels

In compliance with the 3rd resolution of the 14th National UMUSHYIKIRANO council, recommending “to build a closer partnership between the Public Sector, Parents, Teachers, Private Sector, NGOs, Civil Society, and Faith-Based Organizations to strengthen Rwandan families”, from 2017/2018 FY, from then, MIGEPROF annually organizes coordination meetings with Provinces and City of Kigali to discuss family-related issues including gender-based violence and child abuse, teenage pregnancy, malnutrition among children, street children phenomena, among others.

In the 2022-2023 FY, coordination meetings were organized and conducted at provincial and city of Kigali levels. A total of 116; 88; 88; 96; and 56 representatives (from central, Local government, NGOs, and FBOs) from Eastern, Southern, Western, Northern provinces and City of Kigali respectively participated in coordination meetings of 2022-2023.



Hon. Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette delivering her remarks in Dialogue.

In her remarks, Hon. Minister. Prof Bayisenge Jeannette thanked partners for the vital role they have played in implementing resolutions from the coordination meeting held on 17th February 2022 and supporting other home-grown solutions established in fighting against family-related issues.



Mayors of Districts from Eastern province in Dialogue



Participants in Dialogue coordination meeting

Key resolutions from coordination meetings:

- Develop a strategic plan involving all key partners to find sustainable solutions to problems, especially teenage pregnancies, justice to GBV cases, and report timely;
- Establish new ECDs mainly at the village level (HBECDs) and reduce malnutrition
- Strengthen existing forums and community structures such as UWI, CNF, NYC, and IZU to resolve family-related issues existing in their communities;
- Collaborate with other partners to strengthen families and increase capacities in conflict management, family planning, legal marriage, child welfare, and accountability for all opinion leaders.

I.1.3. Operationalization of Umugoroba w'Imiryango (UWI)

In line of assessing the functionality of Umugoroba w'Imiryango (UWI), the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion conducted field visits in 16 Districts in this 2022/2023 (Rulindo, Gakenke, Musanze, Burera, Gicumbi, Kirehe, Gatsibo, Ngoma, Rubavu, Nyabihu, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe, Kayonza, Nyagatare, Kicukiro and Nyarugenge).



BATAMULIZA Mireille (PS-MIGEPROF) Participated in UWI (Nyarugenge District, Mpazi Village)

Achievements on the operationalization of UWI

- ✓ Positive mindset, formed saving groups and credit schemes and they pay common health insurance scheme (MUSA through UWI);
- ✓ Families have legalized their marriage;
- ✓ Families have been helped to leave from conflicts through UWI.

Challenges that hinder better functionality of UWI:

- ✓ Low participation of men, youth and children in the UWI forum;
- ✓ The wrong perception of some men regarding UWI missions;
- ✓ Skills gap among committee members of UWI about gender equality and women empowerment;

Recommendations for better functionality of the UWI forum:

- 1) UWI forum must be conducted in each village rather than combining villages;
- 2) Engage local leaders in the mobilization of men and youth to participate in UWI sessions;
- 3) Re-thinking about the methodology of delivering messages in UWI forums, especially for youth

I.1.4. Capacity Development of Community -Based structures Representatives/ UWI

Through the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, Rwanda introduced a home-grown initiative known as Umugoroba w'Imiryango (UWI) (Families' Evening Forum) that intends to build a safe and resilient family.

To enhance the capacity of UWI committee members in this FY 2022-2023, MIGEPROF trained 8,455 committee members among them 415 were trainers of trainees (ToT) from Northern and Southern province. The trainees acquired skills to prevent and respond to family-related issues in the community.

At District, the training was done for the Vice Mayor in charge of social affairs, the Director of Good governance, the Gender and Family Promotion Officer, Coordinator of CNF, Coordinator

NYC; At the Sector level, Coordinator of CNF and staff in charge of Social Affairs, Coordinator NYC and Representative of FBOs; At village level, President and Vice-President of UWI committee.

Table 1: level of participation in UWI training.

No	District	Training Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
ToT/ Northern province		65	120	185
ToT/ Southern province		74	156	230
Sub-Total/ ToT		139	276	415
1	Gakenke	984	732	1,716
2	Rulindo	792	612	1,404
3	Gicumbi	1,167	780	1,947
4	Musanze	669	581	1,243
5	Burera	1,010	713	1,723
Sub-Total		4,622	3,418	8,040
TOTAL		4,761	3,694	8,455

Table 1 shows the total number of participants in UWI training. A total number of **8,455** participants including **4,761** males and **3,694** females representing **56%** and **44%** respectively.



