

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



GENDER MONITORING OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

October, 2016

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADRA	: Adventist Development and Relief Agency
ADRA	: Adventist Development and Relief Agency
BCC	: Budget Call Circular
DNA	: Deoxyribonucleic acid
EDPRS	: Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GBS	: Gender Budget Statement
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
GMO	: Gender Monitoring Office
IOSC	: Isange One Stop Center
MIDMAR	: Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs
MIGEPROF	: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINALOC	: Ministry of Local Government
NEC	: National Electoral Commission
NGO	: Non-Government Organization
NPPA	: National Public Prosecution Authority
PAJER	: Parlement de Jeunes Rwandais
PSF	: Private Sector Federation
RCAA	: Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority
RHA	: Rwanda Housing Authority
UNHCR	: United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VUP	: Vision 2020 Umurenge Program
WASAC	: Water and Sanitation Corporation
WFP	: World Food Program



PREFACE

Article 22 of the Law Governing Gender Monitoring Office requires the Office to submit its annual report to the Prime Minister's Office. This report encompasses all results achieved in line with the approved action plan.

2015/2016 fiscal year was a turning point as the last year of GMO 5 years strategic plan (2011-2016), closing a long period of sustained efforts to position gender accountability in the different national accountability mechanisms. The review of achievements during the last years as well the new strategic plan 2017-2022 to be unveiled in December 2016 will pave the way and inform next interventions of the organization.

The recently approved SDGs and the opportunity offered by the establishment of the regional secretariat of SDGs in Rwanda presents an excellent occasion but also a stimulating challenge for Rwanda to share its successful experience in promoting gender equality accountability, drive innovative strategies to sustain gains and accelerate progress. Lessons learned in establishing accountability for gender equality in the public sector, private and civil society institutions will play an important role to further pitch Gender equality at higher levels in the regional development framework.

The Gender Monitoring Office under the guidance of the Prime Minister's Office and in partnership with the gender machinery is prepared to further contribute to making continue gender equality an important strategy for sustainable development.

RWABUHIHI Rose
Chief Gender Monitor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents GMO's accomplishments in the 2015-2016 financial year and is in line with its mandate and based on the approved action plan.

The report is articulated around four government development pillars: Governance, Justice and human rights, Economy and Social welfare. GMO provides a scan of different aspects monitored in the mentioned pillars, explores gaps and challenges and proposes actionable recommendations to further improve gender mainstreaming in government, civil society and private sector institutions.

Under the pillar of good governance, the elections of local leaders demonstrated increased participation of women in leadership at local level. Analysis of election results indicated a shift of mentality especially in the Southern Province where men and women have competed on positions traditionally perceived to belong to a specific gender. However it is clear that at level of villages and sectors, mobilization of women to compete for leadership positions needs to be continued and increased.

Under the Economic pillar, GMO scrutinized the implementation of 2015-2016 Gender Budget Statements planned by districts and ministries. Furthermore, it explored gender inclusiveness in local financial mechanisms. Discussion with Village saving loan groups showed how informal financing mechanisms improved women's living conditions. Furthermore, the groups raised critical issues hindering easy access to loans for poor women and advocacy points were devised.

Under the pillar of social welfare, GMO monitored several schools and explored how schools management prevent and respond to GBV. This was an opportunity to meet managers teachers and students and discuss how to improve prevention, protection, and rehabilitation mechanisms in the school environment.

Finally as the point of reference on information and documentation for gender equality, GMO produced districts gender profiles (15) to provide a clear and accurate picture of gender equality in districts. GMO also continued to share information on the progress of Gender equality in Rwanda through TV, radio shows, socio media and other information outlets.

““ *The key principle, in addition to understanding gender equality as a human right, is to use the talents of all our people to the full potential, in politics, business and elsewhere. This is common sense if we want to advance and improve our societies* **””**

His Excellence Paul Kagame,
The President of the Republic of Rwanda

1. INTRODUCTION

The achievements highlighted in this report are in line with GMO's strategic plan 2011-2016 and Annual Action Plan (2015-2016). These achievements are also linked to four government development pillars that are Good governance, Justice and Human rights, Economy and Social welfare. The report also identifies challenges and key actionable recommendations to be considered for bridging the identified gaps.

In line with its mandate, GMO conducted assessment in the public, private and civil society institutions to explore to which extent gender equality and fighting gender based violence are reflected in programs and planned interventions/activities at all levels. In this regard, accountability mechanisms such as Imihigo, GBS reports, action plans were scrutinized to assess their impact on gender equality across districts.

Similarly, service delivered to victims of gender based violence including survivors of human trafficking were followed up, documented and advocacy on required response conducted.

The report describes in details key actions undertaken, provides recommendations on critical issues to further improve accountability to gender equality in Rwanda.

2. GENDER MONITORING OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015/2016

The fiscal year 2015-2016 has been a year of GMO's noticeable achievements. GMO was able to accomplish most activities as per the annual and operational plans in the area of monitoring gender mainstreaming, gender Based violence, strategic communication and advocacy.

2.1. Pillar One: Good Governance

Under this pillar, GMO focused on enhancing gender accountability systems through monitoring of gender responsiveness in local government elections, performance contracts (Imihigo) and consideration of gender equality in bills, policies, laws and strategies.

2.1.1. Respect of Gender Equality Principles in Local Government Elections

The electoral law No. 49/2015 of 02/12/2015 modifying and complementing law No. 27/10 of 19/06/2010, as modified and complemented to date, ensures equal representation of both men and women in decision making organs. Article 47 of the same law, prohibits any form of discrimination and ensures fair and equal participation of men and women in election process.

Based on GMO's mandate and the Memorandum of Understanding signed between GMO and the National Electoral Commission (NEC) on March 5th 2015, GMO was engaged in monitoring the adherence to Gender Equality Principles in the 2016 Local Government election processes.



The participation of men and women in all local government election processes was commendable

In order to assess to which extent local elections respected gender equality principles, GMO deployed 90 election observers in 2148 cells across the 30 districts of the country. Appropriate elections monitoring tools were developed and used to capture gender-related attitudes and actions amongst candidates, media, civic education actors and the general public in line with the election monitoring instructions and guidelines.

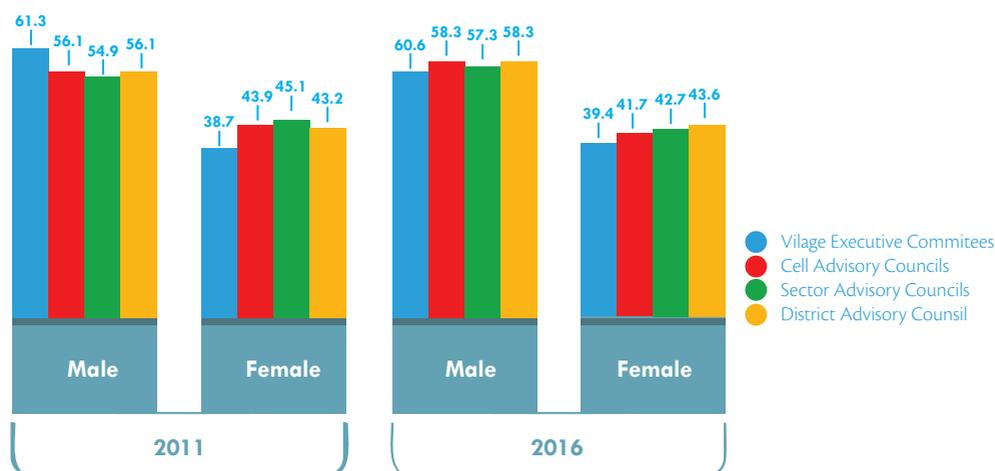
Findings indicated that, guidelines, Civic Education, training manuals and deployment of election coordinators respected gender equality principles. In addition, there was a supportive environment for special groups (people with disabilities, elders, pregnant women...). Important to note also is the high participation of both men and women in the entire electoral processes.

