



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Gender and
Family Promotion

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT FY 2023-2024

July,2024

Our Vision

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

MINISTER'S FOREWORD



Dear Partners,

I am honored to present the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion's Annual Report for the fiscal year 2023/2024. This report reflects the combined strength of our partnerships, the unwavering dedication of our Ministry staff, and the steadfast commitment of our leadership to creating a safer and more equitable Rwanda. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders and partners whose tireless efforts have been instrumental in making significant strides in our shared mission.

While we celebrate our achievements, we remain conscious of the challenges that still persist in our communities. Issues such as gender-based violence, child defilement, and stunting continue to impact the lives of many. Yet, with the leadership of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and our collective resolve, we have made meaningful progress in addressing these concerns.

As we move forward, I urge all of us to renew our commitment to promoting gender equality and strengthening family resilience. Let us continue to work together, fostering a culture of respect, support, and empowerment for every Rwandan family. By doing so, we contribute to building the "Rwanda we want", a nation where every individual thrives in a secure and supportive environment.

Together, we will achieve even greater success in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

UWIMANA Consolée

Minister of Gender and Family Promotion

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

CNF: National women’s council

FBOs: Faith-Based Organizations

FY: Financial Year

GBV: Gender-Based Violence

GEWE: Gender and Women Empowerment

GMO: Gender Monitoring Office

HLIs: Higher Learning Institutions

IDP: Integrated Development Project

IPRC: Integrated Polytechnic Regional College

IOSCs: ISANGE One Stop Centers

IZU: Inshuti z’ Umuryango (Friends of Families)

RALGA: Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities

RIB: Rwanda investigation Bureau

MIGEPROF: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion

MINECOFIN: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

MINEDUC: Ministry of Education

MINICOM: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

MINICT: Ministry of ICT and Innovation

NCDA: National Child Development Agency

NGFC: National Gender and family cluster

NGOs: Non-Government Organizations

NST2: National Strategy for Transformation II

NWC: National Women’s Council

NYC: National Youth Council

PBCC: Planning and Budgeting Call Circular

RISA: Rwanda Information Society Authority

UUU: Umuryango Ushoboye kandi Utekanye

UWI: Umugoroba w’Imiryango

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) has continued its mission to promote gender equality, prevent gender-based violence (GBV), support victims, and empower women through various programs and initiatives. Key efforts have focused on strengthening GBV and child abuse prevention and response mechanisms, enhancing local leaders' skills, supporting victims, and conducting outreach activities.

In the 2023/24 fiscal year, 50 ISANGE One Stop Centers (IOSCs) across the country provided medical care and psychosocial support to 35,178 GBV victims. Additionally, 26,092 local leaders and community members received training on family promotion, gender equality, GBV prevention, and response. Training sessions targeted 1,059 participants from 12 districts to enhance the capacities of security personnel in GBV prevention and response. Furthermore, MIGEPROF conducted GBV clinics in multiple districts, offering services like counseling, legal advice, and health testing to vulnerable groups.

MIGEPROF also promoted positive parenting, child rights, and family stability through dialogue sessions in collaboration with district leaders. The ministry's gender promotion and women empowerment programs focused on mainstreaming gender across various sectors, enhancing gender analytical skills, and engaging the media to ensure balanced coverage. Training and outreach activities targeted local leaders, government officials, students, and religious leaders to foster gender equality and GBV prevention.

Internship opportunities were provided to 100 fresh graduates to build leadership skills, and women and girls received training in mining and other sectors to promote economic empowerment. Support for women in cross-border trade was also strengthened, with capacity-building workshops conducted for women entrepreneurs to enhance their business skills and financial literacy.

MIGEPROF actively participated in the development and dissemination of policies like the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) strategy to improve women's access to finance. Participation in international forums such as the Conference on the Status of Women (CSW 68) further highlighted Rwanda's progress in gender equality.

Coordination mechanisms were strengthened through the National Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC) and by integrating gender considerations into the planning and budgeting processes of public institutions. These efforts demonstrate MIGEPROF's commitment to advancing its mandate in gender equality, child protection, and women's empowerment across Rwanda.

0. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In alignment with Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation and Vision 2050, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) has successfully implemented its interventions planned for the fiscal year 2023/2024. These efforts, realized through robust partnerships with various stakeholders, underscore MIGEPROF's dedication to fostering gender equality and enhancing family welfare. By addressing critical areas such as gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment, and comprehensive family support services, the Ministry has made significant contributions to Rwanda's socio-economic development goals as outlined in National Strategy for Transformation and Vision 2050. The following is a summary of the key achievements realized throughout the year, demonstrating the Ministry's pivotal role in advancing Rwanda's transformative agenda.

1. FAMILY WELFARE AND FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

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

During this 2023-2024 FY, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion focused on the implementation of key interventions from its annual action plan, High level dialogue resolutions.

1.1. Strengthening Family Cohesion Interventions

1.1.1. 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.

The MIGEPROF's team met with authorities at Districts level and Community structures members (UWI committees, IZU, Head of villages, among others) to discuss on family related issues.

The meeting with these local leaders in community, has shown an opportunity to exchange ideas on specific issues such as:

- Prevent polygamy and drunkenness which are mostly sources of conflicts in the community;
- To eradicate malnutrition and stunting;
- Raise awareness on family planning and reproductive health;
- Support families in conflict resolutions and in pre- marriage preparations.

