



Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC)

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RWANDA MEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT 2011

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PREFACE

The present report covers activities undertaken by the Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC) during the calendar year 2011.

We are grateful that RWAMREC intensified its activities and partnership scale compared to the previous year 2011. The activities not only increased in volume but also in quality. The visibility of the organization has also increased. A lot has been achieved in promoting gender equality and fight against gender-based violence, but there's still a long way to go around the country if we refer to the findings results of the masculinity and GBV research made by RWAMREC in this year 2010.

We cannot fail to acknowledge at this point once again all those who supported the organization and gave constructive advises in the whole year 2011, those who contributed the moral, material, technical and financial support to RWAMREC without which the present realizations would be impossible. In particular, we are grateful to UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, CHF Higa Ubeho CARE International, MCC strengthening through IREX and GBV prevention network.

Also, our appreciations goes to Districts and local partner organizations/Institutions in particular PROFEMME TWESE HAMWE, CLADHO, the Rwanda National Police, the Rwanda Defence Forces, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the National Women's Council, High learning institutions KIST,KHI, UNR ,UNATEK and other partners that we have worked with in synergy to address issues of negative masculinity, gender inequality, promotion of healthy families, women's rights and prevention of gender-based violence, and related consequences including HIV/AIDS and other health, demography, poverty, and environmental issues.

We are also grateful to MIGEPROF, CNF and various State institutions in particular local government authorities for their moral support and fruitful collaboration. Last but not least we are grateful to the devotion of the Association's leadership, staff, and the entire members in the realization of the activities mentioned in the present report. To all of them we say thank you and look forward towards continued and fruitful partnership.

RUTAYISIRE Fidele, Chairman- RWAMREC

0. Introduction

During the year 2011 a number of important activities were accomplished by the organization especially those related to Gender equality promotion, Gender Based Violence Prevention, MenEngage approach mainstreaming into Health Programs and in high learning institutions.

The main report is composed of 3 parts namely:

- The introduction and the presentation of the organization,
- The presentation of planned activities and achievements,
- Difficulties encountered and future perspective.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANISATION

Rwanda Men's Resources Centre (RWAMREC) is a non-governmental organization that was founded in October 2006 by nine positively-minded men with experience in gender and human rights and is legally registered in 2008 under the Ministerial Order N° 114/11 of 03 SEPT 2008.

RWAMREC was created in an effort to engage men and boys in the fight against gender-based violence in Rwanda, following shocking reports of rape and gender-based violence, and other gross women and children's rights violation and abuse cases that were being experienced in Rwanda.

The Government of Rwanda has been addressing gender-based violence (GBV) by punishing the perpetrators through the judiciary system, but this strategy has a limit because we are still experiencing a growing number of violence cases in our society despite the repressive measures in place. Civil society organizations have organized various campaigns directed at men as perpetrators of violence but not much has been done to positively engage them as partners in the fight against GBV.

It is against this background that the Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC) was founded with the aim of addressing issues of negative masculinity, gender inequality, promotion of healthy families, women's rights and prevention of gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS in Rwanda.

Mission of Rwanda Men's Resource Centre

The mission of RWAMREC is to mobilize Rwandan men to support women's leadership, and eradication of men's violence against women by acting as role models in an effort to promote positive masculinity in Rwanda

Vision of Rwanda Men's Resource Centre

The vision of the Rwanda Men's Resource Centre is to have a peaceful society where women and men share responsibilities for raising families in peace and participate in the development of the Rwandan society in equality and mutual respect.

Objectives

1. Establish a Men's Resource centre that will strive to prevent men's violence in Rwanda through peer men,
2. Promote Men's attitudes and behaviours towards non-violence and gender equality in Rwanda,
3. Building synergy between men and women for effective prevention of violence,
4. Facilitate networking amongst strategic actors, and information sharing for effective advocacy,
5. Provide information resources through research on violence.

