



MIGEPROF

**REPORT ON THE MIGEPROF- PARTNERS RETREAT
KIGALI 14TH & 15TH JANUARY 2010**

0. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Gender and Family promotion (MIGEPROF) is the Rwanda government body in charge of Gender, Women empowerment, family promotion and children's rights protection. Its mission is to coordinate the implementation of national policies and programs regarding the promotion of the family, gender and children's rights protection to facilitate their integration in the social, economical and political sphere of Rwanda

For MIGEPROF to achieve its objectives, it collaborates with its different partners' i.e. public and private or civil societies.

It is in this context that MIGEPROF organizes regular annual partnership meetings to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of activities concerning children, gender and family promotion.

The retreat in Kigali at the Sport View Hotel was the 4th one, following the 2009 in Musanze that recommended the to hold a progress meeting every six months

0.1 Objectives

This retreat had the following objectives;

1. To review the progress on the implementation of 2009 action plan in the areas of gender, family as well as child's rights' protection
2. To share the findings from the follow up field visits to Districts and partners concerning the implementation of activities in the areas of gender, family and child's rights' protection
3. To present MIGEPROF and Districts' priorities for 2009-2010 in the areas of gender, family as well as child's rights' protection so that partners can align their own plans of action accordingly

0.2 Opening

In her opening address Honorable Minister of Gender and Family promotion thanked the partners for their strong collaboration in resolving issues facing our country in the areas of gender, family and children. She noted the increase of the numbers of vulnerable people despite a lot of efforts on the part of partners and MIGEPROF. She underlined the need to improve service delivery despite the current financial crisis. She stressed the need for transparency, accountability and commitment (*Annex 2*).

1. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

1.1 Report on the follow up of 2008 Rubavu Retreat recommendations (*Annex 3*)

MIGEPROF reminded the partners of the main recommendations of the 2008 Rubavu retreat and informed them about their implementation. Some illustrative examples include;

- Mapping of implementing partners: in this respect, a mapping of organizations involved in gender based violence(GBV)
- Follow up on partners activities and examine the concentration of service providers in some especially urban areas: In this regard, a country wide field visit was conducted.
- Develop and operationalise a monitoring and evaluation framework: About this, the partners were informed of the existence of the gender and OVC M&E framework.

More details about 2008 recommendations and their implementation are attached.

1.2 Report on the field visits to partners and Districts.

MIGEPROF presented the findings from the field visits conducted countrywide from February 24th to 27th, 2009. The report presented at Musanze highlights areas needing improvement and provides important recommendations.

Some perceived weaknesses:

- Gender, child and Family-related activities not highlighted in the performance contracts.
- Partners' Plans of Action not available at the District level and consequently not retained in performance contracts.
- Lack of data collection and Reporting system about the needs in gender, child & family areas
- Preference for easily accessible geographical areas (near the main roads)
- Failure to seek to know the District's priorities prior to launching programs/activities, or to inform the District about the budget and beneficiaries.

Major recommendations

- To better know all the agencies, provide orientation to them for a better coverage and have a strategy for ongoing consultation.
- To include remarkable activities of partner organizations /agencies in the District performance contracts.
- To have the data on the needs and services related to gender, family and children
- To plan on the basis of the District's priorities and report as appropriate on the activities, budgets and the beneficiaries.

2. PRESENTATION ON PROGRESS OF PARTNERS ACHIEVEMENTS

Partners had been given the format to follow in presenting their progress reports. In Musanze, they worked in groups and consolidated their reports by their areas of intervention (gender, family and children)

2.1 Gender and women empowerment

The main activities and achievements focused on the following seven sectors:

- Poverty reduction and women economic empowerment
- Education, advocacy and attitude change
- GBV, legal issues and access to justice.
- Health
- Gender and decision making
- Peace promotion and reconciliation
- Institutional capacity building.