Some resolutions taken from the coordination meeting were implemented as agreed upon, however, a few ones still need more effort for speeding up their implementation.

- Encourage families living in informal unions to legalize their marriages;
- Stunting and malnutrition is still a challenge;
- Educate families living in conflicts the peaceful mechanisms to resolve the problems;
- Educate families on positive parenting

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

In response to the 3rd resolution of the 14th National Umushyikirano Council, which called for stronger partnerships between the public sector, parents, teachers, the private sector, NGOs, civil society, and faith-based organizations to reinforce Rwandan families, MIGEPROF began organizing coordination meetings with Provinces and the City of Kigali starting in the 2017/2018 fiscal year. These meetings focused on addressing critical family-related issues, including gender-based violence, child abuse, teenage pregnancy, child malnutrition, and the phenomenon of street children.

In the 2023-2024 FY, coordination meetings were held across all provinces and the City of Kigali. The kickoff meeting took place on September 14, 2023, in Rusizi District, at Mantis Kivu Marina Bay Hotel. The meeting included representatives from the central and local governments, NGOs, and faith-based organizations (FBOs).



Minister of MIGEPROF, Dr. UWAMARIYA Valentine, delivering opening remarks in the Western Province.

In her opening remarks, Hon. Minister Dr. UWAMARIYA Valentine Pleased all participants from central, local officials and other stakeholders. She reminded the 9th (Implementation of a targeted two-year plan to respond to the stalled fight against stunting) and 12th (Build strong and secure families) resolutions of 18th National Umushyikirano Council held in 2023. In addition, Hon. Minister cited that the coordination meeting was convened in order to assess implementation progress of resolutions of previous coordination meeting in Western Province held on 30 September, 2022. The concerted collaborations from everyone is required.



Chief Gender Monitor, UMUTONI GATSINZI Nadine and participants attended the meeting / Western province

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 timely reporting;
- Successful created innovative solutions in one District should be expanded in others.
- Prevention of polygamy, infidelity and drunkenness which are mostly sources of conflicts in the community;

- Educate families to prepare a healthy diet to eradicate malnutrition and stunting;
- Timely data collection on family issues and analysis in order to find quick responses.
- Strengthen existing forums and community structures such as UWI, CNF, NYC, and IZU to resolve family-related issues.
- Collaborate with other partners in conflict management, family planning, legal marriage, child welfare, and
- Accountability for all leaders

1.1.3. Capacity development of Community-based structures representatives

Rwanda, through the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), introduced the home-grown initiative *Umugoroba w’Imiryango* (Families’ Evening Forum) to strengthen safe and resilient families. To enhance the capacity of UWI committee members in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, MIGEPROF conducted a comprehensive training of trainers. A total of 432 participants, including 218 from the Western Province and 214 from the Eastern Province, attended the training, which focused on:

- Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV);
- family conflicts, and teenage pregnancies;
- Promoting gender equality and equity;
- Characteristics of a safe and resilient family;
- Establishment of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers and combating malnutrition.

Distribution of Participants in UWI training by District

WESTERN PROVINCE			EASTERN PROVINCE	
NO	Districts	Participants	Districts	Participants
1	RUSIZI	41	GATSIBO	32
2	NYAMASHEKE	31	KAYONZA	29
3	KARONGI	33	RWAMAGANA	31
4	RUTSIRO	30	BUGESERA	35
5	NGORORERO	28	KIREHE	27
6	NYABIHU	27	NGOMA	31
7	RUBAVU	28	NYAGATARE	29
TOTAL		218	214	
GRAND TOTAL			432	

At the district level, training was provided to the Director of Good Governance, the Gender and Family Promotion Officer, the Coordinator of the CNF, the Coordinator of the NYC, and representatives from faith-based organizations (FBOs). At the sector level, the training was directed at the Coordinator of the CNF and staff responsible for good governance.

1.1.4. Monitoring & Evaluation on the functionality of Umugoroba w’Imiryango (UWI)

To assess the functionality of *Umugoroba w’Imiryango* (UWI), the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) conducted field visits in 15 districts: *Rusizi, Ngororero, Rutsiro, Kirehe, Gatsibo, Huye, Gisagara, Musanze, Rulindo, Gakenke, Gicumbi, Burera, Kamonyi, Muhanga, and Ruhango*. During these visits, themes for discussion were prepared and distributed to the districts to guide the UWI sessions and ensure the meetings addressed relevant topics.



Karekezi Alfred (Official -MIGEPROF) delivering dialogue in UWI (Gatsibo District, Kinyinya village)

Monitoring of functionality revealed the following:

- An increase in the number of attendees at UWI forums;
- Effective addressing of family-related issues;
- Growth in the number of individuals participating in savings and credit groups;
- Positive impact on economic growth.

Challenges hindering the functionality of UWI include:

- Misconceptions among some men regarding the mission of UWI;
- Low participation rates of men and youth in UWI forums;
- Skills gaps among UWI committee members, highlighting the need for training manuals (booklets or brochures).