Main Strategies of the organization

For the purpose of implementing its mandate, RWAMREC has adopted the following strategies in order to achieve its objectives and contribute significantly to its vision:

1. Networking with like-minded organizations and institutions to advocate for effective engagement of men and boys in the fight against GBV and HIV/AIDS.
2. Ensure effective and positive involvement of media in efforts aimed at ending violence in Rwanda.
3. Promote gender values, respect of human rights, especially women and children's rights.
4. Develop a network of Rwandan men's pledge against violence and encourage action advocacy at different levels of governance.
5. Conduct a survey and disseminate findings on attitudes towards masculinity and violence in Rwanda.
6. Organize countrywide campaigns against violence and develop a mentoring program for adult men to support young men in healing from violence and developing positive masculinity.
7. Organize workshops for children about respect and abuse in relationships, especially in schools.

2. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

The next few pages describe RWAMREC's work in terms of key achievements and activities from January 2011 to 30 December 2011. The achievements are presented by each strategic objective as follow:

- 1) Strengthening the Institutional capacity (staff and member capacity building through networking and partnership with others actors, improvement of equipment and materials)
- 2) Promoting Gender equality and preventing GBV (specific projects :UNTF with coffee cooperatives, MenEngage with UNDP, Promotion of positive masculine behaviors wit CHF CARE and GBV Prevention network, Advocacy with MCC - IREX, UNWOMEN) through mobilization in different districts...
- 3) Promoting the capacity building of partner organization and awareness through mass and community mobilization and gender Clubs through various research and training activities.

2.1. Institutional capacity building

During 2011, RWAMREC planned to reinforce its institutional capacities by hiring a new technical staff, training of its members and participating in different national and international workshops/seminars/conferences related to its mission and programs.

It is in this regards that RWAMREC increased its staff by hiring a Capacity building officer with a support project of CHF Higa Ubeho and Care International, a Chief Accountant and a Project Field Officer from ISARO Project under Care supervision on MenEngage in Voluntary saving Loans (VSL).

In partnership with VSO-Rwanda (Volunteer Services Overseas), a Volunteer Programme Development Advisor has been allocated by VSO to RWAMREC; this has increased RWAMREC visibility based on representation of volunteers in thirty districts. However the placement aimed to support RWAMREC to nurture and develop a volunteering program in order to increase the capacity of RWAMREC to involve as many volunteers as possible in reaching out to remote areas to conduct mass mobilization and sensitization campaigns all over the country in areas of gender equality and positive masculinity promotion as an effective way of preventing GBV while creating a conducive environment for volunteers to learn from the various situations in the country.

This entire qualified and experienced staff allowed RWAMREC to perform and to achieve its goals in different projects. It is in this regard that RWAMREC organized a training of trainers (TOT) for thirty volunteers on MenEngage approach and various technics of mobilization campaigns in different part of the country as per their displacement.

2.2. The Staff, partners and community members working with RWAMREC

Staff and Active members of RWAMREC were trained on the role of men and boys to promote gender equality and prevention of Gender Based violence in a human rights-based approach and in development programs.

- a) In partnership with UNDP, RWAMREC organized different capacity building workshops and trainings to mainstream men engage approach in civil organizations; different workshops has been organized and more than 50 COS's organization were trained on menEngage mainstreaming into their existing programs.
- b) In terms of capacity building of CSO'S, RWAMREC produce and disseminated four thousand (4000) copies of brochures on masculinity research findings that has been done in 2010; among this copies, two hundred copies was the executive summary of the masculinity report of 16 pages and five hundred copies of English and Kinyarwanda version report; The report was disseminated officially at Hotel des Milles collines on 30th July 2011.
- c) In addition to the good dissemination of our findings, we produce a hundred copies translated in French and English so they can distribute to all stakeholders who mainly spoken both languages,
- d) In the preparation of training module and provision of specific tools for menengage programs, RWAMREC had developed different module, handouts on Men engage into GBV/HIV, with our different partners we contribute to produce GBV training module, with CHF, CARE and MIGEPROF.
- e) RWAMREC has conducted twenty organization assessments to fill the gaps and implanting the men engage approach in civil society organization in Rwanda; this assessment was held in Karongi at Moria Hill Resort Hotel. The organization participants were [COCOF, HAMWE, SEVOTA, AVP, MDH, HAGURUKA, GOBOKA, PRO-FEMMES, and some participants from Congo Men's Network in Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC].

With the Men engage project supported by UNDP, the research findings has made local leaders be aware of the violence problems at grass roots level and through gender officers, district signed performance contract for reducing high rate of violence in Rwanda.