• 2016 Local Government Elections Results

Results from 2016 elections have shown significant changes compared to the same elections in 2011. The number of female Mayors has increased from three (3) to five (5). The number of men in the position of Vice Mayors in charge of social affairs accounts for 22.6% while the number of women vice mayors in charge of economic development has not registered much progress as it increased from 19.3% to 19.4% in 2016 elections. Male predominance in district councils is visible in all districts with an exception of Kicukiro (60.9%F), Nyanza (52.2%F) and (50% F) for Rubavu and Kamonyi Districts.

The number of women chairpersons of District councils needs to be elevated in general. Women Vice chairpersons as district councillors are currently at 32% with the biggest contributor being the Southern Province. Out of the 10 women vice chairpersons, 6 are in the Southern Province. In general, the 2016 elections saw a paradigm shift in men occupying positions perceived as women positions (secretaries, vice mayors social affairs) which shows a tremendous shift in mind-set change. Despite the fact that the number of both males and females occupying advisory councils positions shows a slight change or hovering around the same numbers in 2011 and 2016, female numbers tend to increase as we move from village levels to higher levels. In other words, there are more women at district level than sector level which is also higher than cell levels respectively both in 2011 and 2016.

Figure 1: Comparing 2011 and 2016 local government elections with a gender lens



Source: NEC 2016

As we observe gender inclusion trends over time, the above figure gives a broader picture of the status between the 2011 and 2016 in local government elections. For example the areas with observed improvement include the number of female Mayors. All provinces including the City of Kigali with exception of Eastern have at least one female Mayor. The City of Kigali itself has seen women seizing 75% of Mayor positions. While there was only three (3) female Mayor in 2011 elections, 2016 has seen five (5) female Mayors. Likewise, the number of male Vice Mayors in charge of social affairs has increased from 9.7% in 2011 to 22.6% in 2016.

• Progress noted and gaps observed in local government elections

In general, it is encouraging to see that the country is moving in a good direction in terms of promoting gender equality through very gender responsive democratic elections. In this regard, a few observations point to the very visible change that is happening not only in electoral process but also in the public and community attitudes vis –a- vis gender equality. In addition to a very gender responsive legal framework, it was observed that:

- Husbands encouraged their wives to stand and compete for leadership positions and displayed enthusiastic support during campaigns.
- NEC showed consistent attention to gender biased language or negative attitude towards women and didn't hesitate to enforce law when necessary including cancelling elections.
- Gender transformative civic education is changing the electorate mindset and contributed to encouraging active participation of men and women.
- Gender balanced deployment of NEC coordinators and volunteers in polling sites demonstrated commitment to promote gender equality in different electoral processes.

Despite these encouraging trends, some gender equality gaps were noticed during the electoral processes and these include:

- Low confidence in women's capacity to lead positions traditionally perceived as men's like security, district council bureau chair, and head of village.
- Women's competitiveness in campaigns needs to be improved and professionalized. There was a big difference between the attitude and the content of male and female candidates speeches
- Elections calendar should be sensitive to different electorate needs to fully exercise their democratic rights. For example elections for special groups of women and people with disability can be brought forward.

2.1.2. Gender Responsiveness in Performance Contracts “Imihigo”

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, GMO assessed the inclusion of gender and GBV initiatives in Imihigo across 10 Districts: Ruhango, Kirehe, Nyamagabe, Musanze, Rusizi, Gakenke, Karongi, Gasabo, Nyarugenge, and Bugesera. The purpose of the activity was majorly to monitor inclusion of gender equality principles in performance contracts (Imihigo).



VUP public works: Men and women participate in district development initiatives

Though, gender is generally not strongly reflective in imihigo, some activities address gender issues in a considerable manner where both men and women actively participate in different initiatives and are contributing to sustainable development. For example, men and women were found active in infrastructure development, greening, VUP (public works), Ubudehe, Girinka, support to business start-up through “Udukiri” and BDF for SME development, improving water access, latrine construction in 12 YBE schools and Umugoroba w’ Ababyeyi – with emphasis on GBV prevention and response.

In ICT, there is significant awareness and reasonable penetration to benefit men and women. BDC centers and more ICT points are being established in more remote areas thanks to the newly installed optic fiber and antenna for internet connection.

Through Imihigo, there is observed intention to triple the number of girls enrolled in TVETs. Efforts in this perspective are seen in construction of dormitories to accommodate more girls and equipping TVET schools. More campaigns and innovative approaches are required to increase the number of girls that enroll in TVET schools.

2.1.3. Respect of gender equality in draft policies, strategies, bills, laws and modules assessed

GMO has a mandate to monitor the respect of gender equality in policies, bills, laws, strategies and programs. During the reporting period, GMO provided inputs on various policies, strategies, bills and modules. These include: Girls Education Policy; Maternity leave benefits scheme law – promulgated in April 2016.; Law relating to elections – promulgated in December 2015; Penal code Labor law; and review of electoral regulations and civic education modules on 2016 local leaders elections.

2.2. Pillar Two: Economy

Under this pillar, GMO scrutinized the implementation of 2015-2016 Gender Budget Statement, carried out gender audit in private sector particularly in hospitality industry and visited Village saving and loan groups in communities to assess their contribution on women's financial inclusion at the community level.

2.2.1. 2015-2016 Gender Budget Statement implementation

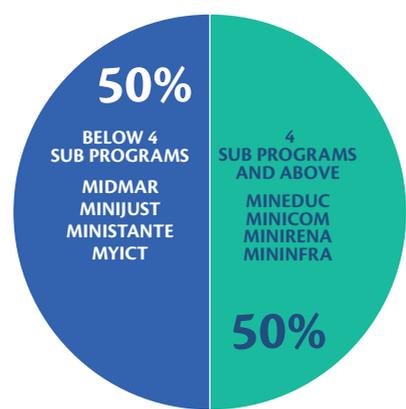
The Gender budget statement is one of the accountability mechanisms put in place to accelerate financing for gender equality. The mechanisms has clear guidelines for elaboration, reporting and constitute a key indicator of the extent of gender mainstreaming in budgeting process.

During 2015/2016 fiscal year, the Gender Monitoring Office assessed the extent to which GBS preparation and implementation has been effectively implemented and to which extent they contribute to preventing and responding to Gender Based Violence. The monitoring indicated low consultations with district and ministries stakeholders during the elaboration process. It was noted that planners and gender focal points are responsible of elaboration but the ownership of the senior management was less visible.

At the central level, GBS is elaborated by budget agencies attached to Ministries and consolidated at central level. For example, the GBS of the Ministry of Infrastructure has derived from seven (7) budget agencies that report to the Ministry like the Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA), Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority (RCAA), Rwandair, Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC).

