

“ ENHANCING WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING & BUDGETING ”



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear esteemed stakeholders and readers in general, Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe (PF/TH) is pleased to introduce the Issue No.04 of our bi-annual Newsletter, aimed to update you on the various activities implemented to uplift the status of the Rwandan women and girls.

Since its inception, PF/TH has carried out its role of advancing women's cause with honor and integrity; implementing various projects tailored to improve the status of women and girls so as to empower them to play their rightful role in social-economic development and leadership of our country.

In this issue of the newsletter, we highlighted various advocacy initiatives conducted to address the issues identified in women participation in planning and budgeting process, the inclusion of Gender based Violence interventions in Imihigo, advocacy on the issues of gender based violence including an alarming issue of teenage pregnancy which is affecting the future of our girls, the challenges and barriers that hindering women to have access to the capital for investing in agriculture sector. Different concerned institutions were called to take actions that address the identified issues.

PF/TH is grateful for sustainable collaboration with different stakeholders, without which, we would not have achieved any results. At PF/TH, we pledge to work with all stakeholders, most especially the government of Rwanda, funders and our partner civil society organizations to advance gender equality and justice in Rwanda.

Enjoy reading this publication and thereafter share with us your feedback.

I find also an opportunity to wish you and your family a happy new year 2019 full of success, prosperity and peace.

KANAKUZE Jeanne d'Arc,

Chairperson



GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING: A NEED TO ADDRESS ISSUES IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION



The Chief Gender Monitor, Rose RWABUHIHI

Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe in collaboration with Norwegian People's aid (NPA) are implementing 2 projects : the first is "Ending Domestic Violence" program with the objective of addressing issues related to unequal participation of men and women and ending gender based violence. The second is "Public Policy Information, Monitoring and Advocacy PPIMA" program aimed at improving and strengthening citizen centred governance and decision making processes with gender lens at national and local level. These two projects are implemented in 8 districts (Gatsibo- Nyagatare, Gakenke- Burera, Nyaruguru- Nyamagabe and Ngororero- Nyabihu) and 4 Higher Learning Institutions (UR-College of Arts and Social Sciences, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, College of Science and Technology and Institute Catholique de Kabgayi).

In the above mentioned Districts where PPIMA and EWOPAD operate, challenges related to low women participation in decision making processes and limited accountability in gender responsive planning and budgeting were identified and discussed through national policy dialogue with stakeholders to find out strategies and actions to address identified gaps.

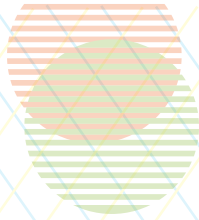
In her opening remarks, the Chief Gender Monitor Mrs. Rose RWABUHIHI commended the strong commitment by the Government of Rwanda to promoting gender equality at all levels. To back that commitment, Rwanda initiated Gender Responsive Budgeting program to ensure gender sensitive allocation. She said.

The Chief Gender Monitor also commended great partnership among CSOs working on gender equality, and stressed that the policy dialogue is expected to draw more commitments to jointly addressing persisting gaps on gender mainstreaming at all levels.

The identified challenges includes lack of comprehensive Gender analysis to know what and where gender disparities/special needs are the most, difficulties with some district planners to make Gender and GBV indicators across components of district action plans therefore difficulties to come up with sound Gender Budget Statement (GBS), the absence of sex disaggregated data that renders the GBS Gender neutral, Gender Blind in higher learning institutions and disparities in students' enrolment as well as UR staffing, lack of gender disaggregated data, Men's engagement strategies and interventions not articulated among others.



The executive secretary of PF/TH, Emma Marie BUGINGO presenting dialogue recommendations



To address the identified issues, the policy dialogue recommended the following actions:

- Gender Monitoring Office to support District to Conduct comprehensive Gender analysis before planning and budgeting;
- Develop and disseminate to all districts and ministries sex disaggregated data systems to inform planning;
- The ministry of local government in collaboration with the ministry of finance to ensure that that gender equality and GBV indicators are part of Imihigo and have standalone budget;
- All ministries are urged to prioritize issues that directly affect women and young girls such as; women access to finances, access to agricultural inputs, addressing teenage pregnancy, among others.