DG Aline UMUTONI, delivers her opening remarks in UWI training -Rulindo district



Participants in UWI training conducted on 11th January 2023, in Rulindo District

Recommendations from participants:

- 1) Conduct refresher trainings related to their mission in the community on quarterly basis
- 2) Provision of materials to UWI committee members such as registers, notebooks, pens, specified uniforms for UWI committee members, and training materials;
- 3) Provide communication facilities (Telephone and airtime) to UWI committee members

I.1.5. The training of Gender and Family Promotion Officers at district level on family promotion, GBV prevention and child protection

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, in collaboration with PROFEMMES TWESEHAMWE, organized capacity-building training program for the district staff in charge of Gender and Family Promotion in Northern, Western and City of Kigali. The training enhanced their understanding on various topics related to family promotion, GBV prevention and response and child protection, enabling them to effectively support and empower Rwandan community to build safe and resilient families. The training took place at Grand Legacy Hotel in Kigali, from 20th to 21st June 2023, and only 18 out of 30 expected participants attended this training.



Hon. Minister, Prof Jeannette Bayisenge delivering her opening remarks in training

I.1.6. Follow up on reintegration of Families in IDP Model Villages.

To ensure the general welfare of family members living in IDP model villages, the Ministry of Gender and Family promotion regularly conduct a follow up of the reintegrated families in IDPMVs as tasked by the PMO. In the 2022-2023 FY, MIGEPROF team visited 6 IDPMVs (Gishuro, Karama, Cyivugiza, Munini, Rugerero and Horezo).

Major Challenges identified during IDP villages Model field visits:

- Some building technical defects in Karama IDP Model village (Water systems leaks into walls and affecting houses; inadequate Pipe connected to septic tanks)
- Ineffective walls separating rooms of parents and children; no secrecy especially for the master bedroom
- Lack of multipurpose hall and playground in some IDP village model (mention IDPMV that lack them...);
- The high price of water which affects raring and farming activities (mention names of these IDPMV)
- There is a lack of basic infrastructures like electricity, Agakiriro etc;

I.2. Strengthen Gender-Based Violence, Child abuse Prevention, and response mechanisms

One of the main issues that has a negative impact on the family well-being is Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which includes economic, physical, sexual, and psychological forms of abuse and human rights violations. To eradicate this issue, the Rwandan government established a solid legal framework and supported all-encompassing strategies that put an emphasis on adequate prevention, protection, and response.

Following are some crucial initiatives that were successfully carried out in fighting against Gender-Based Violence during FY 2022–2023

I.2.1. Support GBV & Child abuse victims to access Medical Services and Non- Medical Services

The Government of Rwanda established ISANGE One Stop Centers (IOSCs) at District Hospitals as a holistic solution to timely support GBV victims with medical and non-medical services as a way of saving their life. Currently 48 IOSCs were established and are operational.

This year, a total number of **23,545 (100%) GBV** victims from July to April, 2022/2023 FY that reached at IOSCs received integrated services (medical and non-medical services).

I.2.2. Conducting GBV clinics on fighting against economical, physical, emotional, and sexual violences

Every year, MIGEPROF with partners conduct community outreach in fighting all forms GBV with a focus on teen mothers and their children. These were provided with different services at the site, namely psychosocial counseling, HIV and other non-communicable diseases testing, legal advices and orientation, information on sexual and reproductive health, child civil registration, among others.

In FY 2022-2023, GBV clinics were conducted in Nyanza, Nyamasheke, Gakenke, Nyabihu, and Kirehe Districts.

Teen mothers, parents, local leaders and stakeholders got opportunity to discuss and propose solutions such as reintegrating children back into their homes, as well as the role of community and local leaders in preventing and responding to GBV and child abuse.

During GBV clinics, **1 out of 235** people were tested on Hepatitis is sick; **5 out of 283** people tested on HIV were infected. Additionally; a total of **132** ten mother got a support for civil registration.

Table 2: Participation of GBV victims (teenagers) and their Parents in GBV Clinics

District	Teenagers	Parents	Total
Nyanza	130	82	212
Nyamasheke	100	100	200
Gakenke	93	162	255
Kirehe	74	100	174
Nyabihu	70	52	122
Total	467	496	963

The table 2 shows that 467 and 496 Parents teenagers, and teen mothers received services amid the event.



Closing GBV Clinics in KIREHE district



Hon. Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette in closing event of GBV Clinics/ NYABIHU

I.2.3. Celebrate the international days related to families (IDGC, DAC,16 days of activism)

I.2.3.1. International Day of Girl Child (IDGC)

International Day of a Girl Child celebration held at Musanze District on 11 October 2022 under the theme " *My health my dignity*"/*Ubuzima byanjye, agaciro kanjye*. Around 2000 people including parents, children, and leaders at different levels attended and equipped with messages around the theme.



Remarks of the Guest of Honor, First Lady of Rwanda, H.E Jeannette Kagame

H.E Jeannette Kagame appreciated the efforts made towards the empowerment of the girl child. *"Supporting girls is not ignoring boys, having a dedicated day for a girl does not mean ignoring the boy, instead of being stuck with that, let us take our time to evaluate the steps we have taken so far and reflect on persistent hindrances which hinder a girl on the same path as her brother"*. She spoke.



Hon. Minister Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge Minister-MIGEPROF delivering her remarks

“Promoting reproductive health among young people is everyone's responsibility”, Hon. Minister Prof. Jeannette BAYISENGE said.