It is this regard that RWAMREC has received different request from Kamonyi to train all social affairs, legal status, and National women council staff and Youth representation; 491 men and women has been trained, 56 % were women, 142 opinion leaders in local authorities had meet 5 district (Gakenke, Rulindo, Bugesera, Kamonyi, Nyarugenge) and talked about progressive gender policy and how it can integrated in the process of imihigo and other local leaders.

For prevention of violence against women especially youth, RWAMREC organized 60 youth leaders in Bugesera, couples with organization throught sport campaign (football competition among 4 teams and 4 folklic clubs) in Musenyi sector attractive over 500 people from five cells who received message on youth behaviours to prevent HIV/Aids and SGBV.

For the prevention of high rates of unwanted pregnancy of young girls in Nine years basic education in schools of Rulindo District, a training of Head teachers was organized in order to sensitize teachers of schools leaders to take a lead in fighting sexual abuse of their student and prevent those pregnancies in schools. The theme of this is training was the prevention of gender based violence in schools by mainstreaming the role of men/boys and girls in fighting sexual violence.

Gender as cross cutting issues, it has to be mainstreamed in youth and ensure that Rwanda men and boys are engaged at various level in adapting appropriate strategies to increased men's participation; it is in this regards that RWAMREC organized two workshops one in Rulindo, in Bugesera District with a participation a total of 83 students with 52 boys and 31 girls. The mass mobilization was also done in secondary schools especially in College de l'Espoir Gasogi where a total number of participation was 1150, 650 girls and 500 boys, the young student was very excited with to hear the situation of violence and its consequence as also youth are concerned with its consequence included HIV/AIDS.

The mass mobilization in youth corned the behaviour change and attitude which focused on how boys and girls can well understand the issue of violence and such a way of preventing it at young generation so that we can have a peace society with any kind of violence.

It is in this regard that RWAMREC also focus on high learning institutions search as KIST, KHI , UNR, UNATEK and UAC where we have organized six training session for 242 students and we explored notion of Masculinity and SGBV and the link of men and boys engagement with HIV/AIDS prevention in their respective institution.

Through the comprehensive, three-day training on the abovementioned themes, student from mentioned high learning institution of Rwanda gained new insights into how gender affects them in ordinary life and steps they may take to further prevent gender-based violence and to the promote positive forms of masculinity. The participants have been certified as community trainers.

In May 2011, RWAMREC started a range of trainings (Get Moving which is 5 steps training program facilitated through the Gender Based Violence Prevention Network) that seeks to encourage personal reflection and learning among members to gain a better understanding and commitment to a rights-based, feminist approach to GBV prevention. Two sessions were organized and attended by RWAMREC staff and its board members of how to build a synergy and building a networking in fighting GBV prevention in the region. These two capacity building was funded by GBV prevention Network from Kampala.

2.3. Improvement of organizational materials and equipments

The institutional capacity building of RWAMREC during this 2011 concerned also an acquisition of improved materials and equipment. Necessary logistics equipment purchased includes: laptops computers, big printers HP LaserJet CM 4730 appropriate for printing and multiplication of documents, modems for internet communication in order to facilitate effective working environment.

2.2. Training of programmes partners and RWAMREC Members

Training workshops were organized for coffee cooperative members in Rubavu and Gakenke districts. In total 270 cooperative members of COOPAC, ABAKUNDAAWA of Rushashi and DUUNDEKAWA of Musasa were trained as trainers and as role models for the rest of other members. They were meant to train other cooperative members so that he member of the second generations reaches at least 3000 other cooperative members.

<p>EXPECTED OUTCOME 1 Positive changes in attitudes of men and women within coffee cooperative members in relation to gender equity and prevention of violence against women and girls in a proactive way.</p>	<p>Good practices of gender equality and equity was enhanced within coffee farmer communities for effective prevention of GBV in the coffee production sector.</p> <p>Particularly, men recognized the pain and the magnitudes of violence they inflict on women, they were regretful of that and even apologized to their wives. They vowed to never commit violence against their wives, at workplace and at household levels.</p>
<p>EXPECTED OUTPUT 1.A Increased awareness among men and women about inequitable gender norms and the consequences of violence against women and girls so that they take appropriate actions.</p>	<p>-Coffee Men and women farmers have recognized that violence against women is not just a women's issue and that men in partnership with women can play a significant role in ending it;</p> <p>It is worth mentioning that the people we trained are acting as role models and trainer in their respective communities.</p> <p>-Coffee farmers are speaking out against gender based violence committed in households and in public and advocating for gender more gender justice in workplaces.</p> <p>-they have abolished the gender division of labor at workplace and within their households,</p> <p>-Testimonies sow that decision making is always jointly (wife and husband together)</p> <p>-Men and women coffee farmers are gradually changing their attitudes towards gender roles and have ended the use of violence in their everyday relationships at home and at coffee work</p> <p>-Men coffee farmers are now taking part in household chores with their spouses, men coffee farmers support women's decision-making in communities, men and women in coffee cooperatives exhibit shared leadership and mutual respect,</p> <p>-Women and men in coffee cooperatives report to be economically empowered, to be gender sensitive and their household living conditions</p>