Participants in the national dialogue

Ernest NIRAGIRE, A&CC

INTERVENTIONS THAT ADDRESS TEENAGE PREGNANCY SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED IN IMIHIGO

The 16 Days of Activism Campaign is an annual international United Nations-endorsed initiative

From 25th November to the 10th December on ending violence against women and girls. The National theme calls upon “Building the family we want, say No to Child Defilement”.

The mass campaign held in Huye District on 07th December 2018 in Gishamvu sector, Urged citizen and local leaders to take action on ending child defilement

Reports indicate that the prosecution in Huye District recorded 127 cases of child defilement in the last 11 months; the figures interpreted as



Madame Kanakuze Jeanne d'Arc, Chairperson of Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe

“alarming” and pressing for action to curb the vice. The district also recorded 43 cases of GBV



against adults in the same period, however gathering evidences and the culture of silence around GBV issues still a barrier for GBV victims to access justice.

Speaking at the campaign in Gishamvu sector, the Chairperson of Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe, Jeanne d'Arc Kanakuze urged the residents and local leaders to step up the fight against child defilement and stressed citizen to Speak out Gender Based Violence and child defilement.

"Let us end child defilement, let's end GBV in our country. We want Huye to champion this campaign. No one should relax and sleep when the neighbour's child is defiled; feel it as if the child were yours," she told the gathering of hundreds with the



The Vice Mayor in charge of economic affairs, Huye District

cater for their children; don't let them out on streets. Teach them about reproductive health and help them guard against bad practices like drug abuse, prostitution, etc. Men have to stick on integrity and be more engaged in prevention of child defilement and gender based violence.

The Vice Mayor in charge of economic affairs, Huye District

youth representing the majority.

The chairperson of Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe stressed Districts to take into consideration interventions that address gender based violence and teenage pregnancy and make them among priorities in Imihigo from household to district levels to build the family we want.

The Vice Mayor in charge of Finance and Economic Development in Huye District, André Kamana urged parents to regularly hold dialogue with their children and adolescents on sexuality and reproductive health and stressed youth to be satisfied with what their parents can provide and put more efforts in self-reliance to be able to satisfy their needs.

"Parents have to

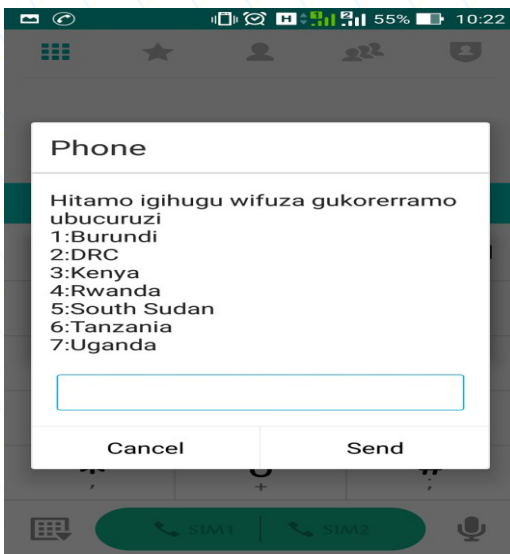
The vice mayor requested religious leaders to always take time to talk about the issues that are affecting families, human security issues, and encourage religious members to take their responsibility. In addition teachers to clearly educate adolescents about reproductive health.

Ernest NIRAGIRE, A&CC

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY, A RESPONSE TO WOMEN CROSS-BORDER TRADERS