2.2 Family promotion

The main activities and achievements focused on the following seven sectors:

- Family Cohesion
- Promotion of Cultural values
- Rights and obligations within the family
- Protection of vulnerable groups
- Economic development

2.3 Children's rights promotion and protection

The main activities and achievements focused on the following domains:

- Health
- Education
- Nutrition
- Psycho-social support
- Legal support and protection against abuse and exploitation
- Socio-economic support
- Capacity building
- Shelter

3. PRESENTATION OF MIGEPROF PRIORITIES 2009-2010 (Annex 4)

Before MIGEPROF's presentation, the Representative of the Gender Monitoring Office gave a highlight on "Result/Impact based planning" as per *Annex 5*

MIGEPROF then presented its priorities from July 2009 to June 2010 so that the partners and the Districts can be informed and, where applicable, align their planning accordingly. In the gender, Family and Children's rights area, the following are the main priorities:

3.1 Gender and Women empowerment:

- Disseminate National Gender Policy, GBV Policy and their Strategic Plans
- Support and follow up programs in favor of women sex workers, beggars and hawkers
- Celebrate international rural women's day , 16 days of activism and International women's day
- Advocate for additional funds in women guarantee fund located in NBR/BNR and Put in place "credit line" relative women guarantee fund

3.2 Family promotion:

- Develop and disseminate tools to sensitize on child's rights, and parents' obligations and responsibilities
- Conduct sensitization campaigns about foster care and adoption of Rwandan orphans
- Disseminate the National family Strategic Plan
- Elaborate a guide on Parents-Child Communication Programs
- Organize and celebrate the International Family Day
- Elaborate a training module for improving relationships within couples

3.3 Children's rights protection

- Prepare, organize and celebrate the Day of the African Child and the National Children's Summit
- Prepare and disseminate the Integrated Child Policy and its Strategic Plan
- Follow up and evaluate the protection of children in orphanages, centers for children with disabilities and detention centers hosting mothers with infants
- Implement the National Street Children Program
- Coordinate and follow up the support of Global Fund project OVC component
- Transform and equip Gitagata Centre into a Community Centre and introduce component of agricultural and animal breeding

4. PRESENTATION OF DISTRICTS' PLANS OF ACTION 2009-2010

The representatives of the Districts had received a format for the presentations of their plans and priorities and they worked in groups by provinces and Kigali city. The synthesis of their group work is as follows:

4.1 Gender and Women Empowerment

- Sensitize and train opinion leaders, District and Sector Officials, as well as elected women on gender leadership and the law governing the National Women's Councils (NWC).
- Organize and celebrate the International Women's Day and the Day of the Rural Woman
- Sensitize and train women on the development and management of Income generating Activities (IGA), the cooperatives, credits and saving and entrepreneurship
- Organize an annual women's Congress
- Identify the most vulnerable women and provide them with financial support and/or advocacy
- Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the integration of gender dimension in all Districts' plans of activities
- Develop literacy programs for women

4.2 Family Promotion

- Sensitize unmarried, polygamous and illegal couples to regularize their marriages
- Develop programs to sensitize on family planning, reproductive health, pre-natal consultations, VCT and PMTCT, as well as on the fight against gender-based and domestic violence.
- Sensitize the community on family laws and responsibilities
- Organize and celebrate the International Family Day
- Follow up NGOs activities through quarterly visits and annual meetings

4.3 Children

- Identify, update data concerning OVCs and provide them with support
- Operationalize children's forums and Committees on Gender-based violence and Children's Protection
- Coordinate the activities of street children's centers, orphanages, transit centers and follow up the reintegration of street children into families and provide the required support
- Sensitize opinion leaders and the community at large on children's rights and on children's participation
- Prepare, organize and celebrate the Day of the African child, the National Children's Summit and the restitution of the Summit recommendations
- Organize a meeting for stakeholders involved in children's protection programs
- Sensitize the population on the need for community-based early childhood development structures

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

	Recommendation	Timeframe
To MIGEPROF	Share field visit report of 24-27 February 09 Share any other useful information concerning children, gender and family promotion, especially through the website	April 09 Ongoing
	Advocate vis-à-vis development partners so that programs and projects focus on national priorities rather than on targets set by donors	TBD
	Organize a MIGEPROF “Open Day” at the national level	Every six months
	Advocate for the integration of people with special needs in the implementation of various programs (education, economic empowerment, etc)	Ongoing
	Express appreciation to partners who demonstrate exemplary impact in their interventions	Women’s Day, Family Day, Children’s Summit
	Organize meetings with Districts at least twice a year on gender, family and children issues.	TBD but prior to partners meetings
	Establish a Committee to approve gender, family and children-related messages to be disseminated	July 2009
To DISTRICTS	Apply the Ministerial Instructions regarding OVC identification in order to improve the process and avoid ghost beneficiaries	April-July 09
	Operationalize the M&E framework for gender and the M&E for OVC	From July 2009
	Strengthen JAF ‘s role for a better coordination of issues related to gender, family and children	Every quarter
	Present plans of action integrating all activities of partners concerning children, gender and family promotion at the next retreat	Next Retreat
	Request partners to give full identification of beneficiaries of their intervention (names, family)	Quarterly
	Reinforce the collaboration and complementarities between partners	Ongoing
	Ensure that operational documents of partners are approved by the Mayor and accompanied by a detailed report on partners’ performance signed by the District Officers in charge of gender, family and child	Ongoing
	Apply the Ministerial instructions for establishment and management of orphanages and street children’s centers	Ongoing
	Own the principle of children’s participation and ensure follow up of children participating in the Children’s Summit	
	Organize orientation and coordination meetings with implementing partners in Districts on gender, family and children issues.	TBD