	<p>have changed for the better. One farmer reported that he and his family lived in poverty despite the money they made out of coffee produce, because it was used for beer always. He though and was even praised that buying beer ad sharing it with other men was very important for him to prove he was real man. Now that this understanding has changed, he has bought a cow, he has a motor-bike that is being used to generate income for his family, and the life of his family members and himself has changed drastically.</p>
INDICATORS 1.B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -More than 60 training sessions were conducted by the newly trained trainers within coffee cooperative members, at community (village, cell and sector levels), -Many cases (around 272 cases) of violence cases have been denounced and referred to the community policing committees for appropriate follow up at sector level, -cases of domestic violence have decreased tremendously, -the division of labor within coffee cooperative was abolished as women and men work together to accomplish the objectives of the cooperative, -there were demands from the mayors for scaling up these activities in other sectors of the target districts. This is an eloquent indicator that the training activities were of paramount importance in transforming the lives of the communities involved in the project activities. -Accompaniment and hands-on-support provided reinforced the capacities of coffee cooperative members to reach out to other members, institutionalize the skills and create links with other community actors like the community policing groups, officials from the village, cell, sector and district. They are now the people spreading the message on positive masculine behaviors, gender-based violence and positive gender relationships at family level in their communities.

2. Promoting Gender equality and preventing GBV through MenEngage programs

Based on the research on masculinity and gender-based violence research that was conducted in 2010, RWAREC conducted a series of training workshops and mass mobilization campaigns and sensitization sessions throughout the country. Detailed activities are detailed in sections below:

2.1. Engaging men as partners in promoting gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence.

From January to December 2011, RWAMREC in partnership with UNDP is implementing a project called **“Engaging men as partners in promoting gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence and HIV.”**

In three stages, this project aims to conduct a formative research with men in all districts, on the links between gender and masculinity, sexuality and health risks; to train trainers and to establish them as focal points within the community and to set advocacy events at national and decentralized levels.

A steering committee composed by CEPEX, UNIFEM, RWAMREC, MIGEPROF, RDF gender desk, CLADHO, IMBUTO FOUNDATION, PSI RWANDA, RNP Gender desk, Care International were monitoring the project and convene every three months to review and evaluate project progress including the financial status and providing direction to the project management .

The expected output was:

1. Characteristics and forms of masculinity in Rwanda are highlighted and used for behaviour change communication;
2. MenEngage approaches are incorporated into existing program activities of various actors of the network to promote gender equality;
3. A sustainable action men-engage network for advocacy and mass mobilization is established and strengthened at various levels;
4. The capacity of MenEngage Network organizations and partners is strengthen to implement MenEngage initiatives;
5. Rwandan men and boys are engaged at various levels in adopting appropriate strategies to increase men’s participation in promoting reproductive health, women and children’s rights protection and positive parenthood, the fight against gender-based violence, HIV infection and poverty alleviation.