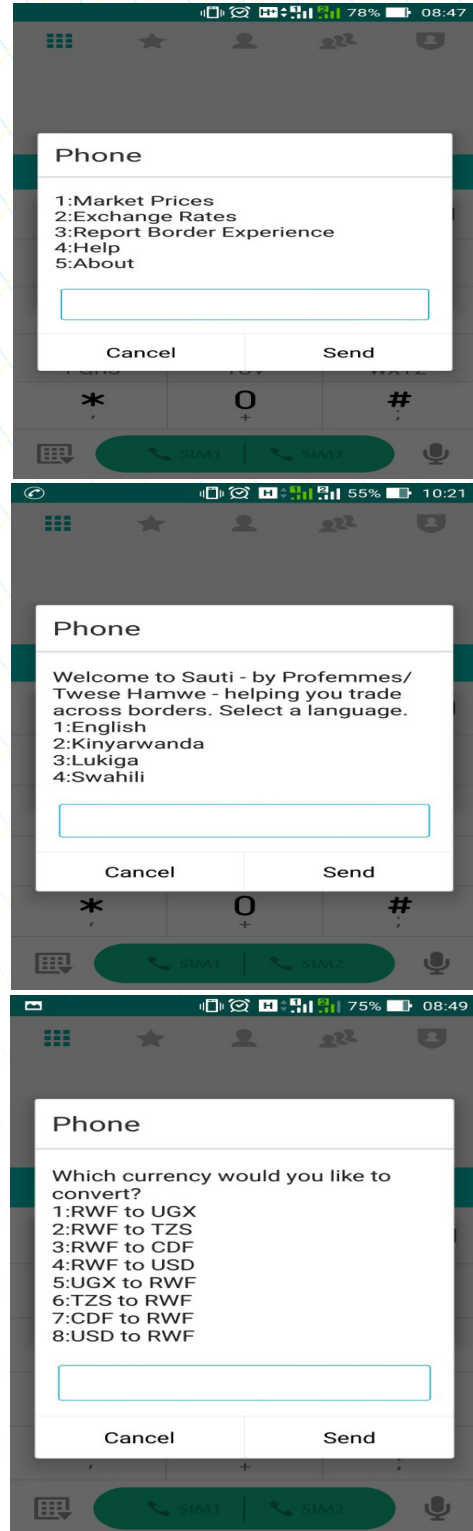
Pro-Femmes/ Twese Hamwe is in partnership with GIZ-IIDEA for implementing a project entitled “Enhanced Market Access for women cross border traders of grains in Gatuna and Cyanika”. This project is tenaciously at strengthening market information for women cross border traders. It also respond to the communication channel challenge among cross border buyers and traders whereby participants are able to use simplified mobile based application to get access on market information via their mobile phones.

To increase their trading capabilities, women in cross border trade were equipped with knowledge on grains products diversification with which Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe consider to be more impactful to women cross border traders to diversify their products by adding value to what they are currently doing also to initiate new businesses by responding to new opportunities in the environment.



With our mobile-based platform, any trader with a basic mobile phone can access real-time market prices, exchange rates and trade procedures. Our mobile platform leverages the ubiquity of mobile phones and innovates on USSD and SMS technologies to enhance delivery channels of the information necessary for East African cross-border traders.

By dialing: *780*35# Rwanda



Ernest BUCYAYUNGURA, Program Manager

COMBATING GBV TO REDUCE HIV NEW INFECTIONS



Group photo in Kirehe District after a training sessions

Gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV are both areas of concern for the Rwanda Government and populations, since they are a bottleneck to human rights, national development and welfare of the population as well. The two epidemics overlap and intersect in complex ways which have not yet been fully mapped or understood. A detailed understanding of these intersections is however, vital for planning adequate policy responses to GBV and HIV. As HIV is mainly transmitted through sexual intercourse, GBV is a major factor of spreading HIV among the populations, especially the most vulnerable classes. The Government of Rwanda adopted a multi sectoral response to the HIV epidemic. This was after realisation that the impact of AIDS epidemic was far reaching and beyond the Health sector. Various stakeholders have been involved to control the spread and mitigate the impact of the AIDS epidemic on society and the economy.

In partnership with RBC/Global Fund, the project aims at contributing to the reduction of HIV new infections by providing training aiming at raising awareness and enhancing the community's prevention and response to GBV and build capacity of service providers to identify and support those most at risk of GBV. The project also

provides support to vulnerable victims of gender based violence (psychological support).

It also seeks to better enable comprehensive care of victims of sexual and gender based violence and reinforcing the linkages and referral systems between the community, Rwanda Investigation Bureau, health and judicial service providers.

Beneficiaries include health care providers, community leaders, local authorities at District, Sector and cell levels, security organs (Police, RIB, Army, DASSO, Reserve force) Inshuti z'umuryango, religious leaders and people living with HIV.