It is also important to provide young people, both boys and girls, with all the needed information for them to be able to deal with Gender-Based Violence that they may be subjected to and its consequences.



Best performing girls were awarded and posed in a group photo with HE Jeannette Kagame with other leaders

1.2.3.2. Day of African Child (DAC)

Friday 16th June, 2023 the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion through the National Child Development Agency marked the Day of the African Child, under the theme *"The Rights of the Child in the digital environment"*, as selected by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).



DG-NCDA, UMUTONI GATSINZI Nadine emphasized the need to protect children's rights in the digital era. "*Because technology has become an essential part of our daily lives, there is no way we can deny our children the benefits that come with it. However, we must be proactive in ensuring our children's online safety*". she pointed out.

At national level, a reflection meeting with stakeholders from government institutions, Civil Society Organizations, development partners, Private Sector, media and children was organized to stimulate their commitments towards the realization of children's rights in the digital environment. The day was celebrated at Radisson Blue Hotel.



Hon. Minister Prof. Jeannette BAYISENGE launched, the three-month Child Online Protection campaign (June to September 2023), she urged participants to spread the message to their home "*The Child Online Protection is everyone's responsibility*".

Closing remarks, Hon Minister - MIGEPROF

1.2.3.3. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (16 Days of Activism)

On 25th November 2022, Rwanda joined the rest of the world Countries to kick-off 16 days of raising awareness against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which is significantly increase year by year.

The 16 Days of activism was launched in Nyamasheke District, Kagano Sector and preceded by two (2) days of GBV clinics. The National theme for the fiscal year 2022-203 is: **“Unite. Build a violence-free society”**. Kinyarwanda version is: **“Dufatanye Twubake umuryango uzira ihohotera”**. Among other things, Hon. Minister. Prof. Jeannette BAYISENGE highlighted the teenage pregnancy being one of the main challenges, pointing out the synergy among stakeholders from central government closely working with local administrative entities to address it. She cited domestic conflicts as the main cause, and urged all stakeholders including civil society, faith-based organizations, opinion leaders and educators to be involved in tackling the root causes from the grassroots level.



Kick-off 16 days of raising awareness against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Services delivered during the GBV clinic @ Nyamasheke District

- ✓ Health care services (38 teen mothers received family planning services, 38 teen mothers took family planning services, 100 teen mothers have been tested for HIV/AIDS, 90 teen mothers have been tested for Diabetes, 100 teen mothers have been tested for hepatitis B&C);
- ✓ Legal Services: 41 cases (services delivered by RIB);
- ✓ Civil Registration: 51 teen mothers served;
- ✓ Counseling services: 22 People were served;

I.2.4. Child Development and Protection Interventions

I.2.4.1. Implementation of Child scorecard model

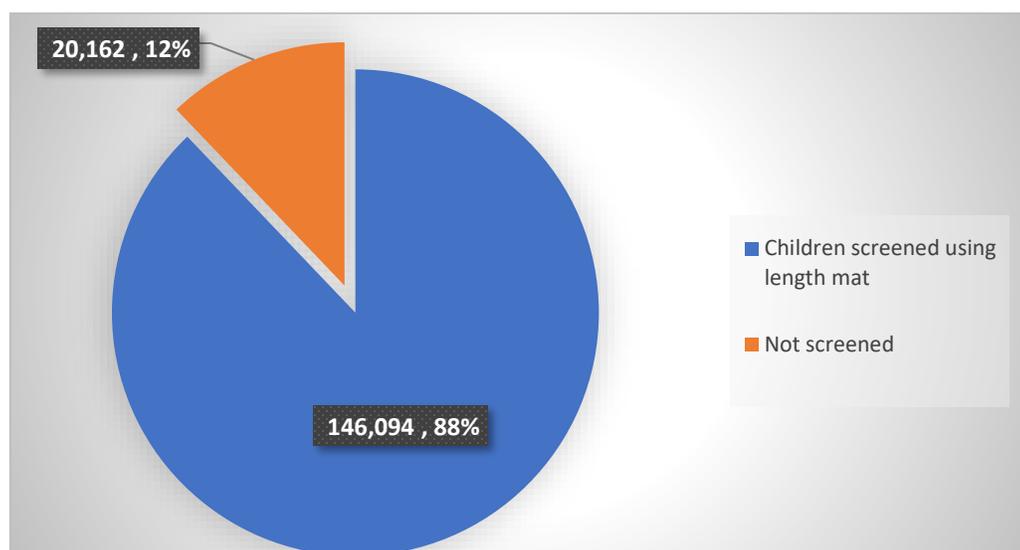
In partnership with partners, National Child Development Agency initiated Child scorecard model to track interventions received by children under 2 years old and pregnant women (in period of first 1000 days of life). This Model facilitates data gathering and analysis for evidence-based and forward-looking intervention planning for stunting prevention. Also, it uses child scorecard and dashboard at village, cell, sector and district level to make sure nutrition data is discussed by key stakeholders and solutions and guidance are provided on time. The activity was fully implemented across the country; **100%** (14,837 out of 14,837 villages) were reached in rolled out child score card activity.