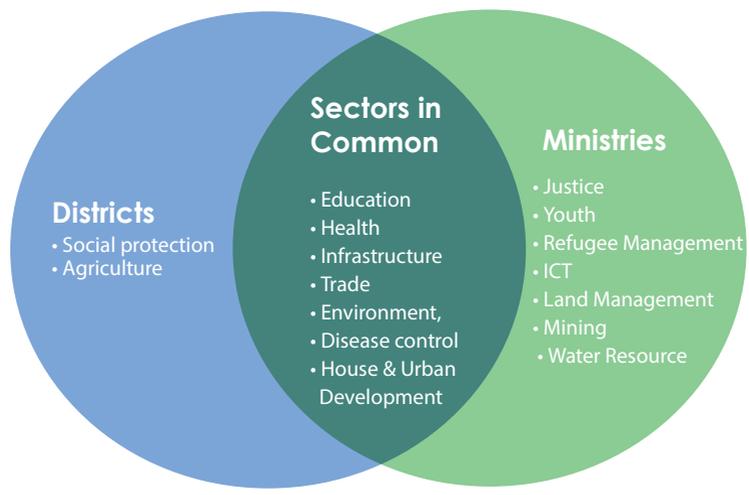
It is important for Ministries to undertake a constant follow-up on GBS implementation status across implementing agencies.

Figure 2: Selection of GBS sub-programs in ministries



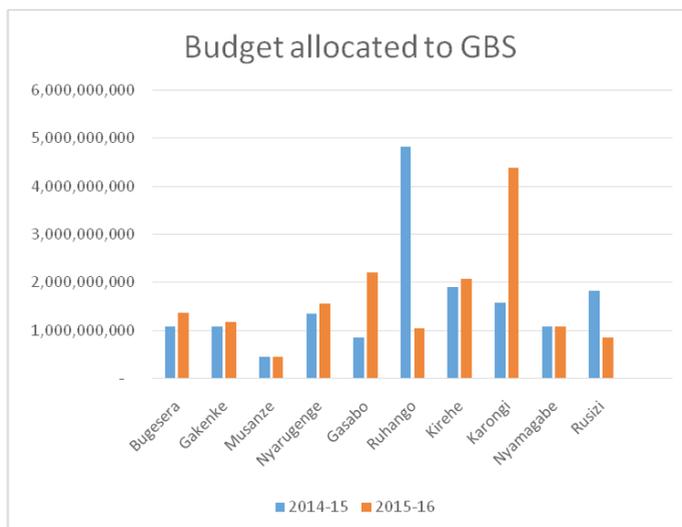
GMO went ahead to analyse the nature of sectors from which the sub-programs were selected in line with EDPRS II. At both central and local government levels, infrastructure sector was highly selected by both. In addition, the central government highly selected environment sector while the local government level highly selected social protection. However, there are sectors that were selected exclusively by central and local government levels, while some common sectors were also observed. See the venn diagram below:

Figure 3: Sectors where Sub programs were selected from



Regarding the level of budget allocated to different components, the monitoring findings revealed general increase in GBS between 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 as demonstrated by the bar chart below:

Figure 4: Budget amount allocated to GBS by Districts



• Impact of GBS interventions

GBS interventions in general had impact on men and women. A few cases observed contributed to:

- Creation of new job opportunities to unemployed women and men and increase of poor household incomes;
- Livelihood transformation through VUP programs. This has contributed to the graduation of poor households from one category of Ubudehe to another;
- Access to improved water sources enhanced through construction or rehabilitation of water schemes. This in turn reduces women and children burden and time when they have to travel long distances for water collection, allowing them to engage in other socio-economic activities;
- Construction of classrooms, improved access to education for both boys and girls in primary and secondary levels;
- The construction of health facilities contributed to increased access to health services for men and women especially pregnant women.

• Challenges on GBS

- Limited use of sex disaggregated data and insufficient capacity in gender analysis lead to poor quality of GBS plans and reports.
- Limited ownership and oversight of senior management at both district and ministries level in GBS elaboration and implementation.
- Insufficient involvement of local partners who could support to enrich GBS content and contribute to their effective implementation.
- Absence of continuous evaluation of GBS impact and exchange of lessons learnt between budget agencies.

• Recommendations on GBS

- Continuous coaching for budget agencies on gender responsive budgeting is necessary to improve GBS quality.
- Gender indicators to be tracked by districts and sectors for effective planning, budgeting and reporting should be identified and negotiated between gender sector and budget agencies.
- Senior management needs to advise on strategic priorities to be reflected in GBS and put in place control and oversight mechanisms to ensure their effective implementation.
- Inclusion of some GBS interventions in Imihigo could improve its effective and timely implementation.
- Involvement of multi-stakeholders in GBS elaboration, implementation and impact tracking could contribute to improve effectiveness and timeliness of interventions.

2.2.2. Village Saving and Loan Groups in Nyanza District



GMO, partners and community discussing financial inclusion of women

A rapid scan done by GMO showed several issues hindering women's inclusion in finance. In this regard, monitoring tour was organized, where GMO and stakeholders visited a Village Saving and Loan Group "Urugwiro" that operates in Busasamana Sector, Kavumu Cell, Nyanza District to assess to which extent local financial mechanisms respond to women's access to finance.

It was evident that this kind of financial group facilitated extreme poor women to access small loans and start up income generating activities. This economic shift has promoted the graduation of women from 1st and 2nd levels of poverty classification (Ubudehe) to a more higher level which helped them to improve their living conditions (paying school fees for children, paying community based health insurance and improving homes such as paving houses, roofing, etc.).



Financial contributions facilitate women to access small loans and their engagement in income generating activities

Though positive trends were noted, key gaps were also identified and these include:

- Products of SACCOs not tailored to needs and ways of operating of such small women groups,
- Lack of visible engagement between VSLs and BDF,
- Limited engagement on financial inclusion by CSOs operating in districts
- VSLs meetings are time consuming as a result of low capacity in group organization and management.
- The discussion with VSL groups showed that community initiatives need to be supported by official empowerment mechanisms to ensure their sustainability and expansion. It was recommended that NWC, BDF and other mechanisms working at community level approach the VSLs and support their graduation to more organized and sustainable financial entities.

2.2.3. District Gender Profiles

In line with its mandate of being the national gender reference point, and ensuring evidence -based advocacy, Gender Monitoring Office developed 10 gender profiles for the following Districts: Gasabo, Muhanga, Nyanza, Nyaruguru, Huye, Gicumbi, Bugesera, Kayonza, Ngoma and Gatsibo. Gender profiles serve to avail the gender status of districts in a bid to facilitate gender responsive planning and informed decision making.

In general, information gathered in the different districts showed that participation of women and men in implementation of government programs at decentralized level has tremendously contributed to amelioration of men and women economic and social wellbeing conditions. Notable among these successes are:

- Gender parity achieved in both primary and secondary education;
- According to (EICV4), there has been an impressive drop in repetition rate in girls from 30.5% in 2010 to 17% in 2014 at primary level. Likewise, repetition rate for boys was also dropped from 31.4% in 2010 to 20.9% in 2014.
- Women representation in VUP public works as team leaders is a recognized step in empowering women and improving their family wellbeing;
- Impressive jobs created every year for men and women by infrastructure activities - Roads maintenance, Water lines construction, schools and health facility construction.

Despite this progress, key challenges that hamper gender equality achievement in districts still exist. These include:

- Literacy rate is still low especially among women compared to men within the age bracket of 15 years and above.
- Cases of high repetition rates in primary and secondary education were noticed in Gasabo, Kirehe and Gatsibo districts.

- Some districts in the southern province count a high number of women headed households that are not subjected to women empowerment programs.
- In all districts a women are overwhelmingly involved in subsistence agriculture as compared to men who are more represented in off-farm jobs.
- Women have limited access to communication channels including radio, TV, and mobile phones compared to men, this limits women's access to desired information for their economic, social and political involvement and contribution.

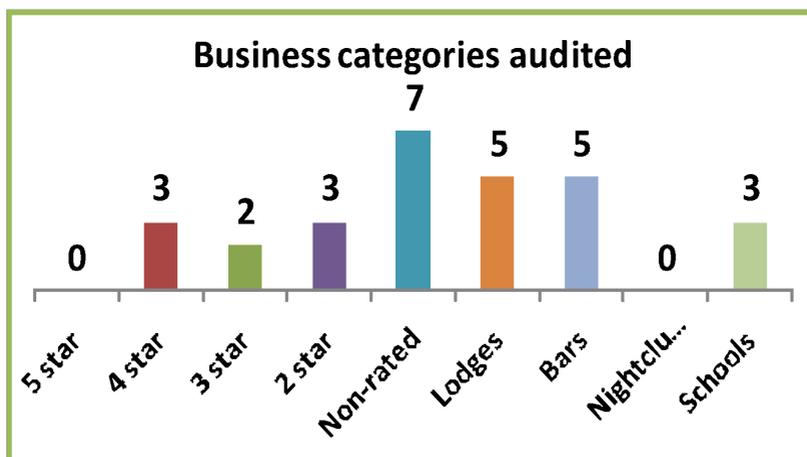
2.2.4. Gender audit in hospitality industry

Rwanda's Vision 2020 general goal of transforming Rwanda into a middle-income economy relies much on the contribution of the expansion and transformation of the private sector. In this perspective, promoting equal participation of women and men in the private sector in general and tourism and hospitality industry in particular constitutes a critical area for reducing poverty, especially for women. It is in this line that Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) in collaboration with Private Sector Federation (PSF)/ Chamber of Tourism, conducted a gender audit in Private sector, targeting the tourism and hospitality companies to ascertain to what extent gender equality is mainstreamed in policies, practices, staffing, culture and resources and to find out the status of gender equality and GBV prevention and response.

The gender audit also assessed the contribution of audited companies in reducing gender gaps especially looking at the gender pay gap and nature of the work done by both men and women across companies.

To this end, different hospitality companies in different categories were audited. The target in this first phase was hotels, lodges, bars, and tourism schools. In total, 28 businesses companies were audited. Out of the 28 hospitality businesses audited, 54 % were hotels, lodges (18%), bars (18%) and schools (11%).

Figure 5: Number of hospitality businesses audited



Source: Primary data

Note: Five star hotels were not targeted due to their limited number in the Country.

The hospitality industry revealed a wealth of information on various variables ranging from the age-range of men and women working in this sector, education levels of staff, gender and GBV mainstreaming in business guiding documents, men and women participation in the sector, the nature of jobs men and women engage in, compliance with national laws or policies, occurrence and nature of GBV cases (including human trafficking), where they report GBV cases, challenges encountered in service delivery and advocacy points. The total number of respondents was 211 with men and women accounting for 52% and 48% respectively.

• Compliance with national labour law

As far as compliance to recruitment procedures is concerned, findings indicated that depending on the business size or level, businesses recruit through exams or only through references or head-hunting. 4 stars, 3 star and some non-rated hotels use these 2 techniques but to a large extent they hire through interviews. For tourism schools, all teachers, men and women are recruited through competitive process.

As far as contracts, social security benefits and maternity leave benefits are concerned, several men and women employed in the sector especially in bars and lodges mentioned that they have no formal contract and are not entitled to social security benefits from their employers.

In terms of equal pay for equal work, the audit found out that men and women employed in the sector receive equal pay for equal work with exceptions for head-hunted employees irrespective of gender for their specific skills. All men and women respondents in audited businesses highlighted the need to adopt shift work- system.

• Challenges in the hospitality industry

The findings revealed a couple of challenges that need advocacy. These include:

- There is a negative connotation that women working in hospitality industry are most likely considered as prostitutes. Due to this, some clients harass them sometimes in public. Strong enforcement of law on harassment should be complied with in the industry and perpetrators discouraged. In addition, hotels and bars should post clear messages to inform and remind clients that those harassments are crimes punished by the law.
- Due to the nature of the industry, breastfeeding and expectant mothers get limited time to take care of their babies.

• GBV preventive measures in the hospitality industry

It was found out that several companies have put in place GBV preventive mechanisms which include:

- When a client asks for room service with preference to a particular sex of staff, the hotel sends two staff.
- Business rules and regulations deter guests from bringing female friends into their rooms, even when allowed, some businesses have set aside living rooms for conversation between guests and their visitors.
- Sanctions exist to those that compromise business values including prevention and non response to GBV issues.
- Disciplinary committees have been set up to settle any misunderstandings of any nature that crop or might crop up amongst business staff. Any form of harassment is reported to this committee that is comprised of both men and women.
- Hotels submit a manifest of all guests with their identity to security organs including Rwanda National Police. This means that if a guest commits any crime including GBV, it would be easy to bring the culprit to book.
- The morning brief with all students in hospitality schools talks about gender issues and reproductive health issues. They take the opportunity to discuss the issues related to girls' particular needs both physical and psychological.

• Recommendations

From the gender audit in the hospitality industry, the following recommendations have been divided:

- The hospitality sector needs to regularly conduct campaigns against GBV in general and sexual harassment in particular;
- Notices should be posted in visible public spaces and in rooms to discourage and inform clients with bad behavior;
- In order to increase and sustain women's presence in the sector, the work shift system should be established to allow those who have family duties to have a chance to work on convenient hours, especially for breastfeeding mothers.
- Educate the industry on GBV, especially on prevention and response mechanisms;
- Educate the industry on human trafficking as a society and security threat;
- Conduct public campaigns on relevance of both men and women access to jobs in the sector – change community perceptions that assimilate women working in the sector to prostitutes.

- There should be a strategy to increase female teachers in TVETs schools to encourage female students, and change the mindset of TVET as male dominated environment;
- The WDA TVET curriculum should be reviewed to include the language package for English and French/ Kiswahili in order to improve male and female employability;

2.3. Pillar Three: Justice and Human Rights

Under the pillar of justice and human rights, GMO was able to Monitor GBV service delivery in courts and prosecution, orient GBV cases received and follow up on reintegration of human trafficking victims to ensure their rehabilitation in the community. In addition, it monitored GBV service delivery in One Stop Centers and organized community hearing in different districts.

2.3.1. GBV service delivery in courts and NPPA

In partnership with Rwanda National Police, Legal Aid Forum, Transparency International in Rwanda, Haguruka, an assessment on GBV service delivery was conducted at the National Public Prosecution Authority (NPPA) and Courts. The study covered seven (7) primary courts, seven (7) Intermediate Courts and four (4) High Courts.

The assessment was participatory and an inclusive dialogue held with leaders of the sampled courts and prosecution jurisdictions as well as gender based violence cases. It should be noted that this assessment did not cover the whole country and thus won't claim to be exhaustive nationwide. It is based on the sampled areas and targeted respondents at NPPA and courts. Generally, the assessment covered 43 respondents and 33 cases were examined.

The assessment identified key issues / challenges and these include:

- It was noticed that prescribed time under the Criminal Procedure Code (5 days) is not sufficient for judicial procedures to submit the pre-trial case files to court. This affects quality analysis, proper classification of GBV cases and collective gathering of evidences to support the submitted case file. This in turn, affects the quality of justice rendered to both the victim and the suspect.
- It was noted that personnel in the investigation and trial processes has limited knowledge and skills to explore alternative evidences to support the medical report while linking the crime with the offender. This has mostly affected quality delivery of justice to cases of GBV and child abuse.
- In addition, investigators reported the need of logistical support to the investigation team at different levels, to allow thorough investigations at the scene of the crime, timely collection of evidences and effective preservation of collected evidences. This will address issues related to lack of required evidences in cases of GBV and child abuse.
- It was further highlighted that community members need to be sensitized on the great importance of timely and quick reporting, use of proper procedures and submission of reports to appropriate institutions. In addition, comprehensive mass education on how to gather and preserve basic evidences on crimes committed is very crucial and may yield high results in terms of delivering Justice to GBV/child abuse cases.

- The assessment has also identified issues relating to contradicting birth certificates especially in cases of child defilement. This has not only delayed Justice Processes but also revealed critical issues where two conflicting birth certificates are found in court files. This always affects justice processes especially in cases of child defilement.
- The legal provisions allowing spouses to withdraw cases at any stage in cases of adultery and cohabitation have affected and impeded delivery of quality justice, and also contributed to re-victimization especially for women. The assessment revealed that withdraw in question is always triggered by family and community pressure exercised over the victims especially women. The assessment recommended that article 249 (2) of the penal code be revised.
- The assessment noticed unsystematic follow up mechanisms on GBV and Child abuse victims. This has led to low response to their needs and has also led to continuous trauma and non-reintegration of the victims.
- Ineffectiveness of using traditional evidence collection approaches (e.g. suspect statement, witness statement, medical form) in cases of GBV and Child abuse was highlighted by the assessment. The assessment findings suggested that innovative ways of collecting evidences especially the introduction of circumstantial evidences to support effective administration of justice in such cases. This was backed by the secretive nature of GBV/Child abuse whereby in most cases, getting eye witnesses to serve as an evidence in cases of GBV is hardly possible.
- It was also indicated that legal representation of victims in cases of civil liability in court proceedings is very minimal. This was mostly attributed to unavailability of lawyers especially at the local levels and this has much affected response to civil liability resulting from GBV criminal cases.

During the assessment, the following further actions were recommended:

- Establishment of National Witness and Victim Protection Authority to support the gathering, consolidation and administration of evidences and responding to immediate needs of GBV victims and witnesses.
- Advancement of the chain of custody and improving more DNA tests especially finger prints so as to increase chances of conviction of GBV perpetrators.
- Regular trainings should be organized to improve the capacities of Judicial Police, prosecutors and Judges in handling GBV cases. Much emphasis should be on investigation processes and their contribution to justice administration.
- Develop and operationalize guidelines on how Police officers, prosecution and judges should investigate, qualify and manage GBV and related crimes.
- Continued and comprehensive capacity building and sensitization of personnel in the Justice system. These initiatives would mostly focus on investigations, collection of evidences, GBV/ child abuse concepts and application of both national and international laws.
- Establishment of a national specialised court and prosecution system to specifically focus on GBV, human trafficking and child abuse issues and address long term needs.
- Put collective efforts in addressing issues of unregistered children and speed up the digitalization of civil registration processes to work away with forged identity that always affects other processes including administration of justice in cases of child defilement.
- Establish a strong and well –coordinated reintegration mechanism to support GBV and child abuse victims and allow quality and timely response in such cases.
- Initiate strengthened collaborative and multi-disciplinary undertakings in investigation, prosecution and trial of GBV offences.
- Increase inspection and accountability for legal processes of GBV especially for Child abuse/ defilement.

2.3.2. GBV Responsiveness

• GBV Clinics in communities

This fiscal year GMO organized community hearings and GBV clinics to assess how and to which extent GBV is addressed in Rwandan communities. To make this more effective, District officials, service providers and different stakeholders working in the area of GBV join the clinics and provide response to specific cases or advice to the community.

Throughout these sessions, 31 cases were received in Kirehe district and 18 cases received in Rusizi district. Some cases were resolved at hand and others oriented to MAJ, Districts while criminal cases were oriented to Rwanda national police for further action.



Community members presenting GBV issues in Kirehe District

During these sessions, several issues were raised by both districts including:

- Limited sense of urgency to resolve GBV cases submitted to different service providers;
- Victims have limited information on where to report and what kind of support different service providers have to provide especially for child abuse;
- Quite a big number of illegal marriage and concubinage/adultery fueling conflicts in families;
- Limited collaborations between different service providers at the community level;
- Issues of unregistered children which makes it difficult to determine the age of victims in cases of child abuse / defilement;
- Missing evidences on GBV due to delays in reporting or even responding to GBV cases.

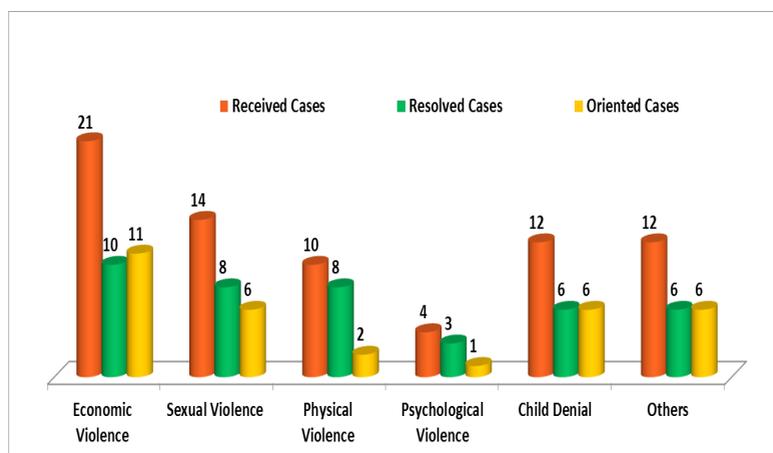
In line with the above gaps, the following points are recommended:

- Districts were urged to improve coordination mechanisms for GBV service providers to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure coordinated use of available resources.
- Sensitize the community on Family law and negative effects of Concubinage and Adultery using the existing structures and mechanisms such as Umuganda, Umugoroba w'Ababyeyi, Inteko z'Abaturage, etc.
- Districts were recommended to devise strategies and mechanisms to handle GBV prevention in the community.
- Map all couples that are illegally married, sensitize and invite them to legalize their marriage and respect all steps of civil marriage registration as well as respecting birth registration
- Service providers were advised to provide timely services to victims
- Raise community awareness on existing services, key actors and referral system.

• GBV cases received and oriented

The Gender monitoring office provided legal and psychosocial counseling services to victims of Gender Based Violence. Various GBV cases received were submitted either in person or through the GMO operational helpline. The info graphic below presents GBV cases received, their type and actions taken by GMO.

Figure 6: Received Cases



As indicated above, this fiscal year as in the other precedent years, economic violence cases were higher and were mostly submitted by women.

Addressing the above cases would not be attainable if key intervening partners did not greatly contribute to providing solutions to the lodged issues. For example, GMO worked closely with Rwanda National Police, Prosecution, Local Government and legal aid forum to ensure that the victims are given timely and appropriate services.

Continued advocacy on reintegration of GBV victims and timely response was conducted and this resulted into the following:

- Socio-economic support package was advised and 23 victims of gender based violence/child abuse are being supported and reintegrated by the MIGEPROF, MoH and Rwanda National Police. This aims to ensure that victims are fully reintegrated and will be supported to initiate income generating activities, school reintegration, counselling services, accommodation, access medical care and gain economic support.
- Temporary Safe accommodation and medical care for victims of GBV was secured. Continued advocacy and engagement with National Commission for children and Rwanda national police, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, victims were able to be accommodated at Faith Victory association and Marembo Center. During their stay in these safe houses, they are able to receive counselling services, health services including mutuelle de sante, and are able to undertake vocational trainings.
- The Ministry of gender and family promotion supported Marembo center with 70 mosquito nets with the overall aim of preventing malaria. In addition, Gasabo district is undertaking processes to deliver a cow under one cow program to the center. This cow will provide milk to children born from abused young girls living at the center.
- Legal aid support and representation in courts was provided for a few victims by Legal Aid Forum and cases are undergoing court procedures.
- Nyamagabe district together with justice and security organs were able to follow up on a strange GBV case, perpetrator convicted to life imprisonment and three victims and daughters to the perpetrator were supported with safe accommodation. A sustainable solution for the victims is being devised by the district.

In the same framework, GMO collaborated with Marembo center and convened all key actors on GBV and child abuse. During this advocacy convening, issues of street girls and interlinked violence incidences were presented to relevant stakeholders. Participants to the meeting agreed to pull efforts together to prevent and respond to GBV issues including curbing issues of street girls.

After the advocacy workshop, identified sites in the districts of Gasabo and Nyarugenge were visited and community members sensitized on how to report issues of GBV, Child abuse, human trafficking and the role of positive parenting as a remedy to address issues of street children and drug abuse.

2.3.3. Human trafficking

In line with its mandate, GMO convened a dialogue meeting with victims of human trafficking and discussed current issues, generated different advocacy points in accordance to specific needs of the victims. Few of required actions to support the victims includes, secure accommodation, school reintegration including in vocational trainings, supporting their accessibility to health insurance, counseling services and supporting them to engage in small income generating activities.

During the dialogue with returned victims of human trafficking the following issues were raised:

- There is need to establish a proper and systematic mechanism for reintegration of victims of trafficking.
- There is urgent need to protect victims, some reported being under threat and unable to go back to their communities as a result of stigma.
- Serious health cases were noticed; these include survivors coming back with serious diseases like TB, sexual transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, Trauma etc. Measures and support in response to each special case need to be put in place.

2.3.4. GBV service delivery in one stop centers

Isange One Stop Centers (IOSC) is one of the flagship programs of the 7 years government program. So far 26 centers are operating in the country and are expected to provide comprehensive services to victims of gender based violence and child abuse. In this framework, a joint team of GMO and partners visited the IOSC of Gihundwe and Kirehe to assess how victims of gender based violence are accessing timely and quality services.

During the visit in Kirehe One Stop Center, key positive trends were noticed and these include existence of good infrastructure and equipment. (IOSC Block, Child room, Safe room, Computers, toilets etc) and dedicated staff to support GBV victims.



The coordinator of Kirehe Isange One stop Center explaining services rendered to GBV victims

Nevertheless, key issues were also identified and the management was advised to set measures addressing identified gaps including:

- Limited legal assistance to support victims,
- Contradictions between computerized and manually recorded data,
- Low information sharing between one stop center and other key actors at the district level,
- Irregular presence of social workers to orient victims,
- Limited follow up measures at the community level to ensure that victims of GBV are receiving required services for reintegration and are protected from re-victimization. This is very important especially when the survivor is living with or close to the perpetrator (husband, relative, parent etc.)

Despite the fact that Gihundwe one stop center in Rusizi district does not have sufficient funds, and with limited staffing, it is still delivering good services to victims due to tireless efforts of the hospital management. To sustain and enhance service delivery, the following was recommended:

- Provision of GBV training to IOSC staff;
- Inclusion of IOSCs staff in the Structure of Hospitals for sustainability of services to GBV victims.

• Huye Rehabilitation Center

Many perpetrators of GBV claim having used alcohol or drugs. The visit of the center confirmed that the center is an innovative approach to provide medical and psycho-Social rehabilitation and treatment to patients and addicts of drugs and alcohol. This was seen as a remedy to preventing Child/Domestic Violence and GBV since drugs and Alcohol abuse were identified among major factors causing child abuse and familial conflicts.

In addition, the center was seen as a commendable initiative for rehabilitating patients and perpetrators before returning to the community for reintegration.

Though the center was recognized as an innovative approach to deal with addicts and patients of drug and alcohol abuse, some gender gaps were noticed and these are:

- No fences or other tangible separation between blocks where males and females are accommodated;
- Insufficient staff and budget to support the work of the rehabilitation center.

In line with the above gaps, the following key recommendations were given:

- Ensure that patients/addicts are admitted and assisted according to reasons of admission;
- Put a separation between women and men accommodation blocs to avoid any kind of incident;
- Considering the importance of the center, strong support and advocacy for resources mobilization and increased budget allocation are needed.

2.3.5. GBV service delivery in secondary schools



Students at GS TTC Byumba in focus group discussions with the monitoring team

In line with its mandate, Gender Monitoring Office conducted an assessment on GBV prevention and response in secondary schools with the overall objective of assessing existing school related systems to prevent and respond to gender based violence and also comply with laws and policies on GBV and the girl's education policy.

This assessment was undertaken in 43 sampled schools from all provinces and Kigali City. The findings indicated that some schools established systems to support the prevention of GBV and these include operationalizing GBV Clubs, setting clear anti GBV rules and regulations and organizing continuous GBV related debates.

The assessment also contributed to highlight students' accommodation challenges and stringent measures were advised for the closure of ghettos across districts. Local authorities committed to look for sustainable strategies to address issues of accommodation while ensuring that students are studying and living in safer environments not open to risks/threats that may lead or expose them to gender based violence and drug abuse.

The assessment in schools was an opportunity to engage school managers and students on various issues pertaining to gender based violence in school and seek possible preventive and response measures. Standardized Girls' room , protection of school space by fences, increased awareness through GBV clubs, constant dialogue and discussion with parents especially on drug abuse and teenagers pregnancies were some of the strategies advised for increased zero tolerance of GBV in schools.

The assessment in schools indicated quite a number of gaps that needs due attention and these include:

- No school adapted capacity building/awareness raising initiatives and materials on GBV;
- Students living in ghettos leading to GBV and other related crimes;
- School rules and regulations do not reflect how GBV issues at school are addressed;
- Limited school initiatives on prevention and response to GBV;
- Reported cases of teenage pregnancy and no clear follow up & reintegration strategy for the victims;
- Nonexistence or substandard girl's room across monitored schools;
- Unfenced Schools and location in risky zones (Bars, restaurants, business environment,etc.) exposing students to drug abuse and gender based violence;
- Limited collaboration between school administration, Local Authorities and parents on GBV issues happening in schools;

In line with the above gaps/issues, the following were recommended:

- Design appropriate training and sensitization materials on GBV and distribute to all schools.
- Provide clear guidelines on the operationalization of Anti-GBV clubs and girls room.
- Establishment of standardized girls' room with adequate equipment in all secondary schools.
- It should be mandatory for all schools to have appropriate fencing and guarantee security of students.
- Mainstream gender and GBV courses in secondary school curriculum.
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination between school management, local authorities and security organs in the area of GBV response.
- Include in secondary school structures a staff charged with GBV related counselling to support victims including those of teenage pregnancy.

2.3.6. GBV service delivery by civil society organizations

In the framework of strengthening the engagement and relevant contribution of the interventions of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in preventing and responding to gender based violence, GMO conducted a second phase assessment exercise for various CSOs operating in 13 Districts: Ruhango, Gatsibo, Gisagara, Nyagatare, Rwamagana, Huye, Kamonyi, Gisagara, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Kayonza, Kirehe and Gasabo.



GMO and stakeholders at Marambo Center to assess effectiveness of GBV services provided by CSOs

The monitoring findings highlighted some noticeable and commendable work being done by CSOs including: facilitating access to health care services through provision of health insurances and advocacy, ensuring timely information through community awareness and mobilizations, providing shelters to victims of GBV, supporting small scale income generating activities, convening and supporting dialogues between community members and local leaders on GBV and provision of counseling services to victims of gender based violence.

In addition, it was evident that AJPRODHO, Nyagatare offices mobilized community members living in cohabitation to legalize their marriages and as a result 180 legal marriages were celebrated. The newly established families are also coached to ensure that the legal rights, duties and responsibilities resulting from the marriage are well respected. This has promoted peaceful coexistence and harmony in families.

Important to mention also is the great contribution of AJPRODHO to operationalize Umugoroba w'Ababyeyi in all sectors of Nyagatare District. All required kits and materials were provided to all committees, trainings offered, and a focal person nominated to facilitate and follow up on the functioning of this forum at the village level. Through this facilitated forum, familial conflicts are recorded, home visits made and strategies for re-unification devised and implemented.

Despite the eminent contribution of CSO's at the grass-root level, key gaps are worth mentioning:

- Lack of programs to rehabilitate the perpetrators of GBV which may result into recidivism.
- It was also noticed that legal aid services/ support are still limited and this contributes to low access to Justice.
- Most interventions are donor based and no financial means are available to sustain those interventions when donors' funds are stopped.
- Weak reporting on received cases, collaboration and information sharing among actors
- Insufficient technical and financial capacities within some CSO's were identified and linked to ineffectiveness of some interventions rolled out by CSO's.
- Many NGOs are working in awareness and capacity building and are not addressing issues of rehabilitation of victims and legal aid for increased access to justice

Drawing from the findings especially the identified gaps, the following is recommended:

- High level dialogue between CSOs platform, RGB, MINALOC and MIGEPROF to set clear Operational guidelines for CSOs working on gender and GBV
- Joint planning between CSOs and local leaders to ensure that CSOs in each district are clearly contributing to gender promotion and GBV eradication on annual basis.
- Establish a chain of reporting to guide CSOs and allow timely reporting on GBV issues both at the district and central level.
- Set clear priority actions to be responded to by each CSOs operating in a particular district and in alignment with emerging issues in the district.

2.4. Pillar Four: Social Welfare

2.4.1. Dialogue with refugees in Mahama Refugee camp and Women in Nkombo Sector

• Dialogue with refugees in Mahama Refugee camp

A joint monitoring visit was conducted at Mahama refugee camp, a camp that is populated by over 47 thousand Burundians, where over 50 % of refugees are below 18 years old. Most of the refugees came from Kirundo (66.05 %), Muyinza (10.9%), Bujumbura (5.8%), and the rest from Ngozi and Karuzi. It was noticed that MIDMAR makes the oversight and the Management of the Camp and other Partner institutions and NGOs are supporting the refugees. Operating partners in the camp includes UNHCR, WFP, ADRA Rwanda, Plan International Rwanda, Care International, World Vision, Rwanda Red Cross, Concern International, Caritas, UNICEF, Save the Children, PAJER and Oxfam.



The Deputy Chief Gender Monitor Mrs. Kabageni Eugenie addressing representatives of refugees in Mahama camp

During the visit, positive trends on gender equality and GBV prevention were noticed and these include among others:

- Men and Women have equal rights to participate in camp leadership. Two (2) out of Five (5) members of elected refugee executive committee, which is a high decision making organ of the camp are women.
- The camp is managed under principles of non-discrimination and equal rights for men and women. One (1) out of three (3) members of village committees for all 20 villages composing the camp are women. There are also some villages headed by women. This helps to ensure that concerns of both men and women are voiced and considered.

- Strong collaboration between service providers work facilitates the provision of Health Care, Psychological and legal services to victims of Gender Based Violence in the camp.
- The camp is secured. Security organs use all possible approaches to secure the camp day and night.
- Basic GBV services are provided within the camp, and respect confidentiality and privacy (Health, legal, and counseling services).
- All public toilets have public lighting to prevent GBV cases that may occur due to darkness. These toilets are separate for male and female.
- Service providers in the camp operating in GBV prevention and response meet twice a month to discuss on emerging issues.
- New initiatives for youth were put in place within the camp for occupation.
- Rwanda National Police has appointed staff in charge of receiving GBV cases within the camp. The appointed Police officers are males and females, which helps the victims to easily report and discuss their issues with police officers.

Though it was found that the camp management is well coordinated and refugees are getting basic and required services, key gaps were identified as outlined below:

- Some GBV cases are prematurely closed before the perpetrator is identified and this mostly done upon request of the victims. Further follow up on the reasons for withdraw was recommended to the camp management authorities.
- Cases of Early illegal Marriages are much frequent in the Camp.
- There are frequent family conflicts resulting from misuse and selling of provided food stuff committed to one partner/head of the household.
- Long Distance to access the holistic services from the Isange One Stop Center at Kirehe Hospital which covers almost 20 Km. It was advised that local authorities and the camp authorities further examines the possibilities of securing an ambulance that can provide services to Mahama refugee camp. The ambulance can also be used in case of any GBV case.
- Unaccompanied and separated children facing life difficulties and conditions in the camp. Special care and protection was advised for this category.
- Refugees have an inherent culture of keeping silent on GBV cases. It was recommended that refugees be sensitized to break the silence and be open to report all GBV cases for assistance and punishment of the perpetrator.

• Dialogue with Nkombo women and local leaders

During officials visit to Rusizi district, a particular discussion was held with a group of women from Nkombo Sector and this mainly focused on compliance to gender equality principles and the contribution of community members especially women.

During the discussions, it was reported that a big improvement was made in terms of economic empowerment for women in general and that gender imbalance and issues of GBV were significantly reduced in the past 20 years.

Among the issues raised during the discussion was complicated means of transport within Nkombo sector. This was reported to have greatly impacted on women's health conditions due to carrying heavy things and Rusizi Officials, CNF and other stakeholders were advised to explore the possibility of improving transport conditions. It was also suggested that study tours in countries with similar island setting and conditions be conducted so as to come up with practical lessons on how to overcome the identified transport issue.

Security organs reported that most cases of child and sexual abuse in Rusizi District come from Nkombo (Early marriage of teenagers, defilement, etc). RNP and local leaders were urged to thoroughly examine the root causes and come up with concrete measures to address them. Nkombo sector is also well known of concubinage and illegal marriage issues.

2.5. Communication for Awareness and Advocacy

As a point of reference for information and documentation on gender equality, during the fiscal year 2015/2016, GMO sustained communication initiatives to strategically share information on the progress of Gender equality in Rwanda, and specifically share the monitoring findings with stakeholders and the general public for awareness, replication of best practices and advocacy to address the identified issues. This was done in line with GMO's strategic objective of serving as a point of reference for information and documentation on gender equality. Initiatives undertaken in this area are described in the following sections:

2.5.1. Advocacy dialogues in Eastern and Southern Provinces

In the framework of achieving its advocacy mandate, during 2015-2016 fiscal year, GMO conducted two dialogues with Provincial machinery in the Eastern and Southern provinces.

This aimed at disseminating GMO monitoring findings, and advocate for improved gender accountability and GBV service delivery.



Dissemination dialogue in the Southern Province

Participants included provincial leaders, Mayors, Sector Executive Secretaries, Rwanda National Police, Rwanda Defense Forces and other key stakeholders at local government level. The meeting discussed on key gender equality achievements, persisting gaps and strategies to address them .