To PARTNERS	Align their interventions to Government's and Districts' priorities	In designing their plans of action
	Design sustainable projects and programs with exit strategy	At the time of designing projects
	Redefine ways in which support can shift from assistance to medium and long term effect through promotion of local investment and development projects, targeting families and communities	Ongoing
To MIGEPROF & PARTNERS	Sign contracts to reinforce mutual commitments for more efficient and effective interventions	May 2009

6. COMMITMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN MIGEPROF AND PARTNERS

As recommended during the partners retreat the participants agreed upon a commitment contract that will be signed by all the Heads of partners Institutions and MIGEPROF. It reads as follows:

“We, Partner of MIGEPROF in Gender, Family Promotion and Child Rights Promotion and Protection, commit our Organization to:

- a. Aligning our interventions to the National and sectoral policies, strategies and standards and to Districts’ priorities
- b. Defining minimum operational budgets that can have an impact on people’s lives
- c. Addressing root causes of issues affecting our population and contributing to the objective of sustainability by using innovative strategies
- d. Respecting the principle of transparency and accountability in activities, budgets and sources of funding, both vertically (vis-à-vis authorities) and horizontally (vis-à-vis other partners and the beneficiaries)
- e. Building synergies with other partners and pooling resources together for maximum impact on the beneficiaries
- f. Cooperating with existing structures (JAF, Committees and Forums)
- g. Providing annual activity plans, narrative and financial reports approved by the relevant District, in a standard format mutually agreed upon.

MIGEPROF commits itself to:

- a. Facilitating partners’ work in the best way possible
- b. Providing indications of appreciation (award, recommendation to development partners) to partners who will have demonstrated exemplary impact on the lives of the beneficiaries
- c. Monitoring and evaluating partners’ activities and providing them with advice

This commitment contract between MIGEPROF and its partners was endorsed by partners’ representatives attending the 3rd MIGEPROF Partners’ Retreat on 26-27 March 2009 at Musanze.

The Representative of.....

(Name, Title, Date, Place and Signature).....

Minister of Gender and Family Promotion

(Name, Date, Place and Signature).....”

CONCLUSION

In concluding the retreat Honorable Minister of Gender and Family Promotion thanked the participants for their attendance and innovative contributions that have helped to achieve the set objectives.

She noted the importance of the full involvement and ownership by the Districts in the interventions of their partners. On their part, Partners were strongly urged to plan according to Districts priorities. It was said that the final goal of all the interventions should be long-term oriented and should aim at sustainable results.

The proposal to sign a commitment contract between MIGEPROF and its Partners was underlined; it should be signed not later than May 2009. It was felt that this will also help in ensuring that priorities of MIGEPROF and Districts will inspire and guide Partners' activities.

The Honorable Minister thanked UNICEF for its financial support for the retreat.

ANNEXES

1. *Program*
2. *Opening Speech*
3. *Presentation of the Follow up of 2009 Musanze Partners retreat recommendations*
4. *Presentation of MIGEPROF priorities 2010 - 2011*
5. *Presentation of the Gender Monitoring Office's "result/impact based planning".*
6. *Presentation of Districts Plans 2009 - 2010¹*
7. *List of participants*

¹ Districts action plans reports needs further consolidation

Annex 1: AGENDA OF MIGEPROF PARTNERS' MEETING
14-15/01/2010

Timing	Activities	RESPONSIBLE
Wednesday, 13/01/2010		
18h00-19h00	Arrival and registration of participants from Districts	Damascene Grace
Thursday, 14/01/2010		
8h00 - 8h30	Registration	Damascene Grace
8h30 – 8h40	Official opening	Minister/ MIGEPROF
8h40 - 8h50	Presentation of the objectives of the Meeting / Working methodology/	Nzaramba Emmanuel
8h50-9h00	Presentation on the : Report on the follow up on recommendations from the March 2009 MIGEPROF Partners' Retreat	Damien Ngabonziza
9h00- 9h20	Sharing comments – discussions	Nzaramba Emmanuel
9h20 - 10h05	Presentation on realized and planned activities by MIGEPROF Presentation on realized and planned activities by CNF Presentation on realized and planned activities by GMO	Alfred Karekezi Tuyisenge Christine Ntwari Nathan
10h05 – 10h15	Presentation of template and setting up of groups	Nzaramba Emmanuel
10h15 - 11h00	Group work discussions by partners and District's representatives on: -- --- Implementation of recommendations from the March 2009 MIGEPROF Partners' Retreat -Achievements for 2009 in Working Groups /Domain (Family, Gender, women and Children)	Alfred Karekezi ; Egidia Rukundo Faustin Nyilinkwaya,Ntwari Nathan All MIGEPROF Staff
11h00 - 11h15	Tea Break	Peter
11h15 – 13h00	Group discussions by partners and District's representatives on: Achievements for 2009 in Working Groups /Domain (Family, Gender, women and Children)women and Children)	Alfred Karekezi , Egidia Rukundo Faustin Nyilinkwaya, Ntwari Nathan All MIGEPROF Staff
13h00 - 14h00	Lunch	Peter,
14h00 - 15h30	Presentations by partners and District's representatives on: 1. Implementation of recommendations from the March 2009 MIGEPROF Partners' Retreat 2. achievements for 2009 in Working Groups /Domain (Family, Gender, women and Children)women and Children)	Representative of partners by domain. Group representative per Province
15h30-17h00	Presentations by partners and District's	Representative of partners

	representatives on: 1. Implementation of recommendations from the March 2009 MIGEPROF Partners' Retreat 2. achievements for 2009 in Working Groups /Domain (Family, Gender, women and Children)women and Children) Questions and Comments	by domain. Group representative per Province
17h00	Wrap-up and closing of the Day Cocktail	Nzaramba Emmanuel All participants
Friday, 15/01/2010		MC : CHRISTINE TUYISENGE
8h00 - 8h15	Summary of the first day	Ngabonziza Damien
8h15 - 8h30	Presentation of templates	Nzaramba Emmanuel
8h15-11h00	Group work discussing 2010 key priorities by Partners and Districts in working groups/Domain (Family, Gender, women and Children)	Partner and Districts
11h00-11h15	Break	Peter
11h15 – 11h45	Presentation of 2010 key priorities of Partners in Working Groups /Domain (Family, Gender, women and Children)	Partners representative
11h45 -12h15	Presentation of 2010 key priorities of Districts in Working Groups /Domain (Family, Gender , women and Children)	Provinces representative
12h15-12h40	Questions and Comments	Christine Tuyisenge
12h40 – 13h00	Summary and recommendations of the workshop of MIGEPROF partners	Ngabonziza Damien
13h00 - 13h10	Closure, lunch and departure	Minister/MIGEPROF
13h10-14h00	Lunch, logistic issues and departure	Peter and Damascene

Annex 2: OPENING SPEECH

Representative of UNICEF
Representatives of UN Agencies
Representatives of International and National NGOs
Representative of public institutions
MIGEPROF Staff

Dear partners

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to the 4th partners' retreat between MIGEPROF and its development partners. First and foremost, let me start by wishing you Happy and Successful New Year 2010 and thanking you for having responded positively to our invitation. This shows that you are committed to the goal of improving the livelihoods of our people we have vowed to serve.

It is common place for all programs to plan activities, coordinate and monitor their implementation as well as assess their impact on the lives of the beneficiaries/right holders. We, stakeholders working in the area of Gender, Family Promotion and Children Rights Promotion and Protection, have no choice but work together in order to be able to achieve our common goal.

Dear Partners

Ladies and Gentlemen

This is the fourth time we have convened in a retreat like this. It is therefore important that we reflect on the purpose of such retreats and the achievements registered through organizing them. We should not hold meetings for the sake of it. We hold meetings because it is necessary. Thus we have invited you not just to another biannual partners' retreat but because we think important resolutions and recommendations need to be made by involving you as our stakeholders at this juncture. However, it is not just enough to make resolutions and commitments. In the absence of proper planning, coordination and monitoring, it is most likely that our planning will yield no results.

Since we last met, almost a year ago, I have no doubt that a lot of progress has been made both by the Ministry and our partners and we have come together to share different achievements, experiences, challenges and lessons learnt in order to be able to hurriedly move forward.

Dear Partners

Ladies and Gentlemen

On our side, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion which is the Government of Rwanda department charged with coordinating the formulation and implementation of national policies, strategies and programs regarding the promotion of the family, gender and children's rights and initiating programs encouraging and empowering women to participate in the socio-economical

and political development of Rwanda has developed and shared with you a number of policies and guidelines. These include but not limited to the National Gender Policy putting in place an effective system to harmonize and coordinate various interventions related to gender including a communication strategy that provides community dialogue on gender issues.

Among the tools and guidelines we can mention the MIGEPROF website, the Child Status Index (CSI), the Minimum Package of Services Offered to Children, the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Evaluation of the Strategic Plan of OVCs 2007- 2012, the GBV/CPC Guidelines, the Gender Profile 2005-2007 and the Guidelines on Identification of Most Vulnerable Children. However, putting in place tools is one good thing, but utilizing them is an even better one. If these tools are not put at work by relevant stakeholders, they will be as good as non-existent. I therefore urge our partners to use these tools with a view to test the effectiveness of their programs or even the effectiveness of the tools themselves.

In order to be able to move from policy to practice, we do it through the National Women Council, which is a social forum where girls and women pool their ideas in order to solve their own problems and to participate in the development of the country. This council is represented up to the decentralized level, which enables it to reach out to the local community.

The Gender Monitoring Office, which is the National Office in charge of monitoring equity and equality between men and women in all developmental sectors of the country. Though this structure is still in its infancy, it has already conducted its organizational needs assessment and organizational structure and it is now moving to its implementation and staffing plans. It also aims to develop a communication plan to effectively coordinate with key internal and external stakeholders. As you can see, the three gender machinery public institutions work as one body; that is in a harmonious and complementary way. We urge all our partners to do the same.

Dear Partners

Ladies and Gentlemen

One of the big recommendations from the last meeting was that every institution was to sign a commitment agreement, the content of which was drafted by us. I congratulate those institutions which could meet this requirement. Nevertheless, not many institutions adhered to this requirement because as it appears in the report only one fifth “1/5” of institutions represented in the last year’s meeting could sign and send the commitment agreement back to MIGEPROF as earlier agreed upon. Is it because the commitment was irrelevant to some of your institutions or the latter did not want to commit themselves at all? Whatever the cause underlying the non - commitment of these institutions, this is something that we all have to comply with.

As you are aware, one of our home- grown practices is working through performance contracts “Imihigo” to boost performance of our economy and the welfare of our people and our sector shall not fail to uphold it.

The commitment agreement is nothing than imihigo that we have started to put at work. In this meeting, I hope it will be improved and include key activities that an institution commits to implement within a period of time so as to make it easy for their assessment and evaluation.

Dear Partners

Ladies and Gentlemen

This two-day meeting should leave us with a solution to the question on how we can put our efforts together to end the suffering of our people through different programs we are running. We cannot pretend to answer this question, unless we plan together and commit ourselves to keep track of our progress. One way of doing this is to have an implementation plan of action, with clear activities and milestones and responsible institutions to carry them out. Regular sub-cluster meetings of institutions sharing a set of activities are necessary to review progress of performance and sharing experiences. This requires appointing a responsible institution to lead others.

Dear Partners

Ladies and Gentlemen

With these few remarks, I officially declare open this retreat for MIGEPROF AND ITS PARTNERS and I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Annex 3: Presentation of the Follow up of 2009 Musanze Partners retreat recommendations (Please use the link below)



FOLLOW UP ON
RECOMMENDATIONS

Annex 4: Presentation of MIGEPROF priorities 2010 – 2011(Please use the link below)



MIGEPROF 2010
2011 PRIORITIES.ppt

Annex 5: Presentation of the Gender Monitoring Office’s “result/impact based planning” (Please use the link below)



GMO
PRESENTATION 14_0

Annex 6: Presentation of Districts Plans 2009 - 2010²(Please use the link below)



District group
final.doc

Annex 7: List of the participants



Participants_partners_meeting_January_2010

² Districts action plans reports still to be compiled