Intended Output2: MenEngage approaches are incorporated into existing program activities of various actors of the network to promote gender equality;

Expected Intermediate results and Activities	Achievements
<p>2.1. Dissemination of Research on masculinity findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication of the final version - Translation of the document into French 	<p>RWAMREC get on 28/10/2010 an official visa from National Institute of Statistics of RWANDA (NISR) to publish results. 100 copies in English are already printed.</p> <p>Document translated into French and ready to be printed in 100 copies.</p>
<p>2.2.Capacity building needs assessment for strategic partners is conducted</p> <p>-Initial contact to organisations -help organizations to assess themselves to identify gender gaps and areas for integration of MenEngage approaches</p>	<p>32 Organizations contacted and interested to take part in capacity building process.</p> <p>Capacity needs assessment tool developed (questionnaire). By this tool capacity building needs were assessed and areas of MenEngage integration identified (Health, Education, Socio-economy, Legal and justice)</p>
<p>2.3. MenEngage workshops are organized for integration in existing programs:</p>	

<p>-Preparation of training modules -conduct trainings of 40 people from NGOs on MenEngage approaches (direct members on the Network)</p>	<p>Training module developed and Executive summary illustrating the main results of the research produced and translated in kinyarwanda and distributed to all participants.</p> <p>From 17th to 18th December, 2010 at the Moriah Hotel (Kibuye), the first cohort of workshop training brought together 15 delegates and members from 9 NGOs direct members of Menengage network. Other sessions are planned in the near future.</p>
<p>Conducting workshop trainings of 300 partners organizations and institutions at district level</p>	<p>10 sessions organized in 10 zones regrouped 385 people among them 168 men (44%) and 217 women (56%) from 30 districts of the country. Participants were Vice Mayor in charge of social affairs, RNP, RDF, the gender Officer Unit; the National Women Council, the National Youth Council, the Joint Action Forum coordinator, Education officer and Health officer. Other active focal points (around 9) were identified by the district and attended to the workshops as NGOs representatives or from other initiatives listed in different sectors.</p>
<p>Indicators: # of Organizations/Institutions supported: 30 districts (on 10 initially planned) Action undertaken by beneficiary organization to promote MenEngage: Districts or Organizations required partnership with RWAMREC, Specific workshop to engage men to fight against HIV/AIDS (in Gakenke with CNF, in Kamonyi with SEVOTA, in Bugesera with Musenyi sector, ..)</p>	

OUTPUT 3: A sustainable action men-engage network for advocacy and mass mobilization is established and strengthened at various levels;

Expected Intermediate results and Activities	Achievements
<p>3.1. Creation of MenEngage focal points at decentralized level</p> <p>-lobbying local leaders for support and ownership -identify key areas of integration of Menengage and develop appropriate advocacy message for specific targets -organize public mobilization campaigns -organize specific advocacy events for public leaders</p>	<p>- MenEngage Network's strategic plan based on masculinity research findings with specific area of intervention produced. - Political leaders mobilized as a joint action with the Menengage network.</p> <p>- MIGEPROF, MINALOC, RNP, RDF, CNF, Districts were contacted and agreed a partnership to involve their decentralized level in the mass mobilization. Official notification was addressed to all Mayors and Governors by the MIGEPROF. An executive summary illustrating main results of the research have been produced and translated in kinyarwanda and have been</p>

	<p>distributed.</p> <p>A motto message have been selected and shared with all decentralized institutions representative: “Inyangamugayo ntawe ihohotera,Intore iharanira iterambere ry’umuryango “</p> <p>Pubic mobilization campaign trough the 16 days of activism against GBV, Youth mobilization, women mobilization),</p>
<p>3.2. Organization of MenEngage advocacy event at district level and reinforcing the capacity of actors</p> <p>-training of focal points at district level</p> <p>-distribution of documentation on MenEngage</p>	<p>Advocacy has been done with RBC to mainstream MenEngage into the HIV and GBV response. RWAMRE is now part of the steering committee that oversee the mid-term review of the NSP, and efforts are being made to develop a new Strategic plan that has positive masculine aspects in I and GBV response.</p>
<p>Local authorities appreciated the relevance of MenEngage approach. The research findings are going to serve as a basic reference for different actors in field to plan the gender and GBV prevention strategies with quantitative and qualitative data. The campaigns reached out to around 600 young people from the youth structures countrywide, 3,600 people local leaders in districts and 427 people during the 16 days of activism campaign.</p>	

OUTPUT 4: The capacity of MenEngage Network organizations and partners is strengthen to implement MenEngage initiatives.