Recommendation

- ☞ All participants requested responsible institutions to merge citizens 'Assemblies and UWI sessions.
- ☞ UWI member committees need uniforms
- ☞ UWI committee members need Telephone for easy communication.

1.1.5. Disseminating Behavior change communication tools for building a safe and resilient

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) recognizes the ongoing need for strong institutional collaboration to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and promote safe, resilient families. To this end, MIGEPROF has disseminated key tools, including *Twubake Urugo Rwiza*, *Umuryango Ushoboye kandi Utekanye* (UUU), *Uburere Buboneye*, guidelines for community reintegration of GBV victims, and *Uburenganzira n'inshingano by'umwana*. These tools have reached 4,915 people through various platforms, including UWI forums, community assemblies (*Inteko z'Abaturage*), positive parenting campaigns, and GBV clinics.

1.1.6. Celebration of International days related to family promotion

Rwanda always joins the world to celebrate international days based on the dates set and the themes adopted.

1.1.6.1. International Day of Girl Child (IDGC)

The International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated globally on October 11, 2023, under the theme "*Our Time is Now Our Rights, Our Future.*" The national celebration in Rwanda took place at FAWE Girls' School in Gasabo District, with approximately **600 participants**, including students from six secondary schools and TVET institutions in Gasabo, as well as parents' representatives, local

leaders, partners, and community structure members (IZU, UWI) from the surrounding areas.



Participants in IDGC at FAWE Girls' School

During the event, the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Dr. Valentine Uwamariya, called on girls to take the lead in advancing their development, emphasizing that the country has created an environment that ensures equal opportunities. She highlighted the significant role schools play in the development of children, noting that as children spend much of their time in school, it is crucial for these institutions to contribute actively to their growth and well-being.



The Minister of MIGEPROF, Dr. Valentine UWAMARIYA at FAWE Girls' School in Gasabo District.

The event was graced by different government officials including the Director General of National Child Development Agency (NCDA), Assumpta Ingabire, partners, parents and children.

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

On November 25, 2023, Rwanda and its development partners launched the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Bugesera District, Eastern Province, under the theme *"UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls"* (translated in Kinyarwanda as *"Dufatanye! Dukumire ihohotera rishingiye ku gitsina"*).

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), in collaboration with various stakeholders, used this opportunity to mobilize the general public, raise awareness about the role of communities in fighting GBV, and encourage different actors to invest in preventive measures at the community and family levels. The Official Launch was officiated by Hon. Minister of Gender and Family Promotion and Hon. Minister of Health.



Minister Dr. Valentine UWAMARIYA conveyed the message during the launch of 16days of activism/Bugesera

The Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, **Dr. Valentine UWAMARIYA**, said that gender-based violence has devastating and long-lasting effects on the victims, including trauma and depriving them of their human rights, such as children dropping out of school because of defilement and associated pregnancy.

She said that GBV should not be endorsed, but rather shunned by society. “We should all have concerted efforts to prevent all forms of GBV in order to build stable families.

We cannot end it if everyone does not play a role in the fight against it,” she said, urging members of the community to report GBV cases.

The launch was preceded by Community Works (Umuganda) conducted in Bugesera District, Ntarama Sector on 25th November 2023 where **around 2500 people** participated.



The residents of Bugesera and their guests attentively followed the keynote address delivered by Hon. Ministers Dr. UWAMARIYA Valentine, Dr. Sabin NSANZIMANA and other dignitaries.

The 16 days of activism was marked by 3 phases:

➤ **Pre-launch activities:**

- Training of Security organs (RIB, RNP, DASSO):607
- Integrated campaign on preventing teenage pregnancies in Schools in 8 Districts namely Nyagatare, Gatsibo, Rwamagana, Bugesera, Musanze, Burera, Rubavu and Gasabo. 22,338 students were reached.
- GBV Clinics in Kayonza and in Bugesera Districts.

Kayonza District: On the first day of the GBV clinics, 117 teen mothers attended the sessions. The following day saw an increase in participation, with 118 teen mothers present, along with 78 babies who were screened for nutritional status. Additionally, 165 parents of the teen mothers attended on the second day.

Bugesera District: A total of 121 pregnant and lactating teen mothers attended the sessions, accompanied by their 83 babies. On the second day, 195 parents of these teen mothers participating in the activities.

➤ **During 16 Days of Activism**

- GBV clinic in Rubavu District, conducted from 4th – 7th December 2023
- Awareness campaign in car free day in the City of Kigali on 3rd December 2023
- Message through UWI and Umuganda
- Public awareness Campaigns through media: Radio, TV, social media, Mega Phones, Street TVs

➤ **Closing**

The closing was done on 10th December 2023, during Car free Day sport held in Nyagatare District.

1.1.6.3. Celebration of the International Women’s Day

The 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 8, 2024, Rwanda joined the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day under *the theme: “30 years: Women in country’s development”*. Over 7000 people from across the country gather at BK Arena to celebrate the International Women’s Day.



The President Paul Kagame and First Lady Jeannette Kagame joined thousands of Rwandans for an International Women’s Day celebration.



This year's celebration aims to highlight the active role that Women play in transformative change within cooperatives, fostering economic growth and job creation. Bridging disparities is essential for inclusive progress within the cooperative movement, ensuring lasting national economic transformation. Rwandan women have played a crucial part in achieving spectacular results in rebuilding unity and fostering reconciliation and peacekeeping.

