

NEWSLETTER



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Foreword



As we share the first quarterly newsletter of the 2024/2025 fiscal year, it is my pleasure to reflect on our continued progress and collective dedication to advancing gender equality, promoting family welfare, and safeguarding the rights of all Rwandans. Through the steadfast efforts of our Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, along with the valuable support from our partners and stakeholders, we remain committed to empowering women, children, and families across Rwanda.

In this first quarter, we have focused on several critical initiatives aligned with Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation and the Sustainable Development Goals. Our achievements include expanding gender-based violence (GBV) response services, enhancing support systems for vulnerable populations, and reinforcing our community-based programs that uplift the voices of women and girls. Through our efforts, we are working to ensure that every community member feels safe, supported, and able to pursue their full potential.

This newsletter captures key developments and highlights success stories from across the country, showcasing the impact of our work together.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our partners, stakeholders, and the communities that have supported and inspired our mission. As we move forward, we are more determined than ever to create a Rwanda where equality, dignity, and opportunity are realized by all.

Thank you for your continued commitment to building a safe and resilient family for brighter, more equitable future for every Rwandan.

**Uwimana Consolée
Minister of Gender and Family Promotion**

Safe and Resilient Family

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Strengthening Women's Roles for National Development: Highlights from the 23rd General Assembly of the National Women's Council

Monday, 30th September 2024 – The 23rd General Assembly of the National Women's Council convened at the Rwanda Parliament Plenary Sitting Hall, bringing together approximately 180 women representatives from the national level to district level, alongside key women leaders, including Ministers, Members of Parliament, and other stakeholders. The theme of the assembly was "Women's Development, National Development."

Nyirajyambere Belancille, President of the National Women's Council, emphasized that the assembly provided an opportunity to reflect on the role of women over the next five years in transforming their families and communities while aligning their efforts with Vision 2050.

In her remarks, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Uwimana Consolée urged all Rwandans to unite for greater progress, particularly encouraging women to enhance their roles in transforming societal attitudes and addressing critical issues such as child abuse, school dropouts, child molestation, and teenage pregnancy—all of which impede the country's development.

In her opening remarks, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Rt. Hon. Kazarwa Gertrude, called upon women to engage in discussions regarding the National Strategy for Transformation (NST2) and to analyze the challenges faced by families and their impact on national progress. She also stressed the importance of setting clear objectives and taking necessary actions to overcome these obstacles. The assembly included the presentation of the 2023-2024 annual report and the approval of the 2024-2025 action plan.

The law governing the responsibilities, structure, and functions of the National Women's Council stipulates that the General Assembly serves as its primary governing body, and convenes annually in the first quarter at all levels, from the Village to the National levels.

Key message from the 23rd General Assembly of the National Women's Council



The President of the Chamber of Deputies, Kazarwa Gertrude, urged women to encourage family members to resolve conflicts, save and invest together, and collaborate with various institutions—including parents, leaders, and partners—to build strong families.



Minister Uwimana Consolée highlighted the collective achievements of Rwandans and encouraged women to amplify their efforts in shifting mindsets and combating pollution, child abuse, school dropouts, child molestation, and teenage pregnancy, as these issues hinder national progress.



The President of the National Women's Council, Nyirajyambere Belancille, stated that this meeting is an opportunity to re-evaluate the role of women over the next five years in transforming their families and communities. It also aims to encourage a work approach aligned with the Vision 2050 goals.



Eastern Africa Region launches "Empowering Every Badge" to promote gender equality in law enforcement

Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Honorable Consolée Uwimana has officially launched the "Empowering Every Badge" project to advance gender mainstreaming in law enforcement across Eastern Africa. The project seeks to dismantle gender barriers and foster an inclusive system where both women and men contribute to justice delivery.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Uwimana emphasized the importance of collaboration among stakeholders, stating, "We must dismantle barriers hindering women's full participation in law enforcement and challenge unconscious biases in decision-making."

She highlighted Rwanda's leadership in UN peacekeeping, where its forces have earned a reputation for excellence, and reaffirmed the nation's commitment to addressing gender inequalities in the security sector. "This project will promote professional growth and ensure policing reflects the communities it serves," the Minister added.

The initiative underscores Rwanda's dedication to fostering a law enforcement system that is fair, equitable, and inclusive for all.