Expected Intermediate results and Activities	Achievements
<p>4.1.Member organizations of the MenEngage Network are accompanied and reinforced to engage men</p> <p>-on-job training and accompaniment of partners</p> <p>-Development of training materials specific to partner organizations</p>	<p>RWAMREC provided training workshops and hands-on-support to 14 partner organizations in 2011, and this activity resulted into new programming that is human rights-based, Mainstreaming of MenEngage into development programs, and engendering institutional development initiatives. For instance, le Conseil de Concertation des Femmes (COCOF) based in the southern province, Muhanga district has changed its organizational mission and objectives to include MenEngage approach and strategies, with the support of RWAMREC, after realizing that men were standing n the way for women’s economic empowerment, and then looked for ways to positively engage men.</p>
<p>Indicators:</p> <p>Kind of support provided</p> <p># of organizations supported to institutionalize MenEngage approach</p> <p>#of advocacy actions undertaken by MenEngage Network to prevent GBV</p>	<p>-Assessment on MenEngage and gender equality for 30 organizations conducted,</p> <p>-14 organizations trained and supported so far,</p> <p>-Training materials developed ad distributed to all partners,</p> <p>-2 Advocacy events organized at national level,</p> <p>-Hands-on-support activities provided to 9 organizations,</p> <p>-a monitoring and evaluation meeting was held to take stock of</p>

Quantity and quality of materials provided to Organizations to integrate MenEngage	what has been achieved, and plan for 2012, 2 Field visits were organized to document the project monitoring activities.
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Output 5: Rwandan men and boys are engaged at various levels in adopting appropriate strategies to increase men's participation

Expected Intermediate results and Activities	Achievements
<p>5.1. Decision makers are mobilized to support MenEngage Approach (planned for the 2nd year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Organize 2 national advocacy events - Mass mobilization at provincial level and in 20 schools -Develop appropriate mobilization materials (media coverage, leaflets) campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The community mobilization made by RWAMREC was covered by the media: Imvaho Nshya and Oasis gazette and by all community radio located in different provinces. Those are Radio Musanze, Radio Izuba, Radio Rubavu, Radio Nyagatare and Radio Huye for advocacy and mass mobilization purposes. -1 National advocacy event was organized in conjunction with CNLS, and UNDP, -6 training workshops of 3 days were organized for 6 higher learning institutions including INATEK, ULK, UAAC, INILAK, KIST, KHI and NUR. Brochures were developed and distributed for education and advocacy ends, -Sensitization activities were carried out in secondary 10 schools in Kigali and Bugesera on promotion of positive masculine behaviors and SGBV prevention skills
<p>Indicators :</p> <p>Quality and quantity of spill over effects of the mobilization campaigns Varios action undertaken by target people</p>	<p>Youth in Bugesera are acting as community mobilizers, students in higher learning institutions were engaged in mass mobilization and training activities in secondary schools, and men in Kamonyi district are now acting as role models in MenEngage and GBV prevention.</p>

The project was executed as it was planned and the impact had been achieved based on annual closing report; The evaluation and audit of the project was done by external audit firm called Price water (PCW) and the firm evaluate RWAMREC for the implementation rate of 85 % (cfr Audit Report UNDP).

2.2. National Volunteering Program Initiative (NVPI)

In 2011, RWAMREC's NVPI was developed in partnership with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Rwanda and RWAMREC. Specifically, for 12 months (starting in October 2010 to October 2011), an Institutional Development Advisor has been hired to support RWAMREC in the nurturing of and development of a countrywide volunteering program.

Through this initiative, RWAMREC would like to put in place a sustainable and participatory strategy to make a mass mobilization nationwide basing on the masculinity and GBV research outcomes and within the Rwandan context. It is planned that national volunteers will carry out

sensitization on the ground. This program aims to increase RWAMREC's overall capacity; and reflect a program that is effective and sustainable; builds the capacity of RWAMREC staff in identifying areas of work/working conditions for national volunteers; and mobilizes/manages operational resources as well as monitoring and evaluation systems.

RWAMREC's NVPI has served as a driving vehicle to realize RWAMREC's mission while promoting also its vision, objectives, and values.

All training objectives were met; specifically, all RWAMREC national volunteers were introduced to the practical importance of encouraging and upholding a national volunteerism spirit within Rwanda {with relativity to gender, MenEngage, anti-gender based violence (GBV) and advocacy}. Also, RWAMREC national volunteers learned about how they will work throughout Rwandan communities [re mass mobilization; role modeling; information sharing; monitoring, evaluation & impact assessment]. Additionally, this RWAMREC-led training involved participatory discussions on the rich national volunteering (NV) background within Rwanda; and the economic value of NV to Rwanda's development and the achievement of the vision 2020 and Millennium development goals [MDG's]. The training of national volunteerism program was supported by VSO, Care international, USA embassy as well as the Nakumat super market.