Speaking ahead of the event, the H.E. Paul KAGAME emphasized on the importance of celebrating women's achievements and empowering them to take on leadership roles in all sectors, fostering economic growth and family welfare to build a safe and resilient family.



H.E. Paul KAGAME delivering the Speech to people in BK Arena and Rwandan in general during the Celebration of the IWD2024

1.1.6.4. Rwanda celebrated the International Day of Families

On May 15, 2024, Rwanda celebrated the International Day of Families under the national theme: "Building a Resilient and Safe Family," with a focus on encouraging open dialogues within families. As part of the celebration, a talk show was aired on Radio Rwanda, Rwanda Television, Radio Izuba, and Radio Imanzi.



Additionally, on May 19, 2024, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) participated in *Umugoroba w'Imiryango* (UWI) sessions across several districts, including Gakenke, Musanze, Nyanza, Gisagara, and all districts of the City of Kigali, to promote the culture of open dialogue within families.

1.1.6.5. Celebration of Day of African Child

The Day of the African Child (DAC) is observed on June 16th by African Union (AU) member states to commemorate the 1976 Soweto uprising in South Africa, where students protested for better education and language rights. The DAC serves as a global call

to action, urging nations to protect and promote children's rights and to combat violence against them. This year's theme, "Education for All: The Time is Now," highlights the importance of child education, a priority for the Rwandan government. Rwanda celebrated the event under this theme, aligning with the African Committee of Experts on Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, through the National Child Development Agency (NCDA), has organized on 16th June, 2024 Day of the African Child celebration in Rwanda under the theme "Education for all; The time is now" ("*Uburezi kuri buri bose; Igihe ni iki*"). The community-based event involved collaboration with various stakeholders in child rights promotion. Nationally, it recognized Malayika Murinzi's contributions and engaged the public in discussions via radio and TV. At the district level, activities included disseminating key messages in schools, holding community dialogues on education and parental responsibilities, and providing educational support to children returning to school.

1.1.7. 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 on the general welfare of the reintegrated families in IDP model villages.

In this FY 2023/24, seven (7) IDP model villages (*Rugerero, Kinigi, Munini, Cyivugiza, Gishuro, Horezo, Kamara*) were visited.

Major Challenges identified during IDP villages Model field visits:

- House number:333 and 334 need to be repaired as they present some defects / RUGERERO
- Unpaid water bills for some houses that existed before houses are occupied/ KINIGI IDP Model Village.
- In Kiningi IDP model villages, beneficiaries have claimed land titles to ensure full ownership of their houses and secure their property rights
- Hygiene and sanitation issues (inadequate Pipe connected to septic tanks)/ Karama IDP Model village
- Most of people settled in this IDMV, are vulnerable (Elders, people with chronic diseases) and need assistance.

1.1.8. Conduct integrated campaigns on the prevention of teenage pregnancies

The awareness raising on anti-teenage pregnancies were conducted in the community in some districts and emphasis was made to prevent teenage pregnancies, recall parents on their role in education and providing positive parenting and organize conversation with their children.



Campaign at GS Kimisange/Kicukiro District

The table below shows the participation in anti-teenage pregnancies campaigns as follows:

District	Participants			
	Schools		Community	Local leaders
	Students	Teachers		
Musanze	2,677	36		
Burera	1,424	35		
Bugesera	1,695	22		
Gatsibo	3,139	46		
Rubavu	4,197	87	200	
Nyagatare	1,083	21	520	
Rwamagana	6474	95	2442	63
Kirehe	4344	125	533	49
Gasabo	7172	231	169	13
Kicukiro	4625	150	174	8
Nyarugenge	4230	93	306	13
Nyamagabe	2008	67	2091	10
Muhanga	8375	118	252	15
Ruhango	609	22	1683	70
Total	52,052	1,148	8,370	241

In total 61,811 including students, teachers, leaders and community in general were reached.

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

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

The Government of Rwanda has established ISANGE One Stop Centers (IOSCs) at district hospitals as an effective solution for providing integrated support to victims of gender-based violence (GBV). These centers offer both medical and non-medical services to help save and improve the lives of GBV victims. As of now, 50 IOSCs have been established and are fully operational across the country. In the 2023/24 fiscal year, 100% of the GBV victims who sought help at these centers totaling 35,178 individuals received integrated services, ensuring they received the necessary medical care and psychosocial support.

1.2.2. Improve skills of local leaders and community members on their roles in family promotion, GBV prevention, and response.

Although much has been done to fight and prevent gender-based violence, the Ministry of Gender and family Promotion (MIGEPROF) is mindful that there is still a long way to go and the journey requires strong collaboration with other institutions so that everyone understands and participates. It is in this regard it has been seemed necessary to improve skills of local leaders in fighting GBV and child abuse as well as disseminating existing tools on building capable and safe family.

To do so, MIGEPROF in collaboration with key stakeholders organized different campaigns, trainings as well as outreaches in different districts. In the 2023/24 FY, 26,092 local leaders at different levels and community members were reached through:

Awareness campaign on family, Gender, GBV prevention and response, gender equality and women empowerment, GBV Clinics (Rusizi, Kayonza, Bugesera and Rubavu District), UWI-Training of trainers (UWI/TOT).