The project tries to ensure sustainability, community ownership and alignment with national policies, plans and international Development Programmes in addressing the above said gender gaps that is inspired by the global targets of "zero new HIV infections, zero HIV-related deaths and zero stigma and discrimination due to HIV".

in September 2018, the project activities have been conducted in 12 Districts of Karongi, Rusizi, Nyamasheke and Rutsiro in Western Province, in Gisagara, Huye, Nyamagabe and in Nyaruguru Districts, Southern Province and in Rwamagana, Kirehe, Ngoma and Bugesera, Eastern Province. In total, 489 beneficiaries have been trained and 16 GBV victims are benefiting from psychotherapy sessions.



Group photo in Gisagara District after a training session

FURERE Wellars, PC



PRO-FEMMES TWESE HAMWE CALL FOR INCREASED PRIORITIZATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS IN NATIONAL AND DISTRICTS PLANNING AND BUDGETING

The Every Voice Counts (EVC) Project aims at ensuring that local and national government authorities promote a citizens engagement and social accountability model for enhancing women participation and influence in governance processes to address gender based violence. The project covers 5 districts of the southern province namely, Nyanza, Huye, Ruhango, Kamonyi, Muhanga.

According to a study conducted by Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe in August 2018, at central government level, consultations with different stakeholders are minimal. At District level, there exists no specific and separate forum for Imihigo consultation during planning and budgeting forums and Imihigo plans are rarely discussed at existing forums like Umuganda and Umugoroba w'ababyeyi. Citizen engagement especially meaningful participation of women and girls is very limited and thus their views, needs and priorities are barely reflected in district plans and budgets. In addition, there are no clear mechanisms to ensure views from household level Imihigo are channeled into final district plans. In its 2016 Governance Scorecard, Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) reported that citizen participation is at 61% while civil society participation is at 72%, the lowest indicators in the participation and inclusiveness docket. While RGB recognizes that citizen participation has been empowered by and large through home grown solutions where citizens are involved in the decision making processes and shaping national policy such as through Umuganda and Umushyikirano, the RGB report breaks down the data to include two of the lowest scored sub-indicators, namely % of citizens satisfaction in their participation in preparation of District budgets and plans (7%) and % of citizens satisfaction with their participation in Imihigo planning (27%). The latter is corroborated by various reports in the media in 2016 and 2017 where citizens and civil society groups report that government programs are designed by top policy institutions and implemented locally without consideration of citizens needs or consultation, which in turn reduces ownership and inclusiveness in the process.

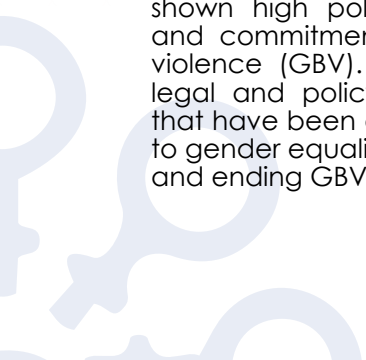
Though the Rwandan Government has shown high political will for gender equality and commitment to eradicate gender-based violence (GBV). This has been evidenced by legal and policy and institutional frameworks that have been established that are committed to gender equality in all development processes and ending GBV.

Despite all these efforts so far made, there remains a disconnect between the lived realities of women and girls and the gender sensitive laws, policies interventions in place. For instance, despite the law on equal ownership of property and land, Rwandan women have little say in how land and land produce is used in most households. <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/property-ownership-rural-women-suffering-silence-men-hold-old-traditions>. In reality, there remain power imbalances between men and women. GBV in the country continues to be widespread. Cases of murdered women are reported almost on daily basis and there is an increase in teenage pregnancies.

Women's rights organizations argue that this is linked to the deep rooted patriarchal system in which women are still being less valued especially at the household level. Interventions in place haven't translated to change in power relations and therefore, sustainable efforts to end GBV need to be more focused at the household level and individuals rather than superficial interventions. This needs dedicated efforts and allocation of sufficient resources to this cause. According to Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe, from analysis of different sector and district plans, social aspects in planning and budgeting are given little importance, specifically, different types of GBV. For example, an analysis of 17 of the 30 Rwandan districts show that annual plans also known as "Imihigo" or performance contracts for 2015-2016 financial year showed that only 50% of the districts planned for activities related to addressing Gender Based Violence. Still, even those that planned for GBV activities only had one single activity of monitoring forums known as "Umugoroba w'ababyeyi" which mean parents evening forums, community spaces that have been established for communities to discuss and resolve GBV issues. Monitoring these forums is very minimal and cannot ensure the eradication of the widespread and deep rooted GBV issues in Rwandan communities.

Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe and other civil society organizations are concerned that Rwandan women and girls continue to be victims of GBV resulting from deep-rooted power inequalities between men and women. They are calling for increased commitment and accountability through central and local government level plans and budgets to implement structural and transformative measures to prevent and respond to gender inequalities.

Chantal UMUHOZA, EVC Adv.Coord



DEEP EDUCATION ON MARRIAGE AND MATRIMONIAL REGIMES TO ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY STABILITY

The Government of Rwanda has made tremendous efforts in ensuring equal rights for both women and men. Institutional and legal frameworks at national level are well established: the National Constitution of 2003 as amended to date, different laws and policies, strategies and mechanisms are set up.

Pro-Femmes /Twese Hamwe (PFTH), in consolidating efforts to effectively eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, ensure socio-economic justice and gender equality, as per her mission to raise awareness on public on gender related laws, produced and disseminated a simplified manual on the new law N°27/2016 of 08/07/2016 governing Matrimonial Regimes, Donation and Succession in under «Public Policy, Information, Monitoring and Advocacy project» (PPIMA) program implemented in partnership with Norwegian People's Aid.

During the dissemination workshops, some issues related to the inadequate understanding and implementation of the law were raised in relation to matrimonial regimes, donations and succession

- Limited information on matrimonial regimes for couples, consequences of dissolution due to short time of preparation, persistence of cultural gender stereotypes, divergence of religious beliefs and personal interests;
- It was raised that in most marriages, as there is no inventory of property for both

future spouses at civil registration, women are seen as bringing nothing in the new family hence they prefer the community of property. At the dissolution of matrimonial regime for any mentioned cause they are denied succession rights or access and use of household property;

- It was recommended to competent Civil Status administrators to take enough time to educate couples on the 3 matrimonial regimes during the 7 days of preparation to civil marriage at sector level provided in the law governing persons and family, educate the youth on matrimonial regimes, as it is done for reproductive health issues so as to help them to make informed decisions later;
- Gathering evidence in case of right to succession for children born out of wedlock

The issue of finding evidence for children born out of wedlock and who are denied the right to inheritance, their justice becomes complex when the prosecutor decides to use DNA tests, these are very expensive for most of victims, with the corruption, silence and harassment behind, this was most found in northern, southern and western Districts.

It was recommended to take such cases as GBV cases to be handled and be budgeted for as it is done for teenage pregnancies.

Mediatrice UMUBYEI, PC

L'ÉMANCIPATION DE LA FEMME DANS LA GESTION DU BIEN FAMILIAL (TROUPEAUX)

Pro-Femmes organise souvent les débats communautaires radiodiffusé en synergie, articulé sur les perceptions du concept « Genre », tout en mettant en lien, l'égalité des droits entre les époux et le diagnostic des violences basées sur le genre.

Pendant ces débats les participants ont bel et bien montré que l'égalité des droits entre les époux est un sérieux problème, car certains hommes se comportent toujours comme des rois immuables et par conséquent, le principe d'égalité en souffre ! Cela se remarque dans l'accès et gestion des ressources et bien des familles surtout pour les femmes. Bien que la loi est claire pour la gestion des biens et ressources, certaines femmes ont montré que leurs maris leur refusent le droit à la terre et à la production agricole. Selon elles, le pouvoir

financier du ménage appartient toujours au mari. Une femme a dit : Le fait qu'il n'y a pas de dialogue dans la famille, les conséquences liées à ces problèmes sont nombreuses et même suite à ces comportements dans les familles un grand nombre de filles adolescentes tombent enceintes du jour au lendemain. Cependant les responsables de ces grossesses sont souvent des hommes mariés qui trompent nos filles moyennant de petits cadeaux. Du coup, la population s'aperçoit que la jeune fille dans la famille n'est pas protégée ! D'autres sujet importants qui sont abordés sont en rapport avec le « Egalité entre conjoints, Conflits conjugaux, Violences faites à la femme et les adolescentes qui tombent enceintes. »

Les participants ont montré que les époux ne jouissent pas de mêmes droits dans le foyer.