2.3. Engaging Men in Voluntary Savings and Loan (VSL) to reduce GBV

In 2011 RWAMREC continue a sub grant agreement (for one years) with CARE International for a partnership of implementation of male engagement activities in VSL in selected cells of districts of Huye, Nyamagabe, Gisagara, Nyaruguru, Nyanza and Ruhango (Southern Province). The initiative aims to mainstreaming men's role in the women's economic empowerment initiatives and to sensitize men to become allies and partners with their wives in achieving greater empowerment and equality for women in order to reduce household poverty.

Through this initiative, RWAMREC expect to develop a Menengage approach strategy that might help men to change behaviour, to react and respond positively to their wife's initiatives supported by VSL program implemented by CARE. In this program RWAMREC play a supervision of overall and ensure that menengage approach is well mainstream in Voluntary saving loan to reduce gender based violence in southern province.

Care international as the direct implementer of the ISARO programmer with partnerships of RWAMREC, care is responsible for planning activities of the programme based in Southern province (Huye) where the programme is implemented. The training module objective is to engage men as husbands and partners of women beneficiaries of CARE's VSL groups formed under the ISARO program, which seeks to promote women's economic empowerment.

The goal of the ISARO Project is to improve gender equality and social, political and economic empowerment for 100,000 people (80% of those women). It is in that regards that CARE and RWAMREC conducted different workshops of mainstreaming MenEngage approach in Voluntary savings loans in Nyanaza, Nyaruguru, Huye, Ruhango and Gisagara

In general menengage approach has give a huge impact during this project implementation; these are out comes;

- ✓ Principles of Behavior, socialization attitude, skills, and knowledge (B.A.S.K.) of really man was well mainstreamed through menengage approach
- ✓ Family responsibility between men and women has been increased
- ✓ Men has support the women empowerment through VSL/MenEngage approach in six district of south province
- ✓ Voluntary savings has been enhanced though this program
- ✓ GBV cases have reduced and family incomes have increased during the first year of project implementation.

This project implementation process enable RWAMREC to develop training module in order to equip beneficiaries what is the importance of engaging men in GBV prevention through Voluntary savings loans. In Nyanza, 8 groups of men were created to advance peer-to-peer education amongst men, an RWAMREC is meant to further strengthen their capacity by providing hands-on-support and monitoring.

2.4. Engaging Men in HIV/AIDS in CHF HIGA UBEHO in existing programs of 14 RPO's

In the frame work of mainstreaming gender in existing programs in Rwanda , RWAMREC has get a fund from CHF-HIGA UBEHO through capacity building of Rwandan partners organization . RWAMREC was in charge of capacity building of 14 RPO's to integrate the menEngage into their existing programs; it is in that regard that RWAMREC accompanied RPOS and conducting training on gender and SGBV aiming at building the capacity of ABAHUZA hence build their ability to prevent and handle various GBV issues that they face within their community. The training of RPO's staff was from twenty districts. These trainings were done in two parts during the year of 2011. RWAMREC under the supervisor of CARE international and CHF produce a training module on SGBV that will be used by all Rwandan Partners organization supported by CHF-HIGA Ubeho and their stakeholders.

These activities were successfully conducted as shown in the below table.

#	Planed activities	Activity code in the WP	Achievements of planned activities	Planned but not accomplished activities	Activities accomplish ed but not initially planned	Remark/ Comment
1	Conduct a need assessment of RPO's on SGBV and Menengage		Report was finalized			
2	Organizing a training worship of all		Menengage approach was			

	stakeholders of HIGA UBEHO from 20 districts		mainstreamed in 14 RPO's			
3	Consultative meeting for the finalization of Gender and SGBV module for the Abahuza		The module was finalized			
	Develop capacities of ABAHUZA in Gender and SGBV		An adapted training handout on Gender and SGBV was used to train Abahuza (a total of two training of 3 days each have been conducted for a total of 80 people from Nyaruguru and Ngororero districts			The training was successfully conducted and key Gender stereotypes challenged. Other trainings are planned to be conducted throughout July and September 2011)

The RWAMREC role was limited to providing training and could not measure the impact of the training, could not even provide any other support in mainstreaming and implementing MenEngage approaches. Care International was responsible for this.