The activity targeted security organs (RNP, RIB, DASSO) at decentralized level, community structures (CNF, CNJ, IZU, Youth volunteers, etc...), Good Governance, GFPOs, in charge of social affairs among others.

1.2.3. Strengthen capacities of security organs staff on GBV prevention and response with more emphasis on law reinforcement on related GBV issues.

Ministry of gender and family promotion in collaboration with key stakeholders organized a campaign including training on community policing with RNP, RIB, DASSO and Youth volunteers at decentralized level on their role in GBV prevention, reporting, response and the reintegration process of GBV victims.



Trainings of security organs (Police, RIB, DASSO), Youth volunteers on 23-25th October 2023

In this FY 2023/24, the 1059 participants from 12 Districts (*Burera, Rulindo, Musanze, Karongi, Rubavu Nyamasheke, Gisagara, Nyaruguru, Huye, Gatsibo, Ngoma and Kayonza*) attended the training on GBV prevention and response mechanisms.

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

Every year, MIGEPROF with partners conduct community outreaches in fighting all forms GBV; In

these outreaches, Teen mothers and their children are provided with different services at the sites, namely psychosocial counseling, HIV and non-communicable diseases testing, legal advices, legal orientation, information on sexual and reproductive health, child civil registration, among others.

In FY 2023-2024, GBV clinics on fighting against economic, physical, emotional, and sexual violences in this financial year were conducted in *Kayonza, Bugesera, Rubavu, Rusizi and Kamonyi District.*



Hon. Min. Dr. UWAMARIYA Valentine met 200 families living in conflicts in Bwishyura and Rubengera in Karongi District.

Participation of GBV victims (teenagers) and their Parents in GBV Clinics.

District	Teenagers	Parents	Total
Kayonza	117	165	282
Bugesera	121	195	316
Rubavu	113	190	303
Rusizi	115	181	296
Kamonyi	121	179	300
Total	587	910	1,497

Teen mothers and parents got a good opportunity to discuss and propose solutions such as reintegration

process as well as the role of community and local leaders in prevention and response mechanism.



Hon. Min. Dr. UWAMARIYA Valentine delivering a message in GBV clinics / RUSIZI District

1.3. Awareness related to positive parenting and child’s rights and prevention of Dysfunctional families.

MIGEPROF has in its mandate child’s rights protection and family promotion as foundation of the society. In efforts to engage grass-root leaders, MIGEPROF in collaboration with District leaders (*Kamonyi, Musanze, Rulindo, Burera, Nyamasheke, Karongi, Nyagatare*) and other stakeholders convened dialogues to discuss “*Positive parenting, Dysfunctional families*”. The kick off of this activity was conducted in Karongi Where the Hon. Minister **Dr. UWAMARIYA Valentine** met various categories of people.

A total of **8,210 people** (*from Kamonyi:197, Musanze:540, Nyamasheke:205, Rulindo:141, Burera: 680, Karongi:6178, Nyagatare:287*) participated.

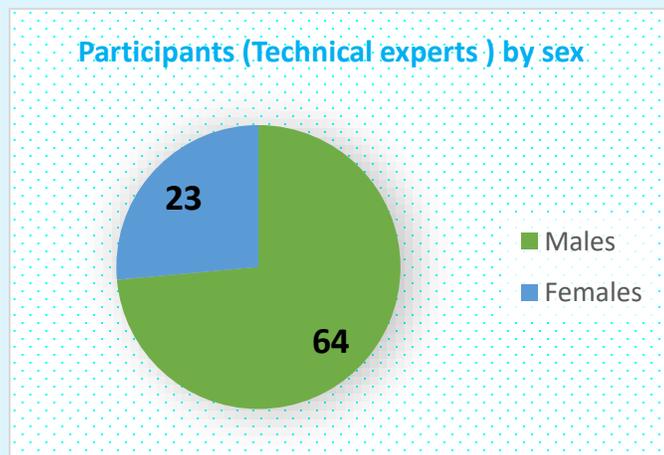
2. GENDER PROMOTION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

2.1. Ensure Gender Mainstreaming across the sectors and community

2.1.1. Strengthening gender analytical skills for technical experts through gender economic policy management (GEPM) module

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with Pro-Femmes Twese-Hamwe, under the Support of Policy Action for Enhancing Women Economic Opportunities project, conducted an intensive training at Provincial levels to enhance the capacity of local specifically the Directors of Planning, Directors of Business Development and Employment at district level and private sector representative of each district to equip them with Gender Mainstreaming skills and tools.

The training was conducted at Provincial level and convened people sampled from all Districts. The training covered countrywide sampled groups of 87 people among which 64(73.6%) were males and 23 (26.4%) were females people from all Districts.

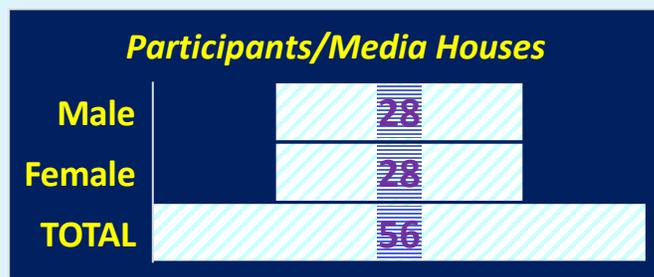


During the training, various but also complementary topics (*Gender conceptual framework, Gender Mainstreaming and accountability minimum guidelines, Gender practical analysis, Gender practical analysis*) were covered through discussions and brainstorming.

