



Republic of Rwanda  
Ministry of Gender and  
Family Promotion

# MIGEPROF QUARTERLY newsletter

Safe and Resilient Family

Quarter  
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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.

**Assoc.Prof. BAYISENGE Jeannette**  
**Minister of Gender and Family Promotion**





## Rwanda launches African Women Leaders Network – Rwanda Chapter (AWLN)



*Launch of African Women Leaders Network at Intare Arena, Kigali Rwanda. Photo courtesy NWC.*

On March 01, 2023, Rwanda launched the African Women Leaders Network – Rwanda Chapter, (AWLN) during the Rwanda Women Leaders Network (RWLN) Summit held under the theme “Building the Next Generation of Women Leaders”, a great kick start of the International Women’s month.

The launch of the AWLN Rwanda Chapter was attended by over 300 women leaders from various sectors and backgrounds including high level government officials, representatives of institutions, women leaders from across generations, students, members from the private sector among others.



*Some of the women and young girls at the launch of AWLN*

The event was graced by H.E. Jeannette Kagame, the First Lady of Republic of Rwanda who urged members of the Rwanda Women Leaders Network (RWLN) to continue innovating and protecting the progress that has been made, so that future generations can benefit and build on what has been achieved.

The Rwanda Women Leaders Network was founded in 2011 by H.E Jeannette Kagame with the aim of serving as a platform for women leaders to provide peer learning, support, and mentoring of young women in different aspects of leadership including political, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.



The Rwanda Women Leaders Network (RWLN) was merged with the “African Women Leaders Network” (AWLN) during the RWLN summit, with a focus on aligning areas of intervention and addressing gaps in efforts to empower Rwandan and African women to fully participate in transformative and sustainable development.

To enhance the effectiveness of RWLN/AWLN, the First Lady emphasised the importance of having a clear and achievable goal. She urged the members to be intentional about what they want, understand the reasons for their fight, and have a well-planned strategy to achieve their goals. She also stressed the need for collaboration, support, and learning among members to create strong and visible changes.



*H.E. Jeannette Kagame, the First Lady of Republic of Rwanda and guest of honor delivering her remarks at the launch of AWLN*

Speaking at the AWLN launch Mme Beneta Diop, AUC Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security said, “On this day, we open our hearts and arms to African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Rwanda chapter, the women, and girls of Rwanda in the AWLN as the 32nd country to join.”

She added that “Rwanda has a lot of women leadership experience to share and the AWLN is eager to join forces with the Rwanda chapter and learn from the brave women, while co-creating solutions to a transformed leadership landscape in Africa. We, the women of Africa are proud of the strides achieved by the Republic of Rwanda, a model on the continent. Ranging from an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework, enhanced socioeconomic and

political participation, Rwanda has set the tone and paved the way for a continental and global model of gender equality. We are indeed proud of our sister and daughters of Rwanda.”

According to the 2021 National Gender Statistics report, 61.3 per cent of the Rwanda’s parliamentary seats are being occupied by women while women cabinet members are 55% and 30% women district mayors.



*Bineta Diop, AUC Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security speaking at AWLN launch*

Hon. Prof Jeannette Bayisenge, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion highlighted the goals of the Rwandan Women Leaders Network (RWLN), which includes sharing knowledge and expertise while maintaining their roles as mothers and educators.

She emphasized the importance of supporting women newly joining the leadership by holding their hands and guiding them to success. She stressed the need to intentionally implement gender equality and equity in decision-making positions, encouraging members of the network to approach this goal differently.

Prof. Bayisenge also announced that the RWLN/AWLN would be launching a website to allow women joining the leadership position to apply for mentors in their respective fields.





*Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion delivering her welcome remarks during the AWLN launch at Intare Arena.*

UN Women Country Representative, Madam Jennet Kem, emphasized the importance of values and principles in guiding women leaders noting that, it is essential for women to define their values and ensure that they live by them. She suggested that values such as hard work, family, faith, excellence, and personal drive could guide them. Madam Kem urged women leaders to scan their environment for challenges and co-create solutions to make their leadership impactful.

Madam Kem congratulated the National Women’s Council for driving RWLN initiative and the opportunity to collaborate in the coordination of the summit and the launch of AWLN Rwanda chapter.