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MIGEPROF and Partners Strengthen Family Cohesion and Combat GBV in Eastern Province

On Thursday and Friday, September 26-27, 2024, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) and its partners in the Family and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response Subcluster conducted a visit to the Eastern Province, specifically Kayonza and Ngoma Districts. The purpose of this visit was to observe the impactful initiatives of partner organizations aimed at protecting and empowering families while combatting gender-based violence.

During the first day of the visit, participants engaged with eight families in Ngoma District who have successfully resolved conflicts through the support of FXB Rwanda's Sugira Muryango program. This program focuses on strengthening family dynamics and fostering resilience in the face of challenges.

The second day featured a crucial meeting of the Family and GBV Prevention & Response Subcluster. Here, partners exchanged best practices from their areas of intervention and discussed strategies to enhance collaboration in promoting family cohesion and preventing GBV. The day also included a visit to a family in Kayonza District supported by Compassion International, showcasing the positive outcomes of community-based support programs such as family cohesion, enhance economic stability, increase awareness of GBV prevention, creating safer and more resilient households.

MIGEPROF remains committed to uniting various partners dedicated to building safe and resilient families, preventing GBV, and empowering women through the National Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC). The NGFC is currently organized into three subclusters: the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Subcluster, the Family and GBV Prevention and Response Subcluster, and the Child Development Subcluster. Through these collaborative efforts, MIGEPROF and its partners continue to make significant strides in fostering family well-being and eradicating gender-based violence in Rwanda.

Minister Uwimana Consolée Outlines Rwanda's vision for the ideal family



In an interview with Igihe newspaper, Minister Uwimana Consolée shared her vision of the ideal Rwandan family, a family that is both safe and resilient, aligning with the country's aspirations.

Economically, she highlighted the importance of families being self-sufficient, producing enough not only to meet their own needs but also to supply the market. Additionally, families should be able to save, invest, and drive their development.

On the well-being, the Minister stressed that every family member should enjoy good health, with all children receiving a quality education and living in a healthy, clean and peaceful environment.

Touching on governance, she emphasized Rwanda's desire for families to be informed and actively engaged with government programs and national initiatives.

She further noted that families should strive to be free from any conflicts and destructive behaviors, such as alcohol abuse and infidelity, which can disrupt family harmony and well-being.



Minister Uwimana calls stakeholders in Western Province to address family challenges

On September 6, 2024, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion convened a coordination meeting in the Western Province, uniting 116 stakeholders from diverse sectors, including government representatives, NGOs, and faith-based organizations, with the aim of addressing pressing family-related challenges in the community.

Co-chaired by Hon. Minister Uwimana Consolée, Minister of State Marie Solange Kayisire, and Lambert Dushimimana, Governor of the Western Province, the meeting emphasized the importance of collective action to address challenges that impede the family development.

Minister Uwimana passionately urged participants to intensify their collaborative efforts and align their actions with the National Umushyikirano Council's resolutions, particularly the 3rd and 9th from the 14th and 18th councils. She highlighted the urgent need to tackle ongoing issues, especially child abuse, and called for a concerted effort to gather and share information to hold perpetrators accountable, reminding everyone that the crime of child defilement does not expire.

Leaders across the Western Province committed to deepening their engagement with families to identify the root causes of these challenges. They pledged to enhance educational opportunities and foster a safe, resilient family environment. This dialogue signifies a unified determination to create sustainable solutions that will promote the well-being of families throughout the region.

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Minister urges Nyabihu families to embrace positive parenting for a stronger community

From September 3 to 5, 2024, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion conducted an awareness campaign on positive parenting in Nyabihu District. This initiative also disseminated key resources, including the new law on Persons and Family and various behavior change communication tools, reaching 591 individuals through community meetings.

Hon. Minister Uwimana Consolée encouraged participants, particularly families in conflict, to promote love and unity to build resilient households. She highlighted the importance of understanding the root causes of conflicts and making practical decisions that benefit everyone involved.

The campaign aims to instill Rwandan moral values in children and emphasizes the need for collaboration among local authorities, security organs, and community groups to foster a safer future for families. By adopting positive parenting practices, participants are empowered to create supportive environments that contribute to the overall well-being of their communities.



What a positive parenting is?