2.1.2. Media Engagement on Gender Mainstreaming

MIGEPROF collaboratively with UN-Women found it worthy and conducted media training which equipped media professionals with knowledge and skills necessary to promote gender-responsive, balanced and inclusive media coverage putting focus on GBV prevention, response and reporting.

The media training was conducted from 11-14/06/2024 at Best View Hotel in MUSANZE District and it brought together 58 media representatives among which 28 (50%) were males while 28 (50%) were females.



In her opening remarks, Carine UMUTONI/UN Women representative who recognized media commitment and sacrifice demonstrated by their show-ups. she stressed the role of media in GBV prevention and response including reporting and case management.

Furthermore, she urged journalists that media is at the forefront to ensure harmonious societies free from gender-based violence.

The training sessions covered essential topics, including gender-related concepts and gender socialization theory and the implications of media and online gender-based violence (GBV).



Dr. Murangira B Thierry, Spokesperson of RIB, explained GBV, stressing the media's role in evidence-based reporting. Using real-time examples, he urged the media to raise awareness, combat GBV, and support victims through accurate & sensitive coverage.

On June 14, 2024, during the final session of a training for journalists on the role of media in gender-based violence (GBV) response, NGAYABOSHYA Silas, the Director General of Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment at MIGEPROF, emphasized that the gender division of labor and power dynamics are products of social construction and socialization. He described these constructs as “gender boxes,” which define what is considered acceptable behavior

for men and women within a particular social context and how these norms evolve over time.



Participants in training on GBV prevention and response from 11-14/06/2024 at MUSANZE

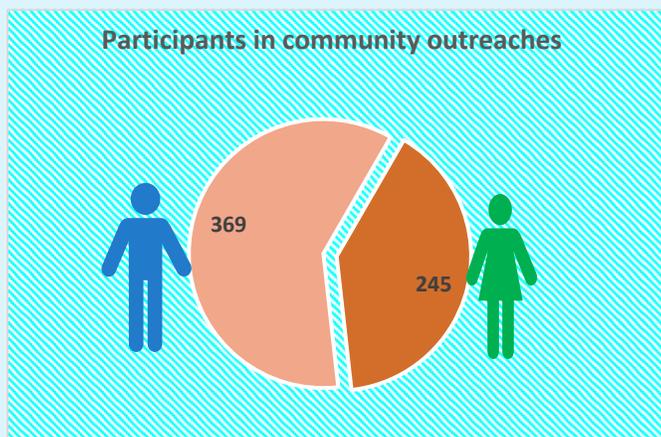
2.1.3. Community outreach on Gender Equity Promotion targeting Local Government Authorities

MIGEPROF made significant strides in promoting gender equality and combating gender-based violence (GBV) across various sectors and communities during the fiscal year 2023-2024. Through a combination of community outreach, capacity-building programs, the Ministry effectively raised awareness, built capacity, and engaged diverse stakeholders in gender mainstreaming efforts.

MIGEPROF conducted extensive community outreach activities in six districts, including *Rusizi, Burera, Bugesera, Kayonza, Rubavu, and Kamonyi*. A total of 614 individuals, including local leaders, were trained on gender equality, as well as the prevention and response to gender-based violence.



The training on gender equality was conducted in Mwili Sector, Kayonza



Among the 614 participants, there were 245 (40%) females and 369 (60%) males from local government in six Districts namely RUSIZI, BURERA, KAMONYI, KAYONZA, BUGESERA, RUBAVU.

2.1.4. Community Outreach to High Learning Institutions on Gender Equality Promotion.

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 3,061 students and Staff gained knowledge from these the trainings.

Dialogues' participants by Gender



Expectations from 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.



BATAMULIZA Mireille, Permanent Secretary at MIGEPROF, delivering dialogue at IPRC-HUYE

2.1.5. Conduct dialogues on gender equality promotion with religious leaders

Religions enormously play a vital role in shaping and revitalizing their respective congregations through evangelizations and preaching of word of God. The same approach has been found worthy to influencing social norms, challenge stereotypes and instill the preaching of gender equality aspect, the combat gender-based violence and importantly empower women in religious interventions.

In this regard, MIGEPROF in collaboration with Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) through IFAD-

funded project (KIIWP) organized religious leaders training on gender action learning system (GALS) in line with gender policy to equip them with knowledge and skills to enormously promote gender-responsive churchdom through influential and converting power of evangelism.



TRAINING REPORT OF RELIGIONS LEADERS ON GENDER ACTION LEARNING SYSTEM (GALS)

The training held at Kayonza Midland Hotel from March 19 to 21, 2024, focused on empowering 80 religious leaders (Papa & Mama Pasteur) through a three-day session on the National Gender Policy, facilitated by a representative from MIGEPROF.

The workshop aimed to link religious interventions with the eight gender policy objectives, emphasizing the importance of incorporating gender equality and women's empowerment into evangelical and economic activities.