*Jennet Kem, UN Women Rwanda Country Representative, speaking at the AWLN launch at Intare Arena.*

She commended Government of Rwanda’s exceptional track record and commitment to support women’s participation in decision making positions, reaffirming Government’s commitment as a global champion for women’s leadership in social-economic, political, peace and humanitarian spheres including at the Generation Equality (GE) Mexico and Paris forums.

“While we recognize the efforts made, we call upon senior women leaders to be the voice of the many young women who can be today’s

leaders but cannot as they be left behind due to poverty, violence and discrimination. More importantly, under your committed leadership, we look forward to seeing a robust RWLN that can influence the continental development, peace, and integration agendas,” Ms. Kem said.

## **MIGEPROF and partners pave the way of tackling family issues.**



On 2nd February 2023 and March 30th 2023, MIGEPROF in collaboration with the Eastern and Southern provinces respectively held joint coordination meetings aiming at tackling family related issues.

Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Hon. Prof. BAYISENGE Jeannette, commended leaders for their role in finding together strategies to solve the problems that faces the family and their commitment to improve the well-being of the people.



*Participants in the Southern Province coordination meeting*

Minister Bayisenge reminded the participants that the coordination meeting aims at reviewing together the implementation of the resolutions of the meeting held on April



28, 2022, and appreciated the achievements made in implementing various programs and innovations designed to deal with the problems that hinder the welfare of family.

She also highlighted some of the issues faced by these provinces, including the increase of the number of teen pregnancies, as shown in the HMIS Report; malnutrition and stunting of children, gender-based violence, domestic conflicts, illegal unions, school dropout among others, and urged all the stakeholders to bring their effort and tackle all these issues in order to build a safe and resilient family.



Participants in the Southern Province coordination meeting

## MIGEPROF advises women entrepreneurs to work in sisterhood to achieve more



DG Silas Ngayaboshya speaking to women entrepreneurs

From 6th to 7th February 2023, MIGEPROF in partnership with PSF specialized cluster (an umbrella of women, youth and people with disability) conducted a training on 40 women entrepreneurs in a program of 50 Million African Women Speak.

The Ministry's Director General in charge of the Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment Mr. Silas NGAYABOSHYA explained that training will help in improved networking among

participants specifically those who are in the same cluster across Africa in general, to mobilize and advocate on the different challenges that women entrepreneurs are facing. On the other hand, the vice chairperson of COMFWB Mrs. Laurence MUKAGASANA called the participants to work together to achieve their goals.

The chairperson of the PSF specialized cluster encouraged the participants to use the platform regularly to gain information from different entrepreneurs on financial products from different financial institutions across Africa and make their products known to other countries' businesswomen which will increase the access to the national and international big markets.

The 50 Million Women Speak (50MWS) is a project that cuts across 3 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) namely COMESA, EAC and ECOWAS which 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.

## Rwanda Celebrates International Women's Day 2023



Celebration of IWD in Nyagatare District

MIGEPROF and National Women's Council, other Government officials and partners joined residents of Nyagatare District, to celebrate the International Women's Day 2023 under the theme: "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality."

International Women's Day celebration presented a moment to recognize and celebrate the women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education and curtailing the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities.



According to Belancille Nyirajyambere, the President of the National Council for Women, International Women’s Day is a day to reflect on the achievements, setbacks, and a day to think about forging solutions that address the country’s challenges through embracing technology.



*The President of National Women’s Council at National Labor*

She said that “Innovation and technology is the backbone of the future.” This year’s theme is a reminder to all women that technology should be an inspiration that will be used by women to forge solutions to the challenges the country faces.



*Hon. Paula INGABIRE Minister of ICT*

Speaking on behalf of the Government of Rwanda, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Ms. Paula Ingabire said that Rwanda is committed to increase the number of women in ICT Sector, and noted that involving women in the technology advancements and owning a telephone is key to achieving it.

“Among others, we are discussing with telecommunication companies to get affordable telephones that can be paid in installments to

women. We are reviewing how easy and feasible it can be, so that more women get access to telephones. We urge parents, to take both boys and girls to school and encourage them to be involved in STEM subjects and technical and vocational educational and training programs so that they are able to create their own jobs.” Said Minister Ingabire.