Positive parenting is an approach focused on building a strong, positive relationship between parent and child through respect, encouragement, and open communication. Rather than using punishment to manage behavior, positive parenting encourages understanding and teaching children appropriate behaviors through guidance and consistency.



MIGEPROF Organizes Successful Gender Equality Outreach in Musanze and Gisagara Districts

The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion has recently organized impactful outreach programs in the Musanze and Gisagara Districts, aiming to enhance gender equality in the community. These trainings targeted local government organs and special groups participated, including sector executive secretaries, MAJ staff, gender officers, police representatives, and youth council coordinators. This diverse representation underscores the community's commitment to addressing gender issues.

The training sessions attracted 209 participants, with 112 males (54%) and 97 females (46%), reflecting a balanced engagement in gender-related discussions using gender transformational approaches.

Additionally, MIGEPROF facilitated gender equality dialogues in higher learning institutions, such as Keppler College Kigali, Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) of Huye and Karongi campuses, covering essential topics such as the revised national Gender Policy, breaking gender stereotypes, and the role of women and girls in transformational leadership. The sessions also addressed mechanisms for preventing and responding to gender-based violence and encouraged the active involvement of men and boys in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

These outreach initiatives are vital in fostering a culture of equality and collaboration, empowering communities to participate actively in advancing gender equality throughout the region.

In these outreach programs organized, students from various higher learning institutions have pledged to take the following actions to promote gender equality and raise awareness among the community around.

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MIGEPROF Hosts Vital GBV Clinic in Gisagara District

From August 20 to 23, 2024, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) organized an essential gender-based violence (GBV) clinic in Gisagara District, focusing specifically on supporting GBV victims under the age of 18. The clinic included dedicated sessions for the parents of affected teenagers on August 21 and 22.

Throughout the event, activities centered on dialogue, active listening, and providing comfort to both teenagers and their parents from four sectors: Mamba, Ndora, Gishubi, and Mugombwa. All services offered—including healthcare, counseling, reintegration, and legal support—were provided free of charge, ensuring accessible support for those in need.

A total of 114 teenagers attended the clinic, with participants coming from various sectors: Mamba (31), Ndora (13), Gishubi (37), and Mugombwa (29). Additionally, 150 parents participated, comprising 46 men and 104 women.

This initiative not only highlights MIGEPROF's ongoing commitment to supporting victims of GBV but also reinforces the importance of community involvement in healing and prevention. As the clinic concluded, stories of resilience and hope emerged, leaving participants inspired to foster safer, more supportive environments for all families. Together, they are paving the way for a brighter future, free from the shadows of violence.



MIGEPROF commits to empowering communities against Gender-Based Violence and child abuse

In its ongoing mission to enhance prevention and response mechanisms for gender-based violence (GBV) and child abuse, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) is intensifying the dissemination of crucial policies, laws, and behavior change communication tools across Rwanda. This initiative reflects MIGEPROF's dedication to creating a safer, more supportive environment for individuals and families.

As part of this effort, MIGEPROF has shared the recently updated law governing Persons and Family, alongside a suite of guidelines and communication resources. Notable among these are Tuganire Mwana Wanje (Let's Talk, My Child), Agaciro Kanje (My Dignity), Twubake Urugo Rwiza (Building Strong Homes), Umuryango Ushoboye kandi Utekanye (Strong and Safe Family), and Uburerere Buboneye (Proper Upbringing). These resources play a vital role in raising awareness and promoting behavior change at the community level.

In the latest phase of this initiative, 591 individuals in Nyabihu District were engaged through GBV clinics, family conflict mediation meetings, and coordination meetings with key stakeholders in the Western Province. MIGEPROF has partnered with a wide range of organizations, including Inshuti Z'Umuryango, Umugoroba W'Imiryango committees, the National Youth Council (NYC), and the National Women's Council (NWC), as well as local and central government leaders and security agencies.

This collaborative approach ensures essential information reaches community members at all levels, empowering them to understand their rights and responsibilities, engage in proactive family communication, and foster an environment where GBV and child abuse are actively addressed and prevented.



WHAT A GBV CLINIC IS AND SERVICES DELIVERED DURING GBV CLINIC?