Key points of the training are as follows

- Accelerating the economic capacity building of women and girls within congregations.
- Increasing knowledge about gender issues among congregations through preaching and community engagement.

- Developing community-based tools to restore and rebuild stable and resilient families.
- The sessions aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and strategies necessary to promote gender equality and empower women in their communities, ultimately fostering a more inclusive society.

2.1.6. Support fresh graduates' internships and girls) with a professional internship in leadership

MIGEPROF partnered with the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) to provide internship opportunities for 100 fresh graduates. This initiative aimed to enhance their leadership skills and professional development.

In June, 2024, a team composed of staff from MIGEPROF, and RALGA conducted a joint field visit on the implementation of the Internship program in Local Government



Field visit conducted at Kamonyi for internship of fresh graduates

2.1.7. Women and Girls acquired hands on skills for self-employments

In collaboration with UN Women, MIGEPROF facilitated a project at IPRC Rutongo Campus aimed at empowering women and girls with skills in the typically male-dominated field of mining. Thirty (30) participants were equipped with knowledge and expertise, enhancing their capacity to access employment opportunities in the mining sector. The initiative not only aimed to diversify economic opportunities but also ensured equitable access to well-paid positions for women in this sector.



On June 20, Honorable Minister UWIMANA Consolee visited IPRC Rutongo that supports women and girls in acquiring skills in mining. During her visit, Minister UWAMARIYA Consolee emphasized the importance of industry support, urging Trinity Company to continue facilitating skills development for women and girls in mining.

2.1.8. Support Women in Informal Cross Border Trade (WICBT)

Women in informal Cross Border Trade (WICBT) is a project under the National Women's Council (NWC) that provides support to various women

cooperatives through various channels such as capacity building and direct financial support to ensure efficiency and improved effects of cross-border trade on women cooperative members.

In this 2023/2024 FY, NWC in collaboration with Districts conducted a Monitoring and evaluation of 47 cooperatives in WICBT in RUBAVU district and 40 Cooperatives in WICBT in RUSIZI District.

In addition, through the BRMM (Better Regional Migration Management), a training on Financial Literacy, business management skills & gender-based violence for Women in Cross Border Trade in Rusizi was organized from 20th to 23rd February at Rusizi for 42 cross border traders.



Women in Informal Cross Boarder Trade attending training on Financial Literacy

Challenges faced by women participating in cross border trade

- Daily permits to cross the border for business ID 45000frw per day which is extremely expensive
- Expensive travel documents like passports
- High taxes
- Long waiting queues at the border
- Rude service providers at the border

2.1.9. The 50 million African Women Speak

The Ministry of Gender and Family promotion implement 50 million Women Speak (50MWS) Project that across 3 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) namely COMESA, EAC, and ECOWAS whose development objective of the Project 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.

MIGEPROF conducted capacity-building workshops for women entrepreneurs to access the "50 million Women Speak" networking platform. Eighty-four (84) participants from various business sectors underwent training in three cohorts over two days from 28th May to 4th June 2024 at PSF SC Headquarters, City of Kigali.

The training covered essential topics such as platform account setup, profile building, marketing strategies, and utilization of networking features like Walls, Forums, Chats, and Groups, aiming to enhance their entrepreneurial capabilities and networking opportunities.



The PS-MIGEPROF delivering the opening remarks to women entrepreneurs in the 50 MAWSP training.

2.2. Dissemination of women empowerment-related policies and strategies.

2.2.1. Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) strategy for Rwanda

Through MIGEPROF, the Government of Rwanda has initiated the development of the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) strategy for Rwanda, aimed at closing the gender credit gap and increasing access to finance for women enterprises in Rwanda.

The strategy bases its foundation on the African Development Bank's (AfDB) initiative to establish mechanisms for women access to finance through the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA). It was established as a pan African initiative to bridge the \$42 billion gap in access to finance for women businesses in Africa, promote inclusive gender-financing to fully unlock business development opportunities and women-led entrepreneurial potentials (AfDB, 2019).



The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, in partnership with various stakeholders, developed the AFAWA strategy. A dissemination workshop for this strategy was held on April 5, 2024, at the RCI Auditorium. During her opening remarks, the Permanent Secretary of MIGEPROF highlighted that the strategy is designed to bridge the gender credit gap

and enhance financial access for women entrepreneurs in Rwanda.

2.2.2. Participation in the Conference of the Commission on The Status of Women (CSW 68).

During the reporting period, Honorable Minister Dr. UWAMARIYA Valentine played a pivotal role in advancing women empowerment initiatives. She co-chaired a Ministerial Meeting Group of Friends on Gender Parity, held on March, 2024, where Rwanda's progress in narrowing gender disparities was highlighted. The Minister emphasized the importance of challenging stereotypes to foster positive societal changes. Additionally, MIGEPROF's Minister participated as a panelist on Women's and Feminist Funds in Financing, showcasing Rwanda's achievements and the government's commitment to promoting gender equality.



Hon. Minister Dr. UWAMARIYA Valentine at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

These efforts align with the agreed conclusions of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68), ensuring Rwanda's adherence to international standards in gender equality promotion and implementation. [\(Details/video available at the link \(in first 35 minutes\)\)](#)

2.2.3. Implementation of Generation Equality forum (GEF) commitments

MIGEPROF in collaboration with UNWOMEN Rwanda organized a second bi-Annual reflection roundtable workshop at UBUMWE Hotel on 28th March 2024.