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

A. Other activities done

During 2011 and according to its expertise, mission and background, RWAMREC was associated/involved in a consultative process and in implementation of a large activities led by National Institutions (Ministries, Parliaments) or Civil Society Member Organizations. RWAMREC brought its contribution to different events related to gender and SGBV prevention in which strategies and approaches to engage men where needed to be shared. We can mention but not limited the following:

1. Participation in the launching of research on the African Gender Development Index in Rwanda organized by MIGEPROF supported by the Economic Commission for Africa.
2. Participation in the UN Gender Task Force on men's engagement strategies, gender in Rwanda, with particular attention to masculinity organized by UNFPA, UNIFEM, and GMO.
3. Participations as partner with MIGEPROF and NAWOCO with other local organizations in the 16 days campaign against GBV which started 15 November to 25 December 2011

4. Participation in different workshops and meetings of our stakeholders
5. RWAMREC in partnership with Plan international carry out the research (IMAGES) in secondary school with the aim to understand the attitude of young boys between 12-18 years old on gender based violence. The research was done in 6 secondary schools in Kigali city and Western province of Rwanda.
6. RWAMREC has produced a 5 year strategic plan which will lead the organization to achieve its mission based on the results findings that has been in 2010.

B. Challenges

In general the challenges that RWAMREC activities were facing to are mainly related to:

- a) The misunderstanding of gender concept: The introduction of a gender policy which promotes gender equality is still perceived as undermining the role of men and giving power to women.
- b) The different gender perceptions on the GBV law: Women and men see the law as problematic (72.6% of women consider the GBV law as not protective enough and 39.6% as a measure that increase stigmatization and suffering of women exposed to GBV)
- c) Many Rwandan adults' citizens' witnessed and experienced forms of violence that have affected them seriously. This tends to increase or maintain mostly men in violent behaviour.
- d) The lacks of means to conduct many research in area of masculinity vis a vis to culture and norms, dowry that caused violence against women in Rwanda.
- e) RWAMREC has a lack of means to create boys clubs in secondary schools in order to mainstreamed positive masculinity at early age to that they can play a role model in changing attitude on non violence in Rwandan society.

C. Perspective for the year 2012

Based on the activities carried out in 2011, RWAMREC suggests that in order to fully address and ultimately eliminate the problem of Violence against Women, intensive and comprehensive transformations must occur. Here after are the main strategic orientations that will be developed and proposed to Rwanda MenEngage network members, to Civil Society Organisations, to Rwanda Government and the Community in general.

Activities that RWAMREC would carry out in 2012 will link with, but not limited to:

- a) Organizing a general assembly to review and present the achievement of the year and discuss the execution of the 2011-2015 action plans with revised and appropriated strategies to address the gender related issues to our members
- b) Organizing a consultative workshop and funds mobilization event to present the strategic plan to the Rwanda MenEngage network members with donors.
- c) Continuing a GBV prevention campaign in 5 districts with high rate of GBV by organizing public talk on national instruments against GBV, organizing competitions among students in developing messages against GBV and distributing of documentation on MenEngage and others tools (stickers, brochures,..)

- d) Continuing the capacity building of the MenEngage Network members to enable them to mainstream the MenEngage approach in their different existing programs and to strengthen capacities of the focal points in decentralized sphere...
- e) Carrying out a formative qualitative and quantitative Baseline study research supported by NPA Rwanda with the other six organizations funded by Norwegian People Aid; for RWAMREC district intervention are Kamonyi, Bugesera, Gakenke, Rulindo,
- f) In partnership with UNWOMEN through Un Truth Fund RWAMREC will implement a project called “Engaging men as partners in promoting gender equality and the prevention of gender based violence and HIV/AIDS in Rwanda in Gakenke and Kamonyi
- g) Scale up the activities of umugoroba w’abashakanye in other districts by integrating men’s to support to women in fighting Gender based violence in Rwanda.
- h) To organize a National MenEngage Conference that aimed to strengthening the engagement of men in the National gendered response to HIV AIDS and SGBV with the partnership with Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC).