FEBRUARY 2023 - No. 3

RWAMREC QUARTERLY RECAP

Events and Activities

WE'R WORKING WITH WOMEN TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY!

Dear all,

Today on International Women's Day, we celebrate the achievements and contributions of women around the world. Thank You for the care, Dignity, Inclusion and Empowerment you give to your lives.

This year's theme highlights the important role that technology and innovation can play in promoting gender equality and empowering women. It recognizes that men can be better allies for gender parity by referring on their own power and mainstreaming problems impacting on their spaces.

Men can equally advocate for and engage in unpaid care work and child upbringing, challenge the idea that men are the breadwinners, and promote equal and accessible opportunities. We also recognize the ongoing struggles faced by women who experience discrimination and violence based on their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and other identities. We stand with them and hope that their collaborative is all the above, is a reality.

Let us use this day to remember yesterday to advancing gender equality and women's rights, and to think of what we can do today and tomorrow to create a world where all people are valued, respected, and able to achieve their full potential. We have do not cannot wished early, but all men can prevent them before and affect.

Happy International Women's Day!

Sincerely,

Fabio Pasquale, Executive Director

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Bandebwerke scales up in two districts.

RWAMREC Bandebwerke program is an evidence-based intervention, which engages men in Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH), antenatal prevention, caregiving, and healthier couple relationships. The scale-up of the program in Nyamagabe District, Kamonyi District, and Gasabo District, was launched in the Burera and Gakenke District in the Northern Province of Rwanda. The scale-up was implemented by Rwanda Women Network, Technical Advisory Group (TAG), including representatives of the Rwanda Ministry of Health, Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC), Rwanda Men Resource Center and Family Promotion (REFAMP), the National Child Development Agency (NCDA) and Equimundo, to seek for their guidance on the scale-up process.

Group picture of participants and Bandebwerke leadership

Listen to this podcast about the Bandebwerke program, in which Emmanuel Mpyisenge Bandebwerke Program coordinator speaks about the importance of engaging men and boys in maternal processes.

Bandebwerke for active fatherhood and healthy families.

Discussing militarized masculinities with Dr. Georgina Holmes: RWAMREC first gender cafe in 2023.

Group picture of participants at the gender cafe

As a best practice for organizational capacity building, RWAMREC organized its first gender cafe, a platform that brings together staff members, activists, and gender experts, to discuss gender issues and ideas. The gender cafe serves as a good opportunity for participants to learn from each other. In this first gender cafe, we opened our gender cafe to our partners and invited Dr. Georgina Holmes, who is a Senior Lecturer in the Cross disciplinary on Militarized masculinities and gender equality in military institutions, training on the use of digital technologies.

Opening the session! the Executive Director of RWAMREC, Fabio Pasquale, shared with participants saying "Gender Cafe will be a powerful tool that environmentally promotes and fosters the exchange of ideas around gender equality and fosters the production and dissemination of applied gender research, contributing to the development of gender information and knowledge".

Dr. Georgina Holmes delivering her presentation

Dr. Georgina Holmes, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Studies at the Open University in the UK, said her research and presentation is based on the Gender Equality Observatory project (GEP) in Rwanda and the Balkan Area. Participants discussed how digital technologies transform masculinities in military institutions and how they exploited the integration of women into the military institutions. Dr. Georgina Holmes, who has been examining how the Armed Forces attempt to "recruit" women into the military, using the cultural pull of a self a new, gender-neutral British soldier.

> "Gender cafés are a powerful tool that unconventionally promotes and fosters the exchange of ideas and promotion of applied gender research and provides a platform for a dialogue on gender issues."
>
> Fabio Pasquale, Executive Director

At the end of the cafe, participants shared their engaging in gender spaces to work more closely with the Gender Cafe and develop their gender knowledge and skills. Gender cafe can help drive societal change.

RWAMREC keeps empowering women in the South

Group picture of women leaders after training

It's now for partners to work together! It's again two mothers. One is a Hutu and the other one is a Tutsi who are walking for having a shell back. Since the genocide against Tutsi, they continued to live in situations of poverty and trauma. Since 2020, Rwanda Women Network made ways to survive and care for their children. They have started small income generating activities, such as selling vegetables and fruits on the streets. The activities have helped them to become independent, have overall improvements in their lives, and have opportunities to meet other people. Unfortunately, they were not supported to meet the demand, to grow their business, and to make a profit. They did not have the capacity to support their families and children. Rwanda Women Development Health Network (WHN) and RWAMREC, has joined hands to support these two women.

Several non-governmental organizations have implemented ongoing gender activities aimed at addressing the country's rising teenage pregnancy rate. One such initiative is a pilot project in collaboration with the Organization International de la Francophonie (OIF) aimed at helping constituents of team building through an empowerment approach.

However, at the time, RWAMREC was able to continue working with the women, and they started to work, mothers in the Southern Province of Rwanda, to develop an entrepreneurship and income generating activities, which would help them to move from the informal sector, the formal sector. The program will provide a platform for women to engage with other participating women in the community. In the long run, this will provide a platform for women to discuss and mutually provide for their emotional, cognitive, and behavior. Although the program is implemented by RWAMREC, the impact ongoing, and the ripple effect will be felt around. They are supported and encouraged to continue to engage with the other children.They women are continue to be carried out in Huye District.

> *IF'S EASY! You begin: Organize a group of women interested in women living and empowered and encouraged to maintain their dignity and their aspirations.*

Left Photo of women leaders. Right Women learning to Certified Computers.

By the year were to an end we conclusion a three day attention and team building staff retreat at Rubavu District to revisit the year's activities, achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. The retreat was also an evaluation of the work of the retreat Mrs. Stephine gave the president of the board of directors, Mr. Fabio Pasquale, the executive director of the organization, Karamira a skilled and passionate employee who takes charge of organizing tree, tree shade for improvement has been constant throughout that year.

RWAMREC celebrates 16 Days Of Activism against GBV alongside the rest of the world.

Photo of Mayor and Executive Director of RWAMREC at 16 Days of activism.

In Nyamagabe District, Mayor Mr. Ndayisaba Gervais and Executive Director of RWAMREC Mr. Fabio Pasquale, gathered some together to participate in an activism campaign against gender-based violence and other violence against women and girls. The campaign was launched last year from November 25th to December 10th, 2022. The campaign experienced that gender-based violence and violence against women and girls, highlighting the disproportionate effects women and girls, taking on the form of intimate partner violence, and sexual violence, including sexual harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace, and harmful traditional practices, which women and girls, taking on the form of intimate partner violence

the physical harm they may sustain. In some cases, children may be caught in the crossfire of violent episodes between their parents or become targets of abuse themselves. This can result in injuries, bruises, or even death. Children who witness IPV may also experience psychological harm such as anxiety, fear, depression, low self-esteem, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They also risk developing physical long-term effects such as heart disease, diabetes, and asthma.

"IPV has a profound impact on children, and the negative effects can last well into adulthood. By providing support and resources to those affected by IPV, we can help mitigate the harm and promote healing and healthy relationships".

IPV on children, it is essential to provide support and resources to both the child and the parents. This may include counseling, advocacy, and access to community resources such as shelters and legal services. It is also crucial to hold the offending parent accountable for their actions and provide them with resources and support to address their violent behavior. A few things that a non-offending parent can do to support a child that has experienced IPV are first and foremost to keep the child safe. A violent home is not a safe home for children. Then they can acknowledge the violence through telling them what happened was not okay. It's important to listen to the child. Help them talk about their experiences and let them know it's not their fault.

RWAMREC celebrates International Women's Day 2023.

Photo collage of participants during IWD in Rwanda.

On March 8, 2023, we joined government officials, partners, and residents from across the country to celebrate International Women's Day. On this day, under the theme "DigitALL," women demonstrated their innovations to attendees. This year's International Women's Day is focused on innovating and utilizing technology to benefit women and girls.

DID YOU KNOW?

Young women and girls who are disproportionately exposed to online violence and harassment can suffer physical, mental, and emotional harm, along with having an effect on how they access and use digital tools for the rest of their lives.

Let's protect women and girls online.

Upcoming events

JULY 2023

RWAMREC to participate in the Women Deliver Conference 2023.

All partners of Gen-G program will meet in Rwanda.

Bandebereho activities starting in Burera and Gakenke.

RWAMREC GOVERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

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