Certains maris ont toujours le dernier mot sur la gestion quotidienne du foyer. Les femmes qui osent réclamer leurs droits au profit du bien-être familial, provoquent à l'instant même des querelles. A titre illustratif, ce sont les hommes qui décident de la vente des terres et du bétail. Certaines femmes ont montré que le concept «Genre» reste théorique malgré les efforts du gouvernement de promouvoir les droits de la femme.

Pour la gestion des ressources principales les troupeaux (vaches) a Nyabihu : les femmes ont clamé haut et fort dans le débat, montrant qu'elles sont exclues dans la gestion des troupeaux familiaux. Seuls les maris disposent le droit donner comme cadeau et de vendre les vaches sans le consentement de la femme.

Celle-ci en est victime depuis longtemps dans la culture rwandaise, car la vache est une propriété exclusive de l'homme. Une femme a parlé de son amertume lorsqu'elle avait tenté de fouler la prairie de son mari localisé à l'entrée de la forêt de Gishwati. « J'ai été décriée par les bergers qui s'adressaient à moi avec insultes, me rappelant que je suis porte-malheur. Ils m'ont rappelée que la culture interdit à la femme d'entrer dans la prairie ...».

Les participants ont donc exprimé le vœu d'organiser plusieurs séances de mobilisation de la population sur la disposition de la promotion du genre et égalité des droits entre les époux pour lutter contre les conflits familiaux ainsi que les violences domestiques.

Angelique UMULISA, PC.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR STRENGTHENED CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs IN SETTING ANNUAL PRIORITIES.

CSOs have a great role to play to ensure citizen participation especially women and girls. Therefore, for more than two years, Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe in collaboration with CARE International Rwanda are implementing project called "Every Voice Counts" (EVC) in 5 districts of southern province of Nyanza, Muhanga, Huye, Ruhango and Kamonyi. The project aims at promoting a citizen engagement and social accountability model for enhancing women participation and influence in governance processes to address gender based violence at local and National level.

Local communities comprising of various groups including women, youth and people with disabilities have been mobilized and equipped with skills to conduct community dialogues and represent issues from those groups at sector and district levels and participate actively in planning and budgeting processes. Additionally, districts have been supported to strengthen their citizen participation approaches. In the 5 districts, the project built capacity of more than 200 Community score card facilitators, trained 640 community advocacy core team and built capacities of 41 local leaders on inclusive governance.

The one day experience sharing meeting held by Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe aimed to share best practices of citizen participation in planning and budgeting, case of 5 districts in southern province with the theme "Showcasing the role of

CSOs and a call for strengthened commitment and accountability for transformative gender equality". The meeting was held on 18th December at Kigali Convention center and Radisson Blu.

The meeting was attended by over 120 people. Participants greatly appreciated the experience sharing session and expressed how EVC has strengthened their citizen participation approaches and how that has led to positive outcomes, especially the confidence gained by women to work engage with local authorities and demand accountability on issues affecting them, seeking for them to be addressed.

Overall, challenges remain including burden of care work, lack of timely information among citizens on planning process and a limited time given to citizen consultations during planning process.

After presentation of key recommendations, leaders and decision makers from districts and from various government institutions that attended the meeting including MIGEPROF, MINALOC, GMO, LODA, RGB expressed commitment to continue ensuring that gender equality is upheld at all levels and that plans and budgets seek to address issues affecting women and girls.

"Women and girls voices matter in planning and budgeting"

Ernest NIRAGIRE, A&CC



YOUTH AT THE FOREFRONT ON ENDING TEENAGE PREGNANCY



Girls need not to be abused, they need to be given value and Respected.

Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe during 16 days of activism targeted youth in order to hear their voices on child defilement issues that are harming the future of young girls in particular and the family in general.