It was advised that gender equality be more reflected in District Development Plans, District Annual Action Plans, Performance Contracts 'Imihigo', and all other planning and budgeting frameworks. It was also recommended that such dialogues be convened on an annual basis.

2.5.2. Awareness through Radio, Television and sensitization materials

A Series of Radio and Television programs were conducted to discuss issues that were highlighted by different GMO monitoring activities. Experts and representatives from relevant and concerned institutions were also invited to feature in the shows and provided number of recommendations in response to the identified gaps.

In this line, two programs were produced and broadcasted both before and after the last local government elections, and discussed on the respect of gender equality in all electoral processes. The program organized before elections discussed on issues identified in the previous elections of 2011, which included low participation of women in electoral processes and lack of confidence for women to campaign for competitive positions. That program was an opportunity to make another call to women to actively participate in all electoral processes.

For the program organized after elections, representatives from relevant institutions such as MIGEPROF, NEC, GMO and local government discussed gender issues highlighted by the assessment jointly conducted by GMO and stakeholders, and devised strategies to overcome issues noticed. The show demonstrated identified gender best practices including high participation of men and women in all electoral processes. A short documentary film was also produced and broadcasted to illustrate the findings.

Other organized TV shows discussed on the contribution of CSOs in preventing and responding to GBV issues as highlighted by monitoring findings. Strategic advice on effective engagement of CSOs was also given.

TV discussion on consequences of untimely reporting of GBV for effective fighting against Gender Based Violence, as well as topics related to HeForShe campaign were broadcasted.



Gender Monitoring Office, RNP, Prosecution and CSOs in a TV Show discussing on GBV Prevention and Response

• Radio Serial Drama “ZIRIRIZA” on GBV

To keep raising awareness on available service delivery to GBV victims at the community level and continuously educate the community on how to prevent such cases, Gender Monitoring Office continued to broadcast the Radio Serial drama dubbed “ZIRIRIZA”. The drama contains messages that help the community to have deeper knowledge on all forms of Gender Based Violence, how they occur within communities, their root causes and respective consequences, and how the community and other stakeholders can effectively respond to the cases. The drama specifically educates the community on the importance of timely reporting of cases of GBV and child abuse.

Following the initial broadcasting on three radio stations in Rwanda, an audience survey observed that the program has greatly increased the knowledge of the community on fighting against GBV, and recommended to sustain their broadcasting for greater impact. The program thus continued to be broadcasted on radio Rwanda on weekly basis, which helps to keep raising community awareness for GBV prevention and response.

2.5.3. Engagement with international media

Rwanda is internationally recognized as a model country for promotion of gender equality, which much pushes the international community to remain eager to learn from the country’s steps to promote gender equality. Therefore, Gender Monitoring Office has much engaged the international media to disseminate Rwanda’s great achievements in regards to promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment in the last 22 years after liberation.

Following this engagement, articles were published in international and regional recognized media outlets and broadcasters which include the Australia based newspaper Dumbo feather, and Africa 24 Media, a popular TV broadcaster operating in Kenya.



The Chief Gender Monitor Mrs. Rose Rwabuhiri in an interview with a TV broadcaster- Africa 24 Media

The engagement with international media helped to share with the world the Rwanda’s best practices in promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment. Through the media channels it was clearly demonstrated how Gender equality in Rwanda is considered as a strategy for good governance, development, and respect of human rights.

2.5.4. Use of Social Media and other Online Communication Channels

As Rwanda continues to host several international and regional meetings on different aspects including gender, GMO contributed in posting messages through its social media platforms in relation to topics discussed. Through this mediums, Gender Monitoring Office largely echoed views and insights that promote accountability to gender equality and women empowerment. Engagement through social media has also served to promote direct engagement with audience both on regional and international scale, and to receive feedback from the public on different disseminated messages for more promotion of gender equality. The website was also much used to share the gender related news, new enacted laws and other relevant resource documents published in relation to gender equality in Rwanda.

• Communications Materials produced and disseminated



GMO produced and disseminated different sensitization materials on gender equality and fighting against GBV

During the completed fiscal year 2015/2016, Gender Monitoring Office disseminated information on gender equality through different reader friendly and materials that include booklets, leaflets, notebooks, stickers and other attractive materials to widely reach to different categories of audience. The materials were shared to national stakeholders and international delegates that visited Rwanda in various occasions.

The visiting countries to which the materials were shared include Kenya, Congo Brazzaville and Norway, United Kingdom and United States of America.

The portrayed information demonstrate Rwanda's progress in promotion of Gender equality in areas of poverty reduction, education and training, health, fighting against Gender Based Violence and human trafficking, role of women in conflict management, economy, and participation of women in power and decision making, environment, ICT, and other critical development sectors.

2.5.5. International Delegations Received at Gender Monitoring Office

The fact that Rwanda is a worldwide reference on promotion of Gender Equality and women empowerment makes different countries come for learning visits in the country.



GMO received various delegations and discussed on Rwanda's best practices in promoting gender accountability

During the completed fiscal year 2015/2016, Gender Monitoring Office received the following delegations:

- Africa Unite Kenya (AUKE) and Kenya Men Engage Network:**
 The delegation was received on 24th July 2015. It was composed of Civil Society Organizations and government institutions in Kenya. The purpose of this visit was to learn and exchange on work experience, especially learning on how Rwanda has put in place effective mechanisms to prevent and respond to GBV both at policy making and implementation levels.
- Care International, Norway:** The Delegation was received on 16th September 2015. The purpose of the visit was to learn on Rwanda's system of monitoring of gender equality. The visit has also been an opportunity for networking and discussing future perspectives in promoting gender accountability.
- The CEO of Girl Effect:** On 11th November 2015, Gender Monitoring Office received Farah Golant, the Chief Executive Officer of Girl effect. She and her delegation visited Gender Monitoring Office to strengthen, partnerships following the formalization of working partnerships between Gender Monitoring Office and Girl Effect Rwanda, for capturing concerns of the adolescent girls in Rwanda.
- Minister for Women Promotion and Integration to Development in Congo Brazaville:** On 13th June 2016, The Gender Monitoring Office and the entire Gender Machinery institutions received Hon. Inès Beltille Nefer Ingani, the Minister for Women Promotion and Integration to Development in Congo Brazaville. This was a learning visit for exchange of experiences on policies of promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

3. CONCLUSION

All activities planned in 2015-2016 action plan were implemented and the results were fully positive thanks to strong partnerships with several partners including the public, private and civil society institutions.

GMO will continue to advocate for consistent accountability mechanisms to ensure sustained oversight systems are in place to make gender accountability a reality in the country.

Rwanda has placed gender equality in the center of its development and several commitments at national and international level need continued monitoring to ensure their full domestication and implementation. As a point of reference GMO will contribute to document results and good practices in accelerating progress toward attainment of gender equality.

Next year focus will build on results achieved and consolidate initiative launched in anchoring gender accountability in decentralized mechanisms. This strategy is anticipated to ensure ownership of communities and local leadership for increased and effective promotion of gender equality and equity in Rwanda.

APPENDICES

Table indicating budget details 2014/15 budget execution

N°	Source of Budget	Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Expenditure	Balance	% of budget execution
1	Government of Rwanda	783,488,386	783,488,386	692,012,512	91,475,874	88,30%
2	UN WOMEN	145,000,000	235,658,146	168,712,505	66,945,641	71,59%
	Total	928,488,386	1,019,146,532	860,725,017	158,421,515	84,46%

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