



Republic of Rwanda  
Ministry of Gender and  
Family Promotion

# MIGEPROF QUARTERLY newsletter

Safe and Resilient Family



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*Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette*

After the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Rwanda was economically, politically & socially devastated.

The Government of Rwanda has demonstrated strong commitment towards promoting and recognizing that recovery would only be possible with both women and men playing central role.

Along with other countries, Rwanda has committed to gender equality promotion and empowerment of women, and this is confirmed by subsequent regional and international conventions, treaties and agreements ratified and adopted.

Gender equality and women's empowerment have also been included in national planning and strategic documents as cornerstone to prerequisite of sustainable development.

Moreover, there are several enabling factors including political will at the highest level, gender responsive legal and institutional frameworks, and strategic partnerships initiated by the government of Rwanda to ensure the equality between women as well as men, aiming at addressing family's issues and rights in the country.

Through these initiatives and commitments, Rwanda has recorded notable achievements, best practices and interesting human stories that need to be documented and shared. For this purpose, we are pleased to share with you the MIGEPROF quarterly newsletter which will compile articles key success stories, as well as share news and updates related to the Ministry's mandate.

We take this opportunity to thank all our partners, stakeholders and parents for their support and collaboration to build safe and resilient families.

**Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette**  
**Minister of Gender and Family Promotion**





## Brief background of the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) is the Central Government institution mandated to ensure strategic coordination of the implementation of national policies, strategies and programs regarding the promotion of the family, gender and children's rights protection as well as facilitate their integration in the socio-economic and political context of Rwanda.

### General Mission of MIGEPROF

- Guarantee secure environment for all family members
- Empower women and girls
- Promote non-discrimination, complementarity and gender equality
- Design and implement positive masculinity
- Eradicate gender-based violence
- Reinforce family unity and positive parenting Vision

The Vision of MIGEPROF is to create a conducive environment for the family's stability, gender equality and child protection towards sustainable development.

On 11 October 2022 Rwanda joined the rest of the world to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC). Globally, the IDGC was celebrated under the theme: "Our time is now—our rights, our future". To align the theme with the current Rwandan context, the Government of Rwanda has opted to mark this important day under the theme: " My health, my dignity! "translated in Kinyarwanda as "Ubuzima bwajye, Agaciro kanjye." At the national level, the celebration took place in Musanze District.

The celebration of the IDGC 2022 served as a call to break barriers and limitations associated with knowledge and negative social norms related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRH&R) that are contributing to the increase of child defilement and teenage pregnancies. The lack of/or limited information on (SRH&R) among adolescents, is a child protection concern that should attract more attention from service providers, educators, policymakers, parents, and children themselves.

"Promoting SRH&R among adolescents is everyone's responsibility. It is very important to equip youth, boys, and girls with all needed information to protect them from sexual abuse and related consequences" said the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge.

"Our girls should not live in fear of sexual abuse often perpetrated by those who should protect them; fear of dropping out, or even be victims of the carelessness of some parents that leads to nutritional deficiencies" she added.

HE Jeannette Kagame who was the guest of honour appreciated the efforts made towards the development of the girl child.

In the same view, she clarified that "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."



## Threading articles

### Rwanda celebrated the international day of the girl child



Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette delivering remarks on the celebration of International Day of a Girl Child



As part of the celebration, 66 teen mothers who have resumed their studies in Musanze district

were supported with school materials and hygienic tools to encourage them.

## RURAL WOMEN ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RWANDA



Kigoma Sector/Huye hosted the national celebration of International Rural Women's day

International Rural Women's Day is celebrated worldwide annually on October 15<sup>th</sup>. It is an occasion to recognize the achievements and contributions of rural women toward the development of countries.

The national celebration of the International Day of Rural Women was held on the 15th October 2022 in Kigoma Sector, Huye District, under the theme "Development of rural women, a pillar of

Rwanda's Economy".

Alongside the celebration, 10 disadvantaged families were offered cows to revamp their welfare, 170 families were offered modern stoves, 2 were given tailoring machines, 4 cooperatives were offered a start-up capital of 2 million Rwandan Francs as well as other materials like cooking gas, sanitation materials and others.





Minister of Gender and Family Promotional handing a car to a family in Kigoma Sector/Huye

The Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge, stated that this day reminds Rwandans to reinforce their engagement with rural women and support them in their important role of being a real pillar of our country's economic development. She said that rural women contribute a lot to

national development and encouraged them to be more actively involved.

She called upon rural women to have confidence and believe in their abilities to contribute to the country's development.



## GBV: VICTIMS, FAMILIES URGED TO 'BRING PERPETRATORS TO BOOK'



Nyamasheke residents in the celebration of the 16 days of activism against GBV



On 25 November 2022, Rwanda joined the world to start 16 days of activism against gender-based violence under the national theme “Unite! Build a violence-free society”

On the launch of the activism held in Kagano Sector, Nyamasheke District, Western Province, Minister for Gender and Family Promotion, Honorable Jeannette Bayisenge called upon victims of gender-based violence to always speak, denounce perpetrators of GBV and seek justice.

Minister Bayisenge revealed that sometimes victims and their families don't report perpetrators for fear of being stigmatized by family members or friends.

“We should not hide perpetrators; this prevents justice from prevailing. Regardless of what they give back in return, we need to report them since that is one way of curbing GBV. People should be encouraged to go for help; more people need to raise their voices”. She spoke.



Minister Bayisenge urged the citizens to report GBV perpetrators

The Minister, however, observed that though reported cases are still limited, there has been progress because medical and judicial services, especially those provided at Isange One Stop Centers, are free and available in all districts and health centers.

In this celebration, 103 couples legalized their marriage as illegal union, to solve one of the main causes of GBV. However, in total, 16,294 couples legalized their union in the FY 2022-2023, between July and December 2022 only.





103 couples in Nyamasheke legalized their marriage



## RWANDANS TURN UP FOR ANTI-GBV CAR FREE DAY IN KIGALI

Hundreds of people, especially the youth turned up in huge numbers during Sunday's car free day as part of activities for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

On Sunday, December 4, 2022, more than 3000 Kigali residents marched during an anti-GBV awareness campaign as part of activities for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence that kicked off on November 25, as the World marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girl to end on 10 December.

In her message to the participants of Car-Free Day, the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Honorable Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge urged the citizens to join efforts to prevent and fight gender-based violence, where we live, where we work and build a society that has no gender – based violence.

In this car-free sport's day, different partner organisations joined the activity and interacted with the citizens.

International organisations personalities that joined with their staff are UN Resident Coordinator, UN Women Country Representative, Plan International Rwanda, RWAMREC and many others.



## MEDIA TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN COMBATting GBV



Panel Discussion during media Breakfast



During the global campaign on ending gender-based violence, MIGEPROF organized media breakfast meeting to discuss the role of media and media practitioners in combating gender-based violence.

The Permanent Secretary Mireille Batamuliza

said that MIGEPROF together with partners saw value in inviting different media houses to a breakfast meeting to engage and educate them on the bad deeds that promote and perpetuate GBV, and the role they play in educating their audiences in order to address these issues.



PS delivering her remark

In the opening remarks, PS urged the media personalities and social media influencers to play a key role in preventing and ending Gender-Based Violence (GBV) not only by giving more attention and coverage to the issue but also ensuring that it is reported in a manner that does not encourage or enforce stereotypes around GBV.

This media breakfast meeting gathered 50 media personalities including media owners, chief editors, editors and senior reporters as well as social media influencers, and discussed on the input of media in combating Gender based violence with the aim of building a safe and resilient family.





## MINISTER BAYISENGE CALLS FOR MORE EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING FAMILY CONFLICTS



Minister Prof Bayisenge with Sugira Muryango members in Rubavu District

The Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Hon. Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge, has urged local authorities in Rubavu District to put more effort in identifying families that have wrangles and urgently help in resolving them.

According to Minister Bayisenge, domestic conflicts have a strong impact on the values that children acquire during their childhood.

The Minister made the remarks while interacting with different families in a community outreach in Rugerero Sector of Rubavu District, where she reminded the citizens about their big

responsibility of being exemplary to their children, for the interest of generations to come,

Minister Bayisenge visited Kanzeguhera family in Rubavu District, where she spoke about family conflicts saying that there are families living in conflict due to alcohol abuse, and infidelity among other problems and called on grassroot leaders to be on the lookout for such behaviors that are likely to wreak families. She added that there are over 29,000 groups of 'Friends of Family' whose responsibility is to support families in addressing conflicts. So far there are two members of friends of family in every village.



Minister Prof Bayisenge with Sugira Muryango members in Rubavu District





## MIGEPROF HOLDS THE COORDINATION MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES RELATING TO FAMILIES



Minister Bayisenge Chaired Coordination Meeting of the Western Province

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 in order to strengthen Rwandan families”, from 2017/2018 FY, MIGEPROF started to organize coordination meetings with Provinces and City of Kigali, to discuss the issues relating to families including gender-based violence and child abuse, teenage pregnancy, malnutrition among children, street children phenomena, among others.

This dialogue gathered around 70 people representing central and local government institutions, NGOs, and FBOs and discussed the family-related issues on 30th September 2022 at MORIAH Hill Resort Ltd in Karongi District-Western Province.

Key resolutions from the Western province coordination meeting are:

Actively engage community-based forums such as Umugoroba w’Imiryango (Families’ Evening forum), Inshuti z’Umuryango (Friends of Family), National Women Councils, National Youth councils, and Community Health workers

and other forums in addressing issues that negatively affect families.

Document and disseminate all the effective and innovative solutions implemented in the districts addressing family issues as well as building a resilient and safe family.

Continue to fight against malnutrition and stunting, using real figures and establishing new ECD centers providing all services for children.

Having joint plans between Government institutions and partners for a better way of coordinating the implementation of key activities aimed at preventing and supporting community members to fight against bad habits such as prostitution/ infidelity, conflicts within families, GBV that have effects on families, and legalize unions for those couples living in illegal unions.

The Minister also reminded parents/citizens of their role in positive parenting, adherence to family planning, raising children by showing good examples educating them on positive behavior from early age, and parent-adolescent discussion around sexual and reproductive health topics to prevent delinquency, child labor and school drop-out.





## THE MINISTRY CONDUCTS A MONITORING & EVALUATION ON THE FUNCTIONING OF UMUGOROBA W'IMIRYANGO (UWI)

In the line of assessing the functioning of Families' Evening forum commonly known as Umugoroba w'Imiryango (UWI), the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion conducted field visits in 9 districts (Kayonza, Kicukiro,

Nyarugenge, Nyaruguru, Nyabihu, Rubavu, Nyamagabe, Rubavu and Nyagatare) with topics around gender-based violence prevention and responsive mechanisms, fighting violence against children as well as teenagers' pregnancies...



Training of Umugoroba w'Imiryango committees in Rulindo District

During the field visits, the findings revealed that through mobilization during UWI sessions within the village, Umugoroba w'Imiryango (UWI) has impacted Rwandans positively by increasing their understanding on some programs such as the benefits of using a community-based health insurance scheme (MUSA), other forms of saving and credit schemes at village level, as well as accessing information on existing opportunities for women and youth so they can easily join. Through UWI, 7,924 families have been

mobilized and legalized their marriage and 1,705 families have been educated and saved from family conflicts.

From the conducted visits; it was recommended to engage local leaders in the mobilization of men and youth to participate in UWI and re-think in UWI forums, especially youth.





## THE CAPACITY OF UMUGOROBA W'IMIRYANGO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rwanda through the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion introduced a home-grown initiative known as Umugoroba w'Imiryango (Family Evening Forum) with the main objective of building a resilient and safe family, whereby

all family members play complementary roles in the advancement of family welfare, as well as in tackling family and parenting issues in the community.



Training of Umugoroba w'Imiryango committees in Rusizi District

In this framework, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion conducted trainings of trainers (ToT) to strengthen the capacity of Umugoroba w'Imiryango committee members in order to enable them addressing issues that hinder the community. In this fiscal year 2022/23, from July to December, the Training

of Trainers (ToT) was organized from 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> December 2022, in all districts of the Northern Province. A total number of 198 people were trained including the districts staff, CNF and NYC representatives from district and sector level, as well as representatives from faith-based organizations.





## GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM (GEF) ON GOOD TRACK



PS in opening remark.

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion together with the Ministry of ICT and Innovation, the Ministry of Education, and The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning on 13th December 2022 convened a meeting to evaluate

the progress made in the implementation of the GEF commitments. During the meeting, they discussed the challenges identified and the way forward.



## NATIONAL GENDER AND FAMILY CLUSTER HOLDS DISCUSSIONS ON GENDER AND FAMILY



PS in opening remark.



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 and women empowerment, family promotion, child rights promotion and protection, as well as utilizing partners' synergies to improve interventions, and avoid duplication. It is composed of three sub-clusters, namely gender and Women empowerment, family promotion, and anti GBV sub-cluster as well as child development and protection. All these convene on a quarterly basis to review the challenges identified and strategies that should be undertaken in a specific area of intervention. During the 6 months of 2022-2023, quarterly meetings of NGFC 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.

The following are the key meetings organized in Q2:

1. Quarterly sub-cluster meetings on family promotion and GBV prevention and response mechanism.
2. Child development and protection sub-cluster meeting.
3. Gender and Women Empowerment (GEWE) sub-cluster meetings.
4. Technical and steering committee meetings of the projects.



## MINISTER BAYISENGE URGED THE WORLD TO ADDRESS SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT ZONES



Minister Delivering Remark

On November 29th 2022, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Hon. Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette addressed the participants of an International Conference on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict held in London. She shared the experience and strategies of Rwanda in addressing challenges associated with sexual violence in conflict zones

She insisted on the commitments of the Government of Rwanda to fight GBV, prevent stigma and enable more access to meaningful and timely services for victims through Isange One Stop centers. She reminded the audience that it is critical to address the challenges associated with sexual violence through a holistic approach.





## MINISTER OF MIGEPROF PARTICIPATES IN A CONFERENCE ON POSITIVE MASCULINITY IN LEADERSHIP TO END GBV



On November 11, Minister Bayisenge attended a 2-day conference in Dakar-Senegal on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence against women and girls. One of the objectives of the conference was to assess the implementation of the 1st Men's conference held in 2021 in Kinshasa.

This Conference aimed at mobilizing and rallying African men and boys to support and

drive efforts towards the eradication of violence against women and girls on the continent, and to assess the progress.

Sharing experience of Rwanda in promoting Positive Masculinity to End Violence against Women and Girls, Minister Bayisenge informed the meeting of the development of a National Men engage Transformative Strategy to ensure the role of men in addressing root causes of gender inequality & negative masculinity.

In Senegal, Minister Bayisenge visited "Le Monument de la Renaissance Africaine" which represents the dignity of Africa and shows Africa emerging from the darkness towards the light. She also visited the Embassy of Rwanda in Senegal where she had talks with the ambassador and his team.



Minister visiting Mementum

Minister Bayisenge also met with Mrs. Fatou Niang Ndiaye, President of Women Investment of Senegal, to exchange and learn how women's

investment funds are changing the approach of empowering women economically



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