I.2.4.2. Strengthening child growth monitoring for all children under 5 years' old

The Length Mat was introduced in Rwanda as community tool for child growth monitoring, and encourage timely action to prevent malnutrition and stunting. The Child Length Mat allows families and communities to understand to what extent a child is on target for normal length-for-age progress over time. Throughout the year, **84%** (1,550,332) of under 5 years children screened for acute malnutrition using MUAC.

In same year, **88%** (146,094) of the children aged 3,6,9,12,15 and 18 months were screened using a length mat for stunting visualization.

Proportion Of Children Screened Using Length Mat for Stunting Visualization



I.2.4.3. Provision of Nutrition commodities

In framework of prevention and response mechanisms of stunting among children under 5 years old, the Government of Rwanda through National Child Development Agency, provides nutrition commodities to pregnant and lactating women and children who have reached age of complimentary feeding (between 6-24 Months) in Ubudehe Category 1 & 2.

Table 3: Children and Women received FBF

Pregnant and lactating women received FBF	Children received FBF	Total tons of FBF distributed
42,670	66,828	554,202

As clearly shown in Table, **554,202 tons** distributed to **66,828 children** and **42,6704** children Under the Program of supporting children under five with moderate malnutrition with milk. The following chart is showing the total beneficiaries who received milk support.

Table 4: Milk support for Children with moderate Malnutrition

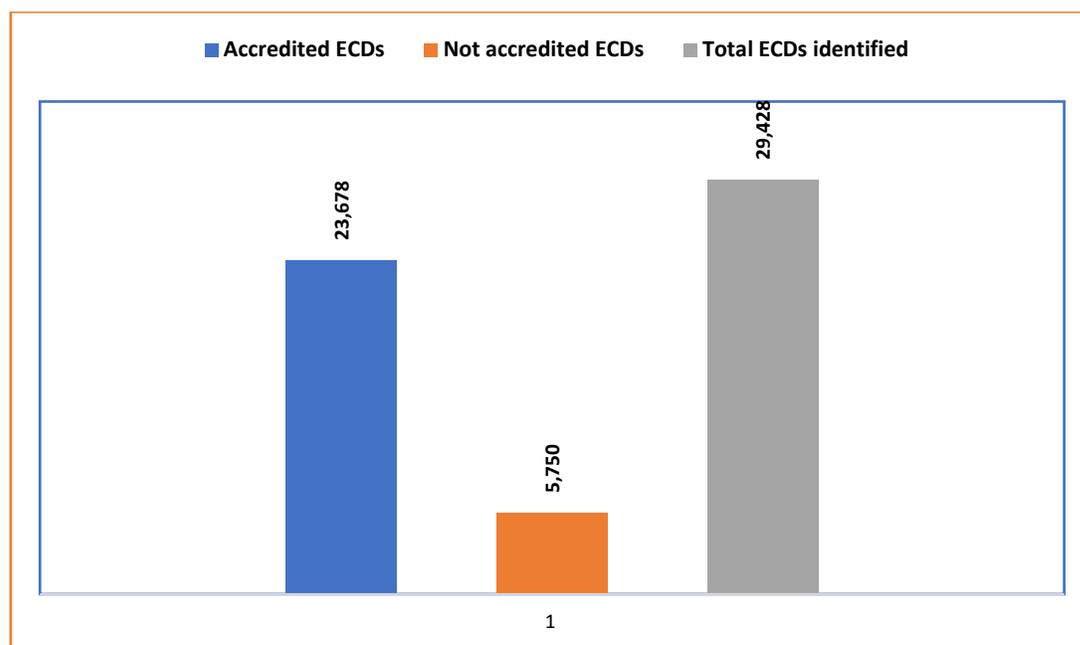
Number of Children received milk support	Quantity of milk distributed (in Litres)
4,299	210,160

As clearly indicated in the above Table, **210,160 liters** of milk served to **4,299** children to save their lives.

I.2.4.4. Improving the quality of integrated ECD services provision

The Early childhood development services provide education and care to children in the family and or in the temporary absence of their parents or adult caregivers. These services are holistic and also demonstrate appreciation of the importance of considering the child's health, nutrition, education, psychosocial support and other needs within the context of the family and the community.

Accredited and not Accredited ECD Settings to the minimum Quality Standards



In 2022-2023, Only **80.5% (23,678 out of 29,428)** of ECD settings countrywide were accredited to the minimum quality standards by MIGEPROF through NCDA

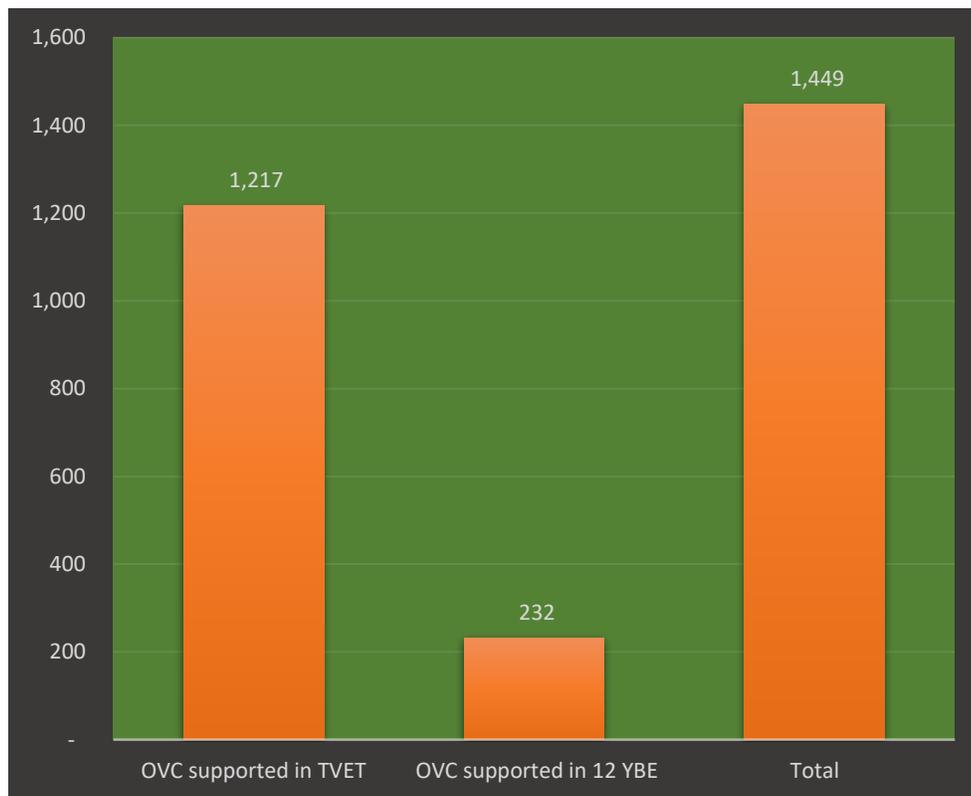
To improve the quality services delivery in ECDs, **15,128 people** (9,063 caregivers and 6,065 parents committee leaders) were trained on services delivery, early screening and referral of children with disabilities and positive parenting.

In FY 2022-2023, by mobilizing parents to enroll their children in ECDs, after supervision made, figures showed that **86% (1,231,236 out of 1,425,212)** of children 3-6 years per village attend ECD facilities/settings (Home, community, center based).

To provide the capacity related to nurturing care and stimulation, and protection from abuse, in ECD facilities and at home, **51.3%** (630,769.7 out of 1,229,354) of parents with children aged 0-35 months received messages on brain stimulation and positive parenting through home visitations by CHWs.

I.2.4.5. Improving quality family-based child care and protection system

During the reporting year of 2022/2023, 213 out of 121 identified children (63 from orphanages & 150 from detention centers) were reintegrated into families. NCDCA supported also 1449 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) to ensure the effective education of needy children, particularly orphans and other vulnerable children. In all, a total of 1217 OVC received school fees in Vocational Training (TVET) and 232 OVC-supported with school meals in 12 Years of Basic Education.



This graph shows beneficiaries supported both in TVET and in 12 YBE.

II. GENDER PROMOTION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

II.1. Gender Mainstreaming ensured across the sectors and community

II.1.1. Develop and disseminate a National Gender Mainstreaming Minimum Standards

In Rwanda, much efforts have been invested in gender mainstreaming across sectors. Since 2013, Rwanda institutionalized the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) Program, through the adoption of the Organic Law n° 12/2013/OL/ of 12/09/2013 on state finances and property. This Law endorses the obligation to all Ministries and Districts to prepare Gender Budget Statements (GBS) along with the Budget as a way of enforcing Gender Responsive Programming (GBS is one of the twelve annexes of the Budget Framework Paper). GBS is a tool for achieving Gender Responsive Budgeting required of all budget agencies to indicate the institution's commitment to addressing gender issues and bridging gender disparities in their respective areas of intervention. Gender responsive budgeting covers a variety of areas including legislation, policies and programs. The objective is to ensure that state resources are shared equitably and that strategic and practical needs of women and men, girls and boys are effectively addressed through accountability and transparency mechanisms in the determination of government priorities and public spending.

Gender Mainstreaming and Accountability Guideline developed for different socio-economic sectors in Rwanda sets requirements to promote gender equality, accountability and guide Stakeholders to assess their current status and set realistic targets in their respective domain. The Guideline will encompass generic standards that cut across all the sectors and sector-specific standards tailored to the context and particular considerations of each sector.

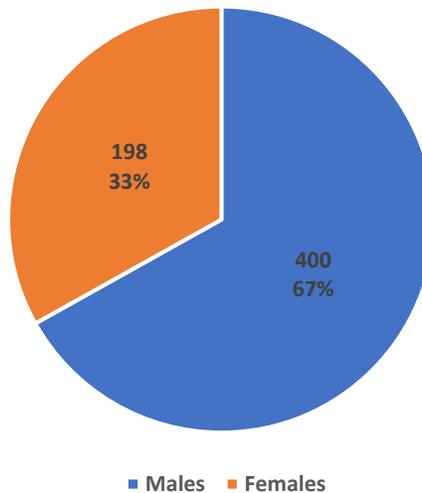
II.1.2. Community Outreach on Gender Equity Promotion targeting Local Government Authorities

Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) in 2022-2023 FY, conducted community outreach on gender equality in various Districts including Nyanza, Nyamasheke, Gakenke, Kirehe, Nyabihu, and Ngororero to increase knowledge and understanding of the concept of Gender, eliminate any form of violence, especially Gender-Based Violence.

The training was attended by 598 people among them 198 were females and 400 males counterparts from local government in 6 Districts to village level including Director of Good Governance, Gender Officer and staff in charge of MAJ at District level, Sector

Executive Secretaries, RIB Representative at Sector level, Staff in charge of Social Affairs at Sector level, Coordinators of National Women Council, Coordinators of National Youth Council, National Council of People of with Disabilities at Sector and Cell level, Staff in Charge of Security/DASSO at Sector level, Representatives of Faith Based organizations, Forum of families' evening representatives, Community Health Workers and Chief of villages.

Participants in Gender equality training



DG Silas NGAYABOSHYA (From MIGEPROF) and KAYITESI Nadine, Vice Mayor in Charge of Social Affairs in Nyanza District during their official opening of the training

II.1.3. Community Outreach to High Learning Institutions on Gender Equality Promotion.

In march 2023, MIGEPROF conducted Gender Equality Dialogue in higher learning institutions that bring together students, lecturers and staff to discuss Gender Promotion, Women Empowerment, and Gender-Based Violence prevention and response. This activity reached 17 higher learning institutions across the country and 3,068 students and Staff attended the trainings.

The purpose of the training, were to help the students to understand and share their views on Gender Equality Promotion and about GBV, its consequences, prevention, and response mechanisms in place.

Table 5: Participants attended a lecture on Gender equality in HLIs

No	HLI	Males	Females	Total
1	AKILAH	43	44	87
2	ULK	276	299	575
3	Mount Kenya University (MKU)	66	145	211
4	AUCA	234	207	441
5	KIBOGORA POLYTECHNIC	62	74	136
6	UTB	126	200	326
7	University of Kigali (UoK)	44	73	117
8	MUHABURA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE(MIPC)	88	46	134
9	Catholic University of Rwanda	38	69	107
10	PIASS	57	54	111
11	UNILAK	115	108	223
12	INES	166	243	409
13	GITWE	116	84	200
	TOTAL	1,422	1,646	3,068

The table above shows that, **3068** Participants including young men, young women and staff in high learning institutions participated in Gender equality related training, where a number of Females stands at 53.6% (1,646 out of 3,068 against 46.3% of Males).



DG. Silas NGAYABOSHYA delivering dialogue at Mount Kenya University



Participants in Dialogues (MKU)



Gender Equality Promotion Dialogue in ULK on 20th March 2023

After changing their mind set on gender concepts especially gender equality between men and women, participants have committed to be agents of change and extend the training to the community in large. Some of their commitments are:

- 1) combating/ preventing GBV and child abuse, and encourage reporting of GBV cases.
- 2) supporting and increasing community awareness on gender and men and young boys be agents of change that promote gender equality and women empowerment in the community.
- 3) Elaborating action plans as per cells of sectors to ensure the above commitments are well implemented

II.1.4. The 50 million African Women Speak

The Ministry of Gender and Family promotion implements 50 million Women Speak (50MWS) Project that across 3 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) namely COMESA, EAC, and ECOWAS whose development objective is to contribute to the economic empowerment of African women through the provision of a networking platform to access information on financial and non-financial services.

Through a two-day training took place on February 6th and 7th, 2023, MIGEPROF, in collaboration with the PSF specialized cluster (a grouping of women, youth, and people with disabilities) trained 40 women entrepreneurs on the platform; with the specific objective of reducing/ limiting the burden of learning, accessing information and services that women face when doing business, enabling women to run their home-based businesses and their social circumstances, and sharing practical experiences and lessons learned from online business.



50 million African Women Speak Participants



DG. Silas NGAYABOSHYA facilitating training

II.1.5. Support women and girls to acquire practical knowledge, and skills in the Mining sector

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) through the 2021 Revised National Gender Policy recognized that women are limited in key and better paid employment positions including the mining sector, and this led the sector to undertake measures that ensure equal and effective participation of women and men; girls and boys; in all environmental protection and natural resources programmes.

In partnership with IPRC Kigali- Rutongo Campus, under the joint program on gender, MIGEPROF supported the first cohort composed of 60 women and girls to acquire skills and knowledge in mining sector. The second cohort of 60 women and girl is still learning. This has increased not only women and girls' knowledge in mining related field, but also their potential of getting decent and well-paying jobs, that will improve their social and family wellbeing.



DG Silas NGAYABOSHYA was speaking to trainees at Rutongo mines school

On April 21, 2023, a team from MIGEPROF visited Rutongo Mines School to assess project implementation success for the second cohort, and also identify early changes that need to be made to facilitate learning for the next generation

II.1.6. Support Women in Informal Cross Border Trade (WICBT)

Women in Informal Cross-Border Trade (WICBT) is a National Women's Council (NWC) project that provides support to various women cooperatives through various channels such as capacity building and direct financial support to ensure the efficiency and improved effects of cross-border trade on women cooperative members.

1015 Graduates received their initial capital cheques of 62,000,000 Rwf for Rubavu cooperatives and 38,000,000 Rwf for Rusizi during a graduation ceremony that took place February 16th and 17th, 2023 for Rubavu and Rusizi women, respectively.



Hon. Minister. Prof. BAYISENGE Jeannette in WICBT Graduation ceremony in Rubavu District

Hon. Minister. Prof. BAYISENGE Jeannette urged cooperatives that got starting capital support to spend it appropriately and generate greater revenues to support them in their development through innovations, use of technology, and being exceptional.

II.1.7. Rwanda Women Leaders Network Summit and launch of AWLN

On March 1, 2023, the Rwanda Women Leaders Network (RWLN) hosted its second annual summit at Intare Arena, with the theme "Building the Next Generation of Women Leaders." The summit gathered 233 women leaders, with the intention to empowering young women and encouraging those currently in positions of leadership to share their experiences and success stories. The summit was comprised of the launch of the African Women Leaders Network, Rwanda Chapter as well as review of the progress and achievements of the Rwanda Women Leaders Network.



In her opening remarks, at the launch of AWLN Hon. Minister of Gender and Family Promotion/ Chair of RWLN Prof. Jeannette BAYISENGE emphasized on its objectives, which are to provide peer learning, support, and mentoring of young women in different aspects of leadership including political, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

II.1.7.1. Launch of AWLN / Rwanda Chapter

H.E Madame Jeannette Kagame, Rwanda's First Lady, emphasized the significance of providing opportunities for success to all girls and women while understanding and appreciating diversity. To ensure long-term success, she encourages the development of new initiatives as well as the continuation of present projects. Additionally, she highlighted the importance of knowing what women need, supporting each other, and seeking the support of men through the "He for She".



H.E Jeannette Kagame, the First Lady of Rwanda and Guest of Honor



Participants in the official launch of AWLN, March 1st ,2023 at INTARE Conference Arena

Resolutions and way forward from RWLN Summit

1. To continue organizing dialogues for young women and strengthen mentorship programs as a key strategy for building the next generation of women leaders.
2. Developing a plan of action and strategy to be shared with UN Women to identify areas where support is needed and to work together to lift leadership to the next level.
3. Providing training and mentorship to newly elected women in different leadership positions.
4. Document the women's story of the transformational development in Rwanda since the genocide against the Tutsis in 1994.
5. Design tailored programs to support women economically, especially in the agriculture sector.
6. Provide platforms for women leaders to discuss the triple roles of women (parents, educators, and leaders).
7. Strengthening the NWC structure to help in the mentorship program, especially at the grassroots level

II.1.8. Development of WEM-TECH strategy

The Government of Rwanda has made strong political commitment to accelerate the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment, which the country considers as a factor for sustainable development in the lead up to a knowledge-based economy, leveraged ICT to fast-track development and become Africa ICT hub. Based on the fact that Digital technologies are increasingly being applied to transform processes with enormous potential for women's socio-economic empowerment, there is a need to have Women included in this digital ecosystem as innovators, designers, developers beyond simply using or accessing technology to improve their daily lives.

To spot this, MIGEPROF established the WEM-TECH strategy in partnership with UNWOMEN, MINICT, and other stakeholders, with the goal of serving as a "roadmap towards closing the gender digital divide" focusing on young girls and women in all their diversities: urban and rural, in schools and out of schools, scholars, educated and uneducated... For the next five years, the WEM-TECH strategy will be centered on only a few major sectors where women are playing a prominent role and where digitization has a substantial impact. Education, Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Health, and Finance are among the sectors chosen. However, given that gender and ICTs are cross cutting issues, other sectors should also use this strategy in contributing to this goal of bridging of the digital divide in our country.

II.1.9. Implementation of international and national commitments

II.1.9.1. Participation in the Conference of the Commission on The Status of Women (CSW 67)

The 67th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67), the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, took place this year from 6 – 17 March in New York City, US under the theme, "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

The event brought together leaders from across sectors, including governments, civil society organizations, women's rights activists, UN agencies, and the Private sector to highlight the critical role of multi-stakeholders' partnerships in advancing gender equality in the digital world.

MIGEPROF's Minister delivered Speech that focused on the women's Deliver Conference that is planned to take place in Kigali in July 2023 (Available at link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnSYYitxhOc>)



Hon. Minister Prof. BAYISENGE Jeannette presenting in CSW 67 at New York/USA

Participants of CSW67 held at New York/USA

II.1.9.2. Implementation of Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) presented Rwanda's 7th report on Gender Equality in Africa, in accordance with the Solemn Declaration of 2004. This report focuses on the year 2022. Since the initial report in 2016, the GoR has been actively enacting and revising laws, policies, and strategies to remove barriers and promote gender equality and women's rights as outlined in the Solemn Declaration. The report emphasizes Rwanda's significant achievements, challenges, and proposed actions for the future in implementing the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa from January to December 2022 in the area of HIV / AIDS and other related infectious diseases, Peace and security, Child soldiers, Gender based violence, Gender parity principle, Human rights of women, Land, property, and inheritance rights, Education, The protocol to the African charter on human and peoples' right on the rights of women in Africa.

II.1.9.3. Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in Rwanda

Rwanda became a state party to the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2000. Subsequently, in 2009, the country developed a three-year National Action Plan (NAP) specifically tailored to the implementation of UNSCR 1325. In March 2019, the second generation of the National Action Plan (NAP) for UNSCR 1325, covering the period 2018-2022, was launched to reinforce the Women's Peace and Security Agenda. This reporting year marks the conclusion of the second NAP, and the Government of Rwanda has begun the evaluation process to guide the preparation of the third NAP. This year, the Rwandan government, through the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, developed a progress report on the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda that covered the year 2022 and was submitted to the African Union Commission/Office of Special Envoy (OSE) on Women, Peace, and Security.

This progress report on the implementation of women, peace, and security has been structured primarily around three sections: background information, pillar level information (Prevention pillar, Participation pillar, Protection pillar, and Relief and Recovery pillar), and integration of Women, Peace, and Security in emerging security threats.

II.1.9.4. Celebration of International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day established by the United Nations in 1972, to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, while also making a call to action for strengthening gender equality and accelerating women's empowerment.

On March 8th, 2023, Rwanda joined the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day under the theme: "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality". This year's celebration aims to highlight the role of innovation and technology in advancing gender equality and empowering women. At national level, the ceremonies were held in Nyagatare district.

Speaking ahead of the event, the Hon. Minister of ICT and Innovation, Ingabire Paula, emphasized the importance of celebrating women's achievements and empowering them to take on leadership roles in the ICT sector.



Paula Ingabire, the Hon. Minister of ICT and Innovation delivering key remarks

“A digital economy without the full participation of women cannot scale to reach its full potential. We need to keep empowering women in the technology sector and ensure that they have equal access to education, training, employment opportunities, digital financial services, and access to information”, She said.



Other items distributed during IWD 2023 celebration

- ✓ A financial grant of **101,060,000 Rwf** was given to 10 cooperatives;
- ✓ **40 cows, 50 goats 8 chickens;**
- ✓ **39 mobile telephones** donated to CNF coordinators (in Nyagatare Sector),
Ndabaga
- ✓ **20 Gaz stoves;**
- ✓ **38 bags of Cements**
- ✓ **2650 Kg of beans and 2650 Kg of Maize**

III. STRENGTHENING COORDINATION MECHANISM

III.1. National Gender and Family cluster

The National Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC) is a coordination mechanism that aims at supporting the Gender Machinery, and key stakeholders in promoting gender equality, family promotion, child rights promotion and protection, and women empowerment as well as utilizing partners' synergies to improve interventions, synergize and avoid duplication. It is made-up of three sub-clusters, namely gender and Women empowerment, family promotion and GBV prevention and response sub-cluster as well as child development and protection. All these convene quarterly basis to assess the challenges identified and the strategies that should be undertaken in a specific area of intervention.

During the 2022-2023 FY, quarterly meetings have been conducted in all sub-clusters and discussed gender and family-related matters and agreed on the strategic interventions to reduce gender gaps and fight against family-related issues.

III.2. Positioning gender and family promotion in planning and budgeting processes

Gender equality promotion is mainstreamed in every year's action plans of public institutions through consultations with concerned leading sectors. During this FY 2022/23, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in partnership with its affiliated agencies reviewed the sectors strategic plans to strengthen the compliance and ensure Nutrition, Gender and Family promotion related interventions are mainstreamed into their plans for FY 2023/2024.

CONCLUSION

The financial year 2022-2023 was marked by great achievements in Gender and Family Promotion, Children's Rights Protection and Women Promotion and Economic Empowerment with financial and non-financial resources investment.

Despite of achievements presented above, there are still challenges that continue to undermine the plans toward reaching some targets.

In order to create a society free from Gender inequality, stunting, all forms of Gender-Based Violence, and negative gender stereotypes that will result in safe and resilient families, the Rwandan government continues to build strategic partnership and engage communities and families for their own development.

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