GBV (Gender-Based Violence) clinic is a specialized service focusing on holistic approach in providing comprehensive support to the gender-based violence's victims to ensure their reintegration into community. These clinics are typically designed to address the Health, psychological, legal, and socio-economic needs of victims in a safe and confidential setting, to empower victims, facilitate reintegration, and support them in rebuilding their lives, as well as promote GBV awareness and prevention within communities.

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Minister Uwimana urges women leaders in local government to build safe and resilient families

Monday, 30th September 2024 Minister Uwimana Consolée attended the 3rd General Assembly of the network of women leaders in local government, which brought together over 300 women leaders in local government from Kigali City and across districts down to the village level, the event held in Muhamma District.

In her address, Minister Uwimana emphasized the important role of women leaders in driving Rwanda's development through local governance. She urged them to continue prioritizing the needs of families and remain at the forefront of community development.

She called on them to inspire young girls to pursue leadership roles, starting from the grassroots, while working with men and boys to promote gender equality. She also stressed the importance of tackling family challenges, such as child malnutrition and teenage pregnancies, by supporting families and ensuring that these issues are addressed to build safe and resilient communities.

Key information on statistics of Women Leaders

General information

Overall, 82% of currently married women participate alone or jointly with their husband in decisions regarding their health care, 78% participate in decisions about major household purchases, 87% participate in decisions about visits to their family and relatives, and 68% participate in all three decisions. Only 6% of currently married women say that they are not involved in any of the three specified household decisions (DHS 2019-20).

Trends: Currently married women's participation in all three decisions increased from 59% in 2010 to 65% in 2014-15 and 68% in 2019-20. The percentage of currently married men who participate in making decisions about their own health care and major household purchases has remained unchanged since 2014-15 (93%).

18.2. Women's participation in leadership and decision making

18.2.1. Proportion (%) of women in leadership at district level

Rwanda						
Period/ Data	Proportion of Women among District Mayors/DEA	Proportion of women among District Executive secretaries	Proportion of women among District Division Managers	Proportion of women in District Council	Proportion of women among Vice mayors in charge of Economic Affairs	Proportion of women among Vice mayors in charge of Social Affairs
2017	20	10.3	24.1	45.2	10	83.3
2018	23.3	13.7	24.1	45.2	13.3	82.7
2019	26.6	7.6	22.2	45.2	10.3	84.6
2020	30	8	22	45.2	10	85
2021	33.3	11.1		46.1	14.8	77.8

Source: NEC report, 2021

18.2.2. Proportion (%) of women in Parliament

Rwanda		
Period / Data	Proportion of women among members of parliament (senate)	Proportion of women among members of parliament (Chamber of Deputies)
2018	38%	61.3%
2019	38.4%	61.3%
2020	38.4%	61.3%
2021	34.8%	61.3%
2024	53.8%	63.75%

Source: Administrative data (parliament, 2024)

18.2.3. Women participation (%) in Councils

Rwanda			
	Female	Male	
2021	Women participation in Cell council	47.3	52.7
	Women participation in Sector council	47.8	52.2
	Women participation in District council	46.1	53.9

Source: NEC report, 2021

18.2.4. Women participation (%) in Local government leaders (Bureau)

Rwanda					
Period/ Data	Proportion of Women in District council bureau	Proportion of women in District executive committee	Proportion of women in sector council bureau	Proportion of women in cell council bureau	Proportion of women in executive committee at village level
2021	45.7	40.7	38.4	39.4	40.1

Source: NEC Report, 2021

Gender equality in leadership	Score: 80.98%
The Executive	Score: 72.60%
	DATA Source of data
% of Women in Ministerial positions	45.45% Administrative data, 2024
% of women Head of public institutions	34.15% GMO, 2023
% of women Permanent Secretaries	22.20% GMO, 2023
The Judiciary	77.04%
% of women judges in Supreme court	43.00% Supreme court, 2023
% of women judges in court of appeal	46.00% Supreme court, 2023
% of women judges in High Court (HC)	28.00% Supreme court, 2023
% of women judges in Intermediate Courts	41.00% Supreme court, 2023
% of women judges in primary courts (TB)	57.00% Supreme court, 2023
% of women judges in Commercial High Court	29.00% Supreme court, 2023
% of women judges in Commercial court (CC)	29.00% Supreme court, 2023



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