In the opening of the workshop, Honorable Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, **Dr. Valentine Uwamariya**, commended stakeholders for their involvement and highlighted Rwanda's dedication to achieving gender equality through technology and innovation. She reviewed Rwanda's historical commitments to empowering women in technology, including the Beijing Platform for Action, Maputo Protocol, HeForShe Commitments, and Sustainable Development Goals.



The honorable Minister noted that Rwanda joined the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) in November 2020, a global gathering convened by UN Women. She emphasized Rwanda's decision to join the GEF's Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality to address significant gender disparities in this sector and create innovative solutions catering to the diverse needs of women and girls.

The Minister reiterated Rwanda's commitment to equipping women with ICT knowledge and tools to enhance their empowerment, entrepreneurship, and leadership. She expressed gratitude for UN Women's support and highlighted Rwanda's leadership role within the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation, aiming to bridge the gender gap in the tech sector and develop inclusive solutions for all women and girls.



2.2.3.1. Partner Presentations

At the workshop, key ministries and agencies showcased their advancements:

- **MINICT and RISA** Presented developments in digital devices, broadband connectivity, and basic digital literacy promotion.
- **MINECOFIN** highlighted progress in digital financial services.
- **MINICOM** detailed private sector achievements in digital advancements.
- **MINEDUC** Showcased the integration of technology into the education system.

2.2.3.2. Looking Forward

Attendees engaged in guided group discussions to refine a comprehensive action plan. The dynamic exchange focused on setting specific timelines, defining targets, allocating resources, and delineating responsibilities to advance Rwanda's GEF commitments. Key suggestions included:

- Developing a minimum standardized content plan customizable for different training.
- Raising the target of women in STEM from 49% to 50%.
- Localizing the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI) and including non-technical training to combat negative gender norms.
- Increasing STEM spaces in schools and districts.
- Rewarding top female performers in STEM-related subjects at secondary and higher education levels.
- Mobilizing sponsors, including private sector banks, to scale up AGCCI bootcamps.
- Increasing the use of digital financial services by women to 50%.
- Training 50 out of 100 women in e-commerce.
- Enforcing disaggregated data reporting from all stakeholders.
- Consolidating and disaggregating phone distribution data.
- Increasing the percentage of female-headed households owning mobile phones to 100%.

3. STRENGTHENING COORDINATION MECHANISM

3.1. National Gender and Family Cluster

The National Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC) is a coordination mechanism that aims at supporting MIGEPROF, 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, and avoid duplication.

In the fiscal year 2023-2024, several quarterly and regular sub-cluster meetings were conducted. These included a sub-cluster meeting focused on Family Promotion and GBV Prevention and Response, as well as a Gender and Women Empowerment (GEWE) sub-cluster meeting.

3.2. Positioning gender and family promotion in planning and budgeting processes

Gender equality promotion is mainstreamed in every year's action plan of public institutions through consultations with concerned leading sectors.

In pursuit of sustainable development and well-being vision of our nation, the Ministry of gender and family promotion (MIGEPROF) with its affiliated agencies (NWC and NCDA) and Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) convened a pivotal retreat centered on the critical issues of nutrition, Gender, and Family priorities. The retreat, held at regional center of Excellence on Gender – Based Violence and child abuse- KACYIRU from 30th October to 1st November

2023, served as strategic platform to identify key priorities for the fiscal year 2024/2025.

4. ENACTING NEW LAWS

After 5 years into force, the Law n° 32/2016 of 28/08/2016 governing persons and family as amended to date and Law n° 27/2016 of 08/07/2016 governing matrimonial regimes, donations and successions displayed some issues related to drafting, loopholes and need of harmonization with other laws to facilitate their daily use in different domain, while creating more equal and inclusive Rwandan society composed of strong and stable families.

MIGEPROF in collaboration with different public institutions, stakeholders and population held different consultations on the amendment of the above-mentioned laws to come up with a new law. On 30th July 2024 the Law No 71/2024 of 26/06/2024 governing persons and family was published in Official Gazette. [\(Click here to read the law\).](#)

This new law merged both laws; the law governing person and family (2016) and the Law on matrimonial regimes and successions (2016) for a smooth consultation and usage. It addresses issues related to short marriage with the sole purpose of gaining properties in case of divorce, unpaid care work, management of movable properties, authenticity of a private will, facilitating prospective spouses who, hopelessness cannot express himself or herself during marriage vows due to hearing impairment, a speech impediment, or blindness, and so on.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while the financial year 2023-2024 has seen substantial progress in promoting gender equality, protecting children's rights, and empowering women economically in Rwanda, the journey is ongoing. The government's dedicated investments have yielded notable achievements, yet challenges such as insufficient and untimely funds from partners have lessened targeted results.

In alignment with national strategic documents, specifically NST2 and Vision 2050, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) is initiating a revision of its Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2024. This revision aims to further strengthen our commitment to creating a society free from gender inequality, stunting, gender-based violence, and negative gender stereotypes. Through sustained collaboration with stakeholders, the Rwandan government is dedicated to fostering safe, resilient families and advancing gender equity.



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