The dialogue with youth conducted in Huye District at YEGO center resulted to a commitment of youth volunteers, adolescents, parents to speak out child defilement cases in their communities.

The campaign aimed also at educating youth on reproductive health. The following messages were designed and addressed through social media, advocacy meetings, and different channels during 16 days of activism that started on 25th November until 10th December 2018.

"Adolescents' sexual and reproductive health must be supported. This means providing access to [comprehensive sexuality education](#); services to prevent, diagnose and treat STIs; and counselling on [family planning](#). It also means empowering young people to know and exercise their rights to refuse unwanted sexual advances". It's in that aim the expert from ARBEF lead a question and answers session on reproductive health and

rights for adolescents gathered in Huye Yego youth Center.

Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe advocated for the efficient delivery of a holistic, youth-friendly health-care package of services. These include:

- Access to accurate sexual and reproductive health information;
- Sensitive counselling and socio-economic support to teen mothers
- Quality obstetric and antenatal care for all pregnant women and girls; and
- The prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV



Gender Based Violence prevention is a commitment for youth volunteers in Huye District

Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe also calls on districts to plan and budget for holistic approaches to prevent teen pregnancies including implementing comprehensive sexuality education and address the issues of teen mothers and Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) should avail the friendly parents manual to guide the dialogue between parents and children on sexuality and reproductive health.

Ernest NIRAGIRE, A&CC

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM, A STRATEGY TO ENDING GBV

Rwanda Men's Resource center (RWAMREC) is a Rwanda national leading organization in addressing gender related issues using the Men Engage approach. The organization aims to empower men and reach out to other men so that we promote gender equality practices through positive masculine behaviors, to promote effective cross-gender dialogue in ending sexual and gender-based violence, to enhance men's understanding and support to women's empowerment initiatives.

RWAMREC is a member of Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe and an implementing partner of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Project (GEWEP II), a project funded by NORAD that delivers on gender transformative change at community level through community activism and men engage Men Engage models.



The representative of NORAD, Mrs. Marina appreciated the interventions to address GBV

collaboration with local leaders in addressing GBV, etc.



Engaging men and Boys, a prerequisite to ending gender based violence, ICYERECYEZO Club, Mukingo Sector

CLUB Icyerecyezo in Mukingo Sector, Nyanza is one of the trained the clubs trained by RWAMREC in order to be the catalyst in preventing violence against women and girls. Club members were trained on journey of transformation. They support the community in GBV prevention and response using developed tools adapted to the needs and understanding of the citizen.

The club achieved a lot in GBV prevention and response where 30 couples were trained and they contributing to behavior change on gender based violence practices. RWAMREC also linked the club with religious leaders that also contribute to change citizen mindset on patriarchal system and educate religious members on women empowerment and gender equality. The achievements so far recorded include break the silence on gender based violence, engaging men and boys as agent of change not as GBV perpetrators, 20 couples that changes from violence to life free from violence, good



The couple of UWITJE Vincent and UWIZEYIMANA Brigitte

Among the achievements the couple of UWITJE Vincent, 37 years old and UWIZEYIMANA Brigitte, 31 years old with 3 children living in Ngwa cell, Kigarama village shared their success story from a violent condition to a developed and unite family and model in the community.

Among the challenges they face, they are not able to reach out to each family, some men who still reluctant on changing their mindset, and the wide coverage that requires adequate resources.

In her visit, the representative of NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation), Mrs. Marina appreciated the contribution of RWAMREC, GEWEP partners and Community engagement clubs in ensuring the family free from all kinds of violence against women and girls.

Ernest NIRAGIRE, A&CC

BUSINESS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM, A STRATEGY TO IMPROVE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Mukankanka Marie Rose, in her coal store

GEWEP II is a NORAD-funded project via CARE International Norway and implemented by ARTCF and other local Implementing partners in close partnership with CARE International Rwanda to help Rwandan poor people, particularly women economically active to obtain a sustainable standing of life. Specifically ARTCF interventions focus more on financial inclusion through VSLG linkage with micro-finance institutions and entrepreneur's mentorship in 8 districts of the southern province.

Mentorship is a professional and personal relationship whereby a well experienced business woman (Mentor) guides a less experienced entrepreneur (Mentee) to become more successful in business. Mentoring helps break down the isolation that all new entrepreneurs and business leaders experience, preventing them from losing hope and making hasty, poorly thought-out decisions while enabling them to develop their full potential and determination to succeed.

Mukankanka Marie Rose, in her coal store

Mukankaka Marie Rose, an entrepreneur women of 5 children living in Ruhango district, Ruhango Sector, Nyamagana cell has benefited from the mentorship program from 2016.

Her mentor is MUKASEKURU Emerance. Marie Rose received trainings on entrepreneurship from ARTCF and linked to her mentor. From the mentorship program, she developed a saving culture, knew how to do accounting and filling accounting books, and her confidence has increased. Primary she is a member of saving

group (VSLG), and currently she has achieved a lot thanks to the empowerment package received from ARTCF and the mentorship program. Among the achievement recorded, she renovated her house, she's now able to pay school fees for her children, she can pay the medical insurance for the family, and she extended her business from a small store in the village, and started selling coal and firewood. She started with 40 bags and now she's able to buy and resell 100 bags. The foundation of above mentioned achievements is the capital of thirty thousand Rwandan francs equivalent to \$ 35 USD got from her VSL group as a loan.

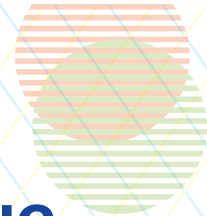
On the other side, Assoumpta MUKAYISENGA, a young girl 23rd years old is a model to young entrepreneurs. She joined VSLG in 2014, where she benefited training on savings and entrepreneurship while she was also attending vocational training. Thanks to the training received from ARTCF, she asked a loan of five hundred and fifty francs equivalent to \$650 USD and started a hairdressing salon with support of her mentor NSHUTI Claude who is also running the same business.



Assoumpta, her permanent staff, intern and the customer

She started working at home and currently she has opened a salon, where she employs 3 permanent staff. Assoumpta is an orphan and the benefit she got from her business helps her to pay school fees for her brothers and sisters, and has purchased improved equipment. She calls upon the government to invest more in vocational trainings as a sustainable way to alleviate the unemployment in youth.

Ernest NIRAGIRE,



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PLANNING CYCLE FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE AND INFLUENCE GENDER RESPONSIVE PLANNING AND BUDGETING

BACKGROUND

Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe in collaboration with CARE International Rwanda is implementing the Every Voice Counts (EVC) Project. Funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through, Care Netherlands, EVC project is being implemented in 5 districts of Southern Province, namely Kamonyi, Muhanga, Ruhango, Nyanza and Huye districts.

The project's aim is to promote a citizen engagement and social accountability model for enhancing women participation and influence in governance processes to address gender based violence at local and National level.

WHAT IS A PLANNING CYCLE?

Rwanda has adopted a long term 7 year program (2018-2024) as an overall guiding tool for national development with 3 key pillars: Social, Economic and Governance transformation. Ministries and districts develop long and short term plans aligned to NST1.

At district level, it is from the annual action plans made that performance contracts known as "Imihigo" are developed with key specific achievable. Imihigo are made up of activities that have allocated budget and usually can be achievable with one year.

Gender is a cross cutting area that needs to be mainstreamed in all plans and budget at all levels

The ministry of finance and economic planning coordinates overall ministries and districts planning and budgeting process. Annually, MINECOFIN issues a planning and budgeting call circular (PBCC) with guidelines for each planning process.

It is the right of all citizens and their representatives including civil society organizations to be part of planning and budgeting cycle at all levels and throughout the process.

WHAT INFORMS WHAT GOES INTO NATIONAL AND DISTRICT PLANS?

- National strategy for transformation (NST1)

The planning cycle:

- October: MINECOFIN provides PBCC with guidelines to all government agencies including districts
- November-December: Ministries and Districts conduct consultations on priority issues to include in plans
- January: MINECOFIN provides indicate budget to all government agencies including districts
- February-April: Government agencies including district prioritize issues to be budgeted for
- May: First draft of Imihigo finalized
- June: Approval of action plans and Imihigo
- June-July: Implementation of approved Imihigo and continued resource mobilization for activities without budgets

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