During the IWD celebrations, twenty women received mobile phones as part of the process towards empowering them to get access to technology services in addition to the forty who were given cows and twenty gas cylinders to help them practice green cooking.

## MIGEPROF reaches varsities for Gender Equality Dialogue



*DG Silas Ngayaboshya delivering a public lecture on gender equality at INES Ruhengeri*

From 17-29 /03.2023, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion has conducted Gender Equality Dialogue in 16 higher learning institutions that brought together students, lectures and staff to discuss gender promotion, women empowerment and gender-based violence prevention and response.

This outreach targeting public and private universities, was an opportunity to discuss different topics including gender equality and women empowerment journey in Rwanda, the role and contribution of women / Girls in transformational leadership, gender-based violence prevention and response mechanisms in place as well as men engagement in gender equality promotion and women empowerment in Rwanda.

In general, the students commended the initiative taken by MIGEPROF to disseminate the gender policy in universities, and said that the universities are to cope with the policy to



ensure that gender is promoted in all areas. In some universities and higher learning institutions, there are Gender Club that serve as a safe and convenient environment for students to express their experiences related to gender issues they face inside or outside the university in order to find solutions, and they assured that the participation is well-balanced.

The dialogue was also a platform to discuss the role of higher learning institutions in promoting gender equality and striving for a better family and country.

## CROSS-BORDER TRADE: REALIZING ITS POTENTIAL



Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette offering a start-up capital check to Rubavu women's cooperatives in crossborder trade.

A stadium in Rubavu and a hall in Rusizi district's Western Province were filled with over 2000 joyful women from 50 cooperatives conducting formal cross-border trade since 2021. These women successfully completed the trainings on leadership and goal setting, financing business, accountability, re-investments in the business, and how to increase share contributions in their cooperatives among other topics.

Adela Nyirasinayobye a member of a cooperative that operates poultry trade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from Rusizi District said "When I look back, it is difficult for me to believe that I had such potential in the formal trade. The training provided me with a great deal of knowledge about my rights, my obligations, and my rights as an individual in society. As a result of this program, my entrepreneurial skills have been elevated to a new level, and I take the opportunity to engage and tell other women about how this program has helped me".

On her side, NWC president Mrs. Bellancille Nyirajyambere saluted the political will of empowering women lead by the President HE Paul Kagame. She also commended the efforts made by MIGEPROF, and partners in supporting this initiative that has continuously provided effective and efficient measures that promote gender equality among women cooperatives engaged in formal cross-border trade.

In her remarks, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette urged the cooperatives that received the startup capital support to use it adequately and generate more income to help them continue to grow in development with innovations, use of technology and be excellent and set a goals.

During a graduation ceremony held on February 16th and 17th, 2023 for Rubavu and Rusizi women respectively, graduates received startup capital cheques of 62,000,000 Rfw for Rubavu cooperatives and 38,000,000 Rwf for Rusizi.

Women in 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 informal cross-border trade on women cooperative members. To date, NWC has provided financial support of approximately 253,077,000Frw in 2019,2021, and 2023 to women cooperatives and continuously conducted s monitoring and evaluation on the impact of this project.

## MIGEPROF briefed the Parliament on women development in Rwanda



Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette with the Chamber of Deputies Bureau



On March 14, 2023, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Prof. Bayisenge Jannette briefed the Plenary Sitting of the Chamber of Deputies about the achievement and the plan of the implementation of programs aimed at promoting women, especially those in cooperatives

Before the Chamber of Deputies, Minister Bayisenge stated that women's cooperatives in different districts were trained on the cooperatives management, and were given startup capital to develop their businesses through the Ministry's partners.

Prof. Bayisenge told the Lower Chamber that every quarter a meeting is held with the partners working in the sector to promote gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE) and look at ways that develop resilient families, especially through women.

Minister added that MIGEPROF works with different institutions including local government and partners in organising international days (IWD; IRWD; IDF), and that joint effort of campaigning and empowering women and girls about to benefit working in cooperatives, where some of them are given the start-up capital or equipment.

She explained the journey to continue working with local authorities and partners for women's empowerment programs including Cooperative financial and administrative management.

Members of the Chamber of Deputies voted unanimously satisfied with the information delivered by the Minister.

## Empowering women is empowering an entire family: Min Bayisenge Jannette said



Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jannette posing with MTN women in business

On March 14, 2023, Minister Bayisenge Jeannette participated in the 4th Connect Women in Business 2023 event meant to reward women's groups that have worked together in investment and business, prepared in partnership with MTN.

Minister Bayisenge Jeannette urged rewarded women to put more effort into saving and developing themselves and their families including sponsoring the education of their children and giving them a healthy diet, as well as being role model for their peers. She stated that Empowering women are not only supporting them alone but an entire family and a community at large.

The winners of this year's Connect Women in Business were selected from different categories including Agriculture, Arts, Financial technology and women with disabilities. The grand prize this year is Rwf 2.5M.

## MIGEPROF Receives the delegation from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire



DG Silas with the delegation

On March 16, 2023, the Ministry's Director General in charge of gender promotion and women's empowerment Mr. Silas Ngayaboshya received the delegation from Ivory Coast led by Diawara Bakary from the Ministry of Education to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire who are in Rwanda for a study visit.

Mr. Silas Ngayaboshya shared with the visitors the strategies, policies and programs aimed at promoting gender equality for an equitable



gender environment and briefed them about the girls education in Rwanda. He also shared the achievements, the challenges as well as lessons learnt, the progress, mechanisms and procedures for monitoring and evaluation of national and decentralized actors for the promotion of gender and the empowerment of women.

## Minister Bayisenge Jeannette received the International Director of SOS



*SOS Regional Director visit to MIGEPROF*

On 16th March 2023, Minister Bayisenge Jeannette received Senait B. Gebregziabher the International Director of Regional Office-Eastern and Southern Africa in SOS Children's Villages along with SOS Children's Villages Rwanda leaders.

They exchanged on the ongoing collaboration between MIGEPROF and SOS, achievement in the area of children reintegration, family strengthening as prevention measure of family separation, the alternative care of children without parental care among others. They also exchanged on the future areas of partnership with SOS aiming at improving the children's welfare and supporting different programs targeting children's life with the family as whole.

Since 2016, MIGEPROF/NCDA is partnering with SOS Children's Village Rwanda for different child protection activities.

## MIGEPROF strengthens Umugoroba w'Imiryango structure



*Participants in UWI training in Rulindo District*

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion has trained Umugoroba w'Imiryango committee members to strengthen their capacity enabling them to address family issues in the community. In this fiscal year 2022/23, from January to March, the Ministry trained 8040 members of UWI at the village level in the Northern Province, and among them were representing of National youth and women councils at the sector level, Friends of Family (Inshuti z'Umuryango) at the Sector level, Chief of the Village, President of UWI and Vice President of UWI at village level.

Rwanda through the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion introduced a home-grown initiative known as Umugoroba w'Imiryango (UWI) (Family Evening Forum) with intention to build 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.



## MIGEPROF reaches out to fight GBV



*Closing GBV Clinics in KIREHE district*

In this quarter, MIGEPROF together with its partners reaches out to two districts respectively Kirehe and Nyabihu for GBV clinics with aim of fighting teenagers' pregnancies and child defilement, and these GBV clinics were packed with holistic services such as health, justice, civil registration, counseling, and social reintegration.

Teenagers and their parents benefited various tips including information on nutrition, maternal and child health, hygiene, family planning, healing and counselling, HIV/AIDS prevention, child malnutrition prevention and parents urged to protect their children, and reintegrate them positively into their families.



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

Minister Prof. Bayisenge urged parents to provide their children with proper care and to discuss with them about setting health goals, including providing them with information on sexual and reproduction health and advised teens to prevent risky behaviors and other practices that could endanger their health but

to focus on the future. She urged them to stay obedient to their parents, learn from them, and strive to advance the country's development.

The Ministry revealed that a total number of 9,234 GBV victims that reached IOSCs from November 2022 to February 2023 received integrated services (medical and non-medical services), and 18,284 GBV victims that reached to IOSCs (from July to February 2023).

## NWC and partners hold workshop on project inception and unpaid care works



*Participants at the workshop in Lemigo hotel.*

On 22nd March 2023, National Women's Council joined IPAR RWANDA and Reseau des Femme Rwanda as part of the ongoing celebrations of International Women's Day as they hosted a half-day workshop on project inception and discussions on unpaid care work.

Officiating the workshop, the National Women's council Executive Secretary Mrs Kamanzi Jackline highlighted that without care work, individuals, families, societies, and economies would not be able to survive and thrive.



*ES/ NWC giving her remark*



This workshop that brought together stakeholders who agreed on the importance of care to sustainable development and its relevance for gender equality, covered topics on minimizing and redistributing unpaid care work for gender transformation. Participants agreed that care work is fundamental for human well-being as well as essential for a vibrant, sustainable economy with a productive labor force.

## NWC offers filled gas cylinders 120 women in Kigali city



National Women's Council in partnership with AEE Rwanda and Rwandan diaspora women from Nordic countries distributed filled gas cylinders to 120 women from Nyarugenge, Kicukiro, and Gasabo Districts to enable them practice environmentally friendly heating methods in their households.

In her remarks the Executive Secretary of NWC Kamanzi Jackline has highlighted the potential of working in cooperatives, and urged women to leave street vending and join cooperatives for strategic saving to ensure they can easily afford such appliances and contribute to the development of their families.

On behalf of the City of Kigali, Vice Mayor Urujeni Martine urged women to spread the advantages of using gas, highlighting its efficiency and cost effective in heating than the use of charcoals or kerosene. She also told them to cope with development of the city, and contribute to its safety and cleanliness.

Women have always been particularly vulnerable to environmental issues and sustainability, so it's important to help them become environmentally conscious and encourage their adaptation to sustainable energy sources.

## Private sector commits to bridge gender gaps



*Gender Equality Seal program*

On 30th March 2023, Minister Bayisenge Jeannette participates in second certification of 10 institutions that have made significant progress to bridge gender gaps as well as recognize the fourth cohort of 2 private companies which completed their gender equality diagnosis exercise and developed their gender equality action plans as a commitment to close gender gaps.

In her remarks, Minister reminded that gender mainstreaming is not just a matter of social justice and equality, but also a smart business strategy that can help companies to improve their efficiency, effectiveness, and bottom line. "Gender mainstreaming in the private sectors is essential step towards building equitable and efficient workplace. When companies consider the needs of all genders in their policies, practices and decision-making, they unlock a full potential of their workforce." She added



*Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette, Minister of MIGEPROF delivering her remarks in GES*

Gender equality seal (GES) is a program organized by Gender Monitoring office in collaboration with UNDP\_Rwanda and UNWOMENRWANDA in the framework of promoting gender accountability in public and private sectors.



## Minister Bayisenge urges Gisagara and Huye citizens to strive for resilient families

From March 29, 2023, Honorable Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette completed a 2-days working visit to the Southern Province where she visited different activities aiming at the socio-economic transformation in Gisagara and Huye districts.

On March 29, 2023, the Minister visited the "Cultural School" (Ishuri ry'Umuko) in Ruhangayi village, Sabusaro Cell, Kansi Sector that was established to help the youth and parents to learn the values and taboos of Rwandan culture. She also visited water distribution projected piloted by World Vision Rwanda in Simbi Sector.

The project includes water line of 146 km built on 2,757,023,228 Frw that will provide clean water to 53,996 people of Simbi, Maraba, Mbazi and Huye sectors.



*Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette launching a clean water well in Simbi Sector/Huye*

In the same context of sustainable development of the citizens, Minister Bayisenge also officiated the activity of offering 1,205 iron sheets to 50 needy families and 300 environmentally friendly stoves, and mattresses to Kigoma Sector of Huye, given by the National Council of Women, in partnership with Action Aid.



*Minister Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette offering iron sheets to Kigoma women*

During her visit Minister Bayisenge called different partners to examine the problems that threaten the community including the increase of number of teenage pregnancies, malnutrition,

family conflicts and others, and use holistic efforts in building a safe and resilient family to ensure the socio- economic transformation of Rwanda.



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