

# **REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**



**Minister in the Prime Minister's Office in Charge of Family  
Promotion and Gender**

## **NATIONAL POLICY FOR FAMILY PROMOTION**

**Kigali, December 2005**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Context

The development of the National Policy for Family Promotion is based on the main aspirations of the Government of Rwanda (GoR) towards 2020 and on the new Constitution, which requires the State of Rwanda to set up appropriate legislation and institutions for the protection of the family, especially the child and the mother to ensure that the family flourishes (**Art. 27**).

The GoR attention on family issues illustrates its determination to change the Rwandan society and strengthen its social assets, basing on positive national cultural values. Rwanda lays such great emphasis on family because it is considered as an essential element for safeguarding social order, maintaining social cohesion and for reconciling an individual with the society.

Poverty alleviation, the need to control social deficits through human resource development, taking into account the issue of demography, gender, health and capacity, will therefore make the family policy a binding instrument in the struggle against social inequalities.

The National Policy for Family Promotion will also be a springboard for tackling major economic and political upheavals over the last years, which have affected the economic functioning and family integrity. Indeed, the social and cultural consequences of those upheavals can be seen at family level, and they result in an excessively high number of widows/widowers, orphans, physically mutilated people, traumatised people, single parent families, unmarried couples, divorces and separations, children born out of wedlock, child-headed households, street children, HIV positive, etc.

If it is to address all these issues, the GoR has to provide itself with a family policy likely to create an enabling environment for the development of family cell within which individuals can blossom in family security, solidarity and democracy, involving equality of all its members and the respect of the rights of each and everybody.

#### 1.1.1. International Context

With reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which defined family as a “natural and fundamental group of society”, the International Community gives undivided attention to the needs and challenges confronted by the family and its role in development.

This has been strengthened in the Action Programme of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD); the Copenhagen Declaration and Action Programme, the Beijing Action Platform, 21 Programme, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as the World Summit on Children, to mention but a few. It is of paramount importance to point out that three of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are based on the family and its welfare.

### **1.1.2. Regional Context**

At the African level, it can be observed that human rights, individual rights and liberty are stressed in the Charter of the former Organisation of African Unity and the Constitutive Act of African Union, as well as in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

Furthermore, in various papers, the need to ensure the respect of family rights, its protection against all forms of socio-economic disaster, to enhance services for the welfare of the family and to integrate the family in effective development, to build the capacity of the family to enable it to play a significant role in sustainable development is earmarked.

It should also be pointed out that the common stance of Africa on children lays emphasis on family issues, as well as on the adoption of a holistic approach to ensure the protection of the family, to raise family awareness about combating HIV/AIDS, but also to provide the family with education and information on its role towards children.

### **1.1.3. National Context**

Traditionally, family and community used to play a central role in Rwandans' life. Social relationships were based much more on nuclear and extended family, as well as on the neighbourhood, than on interpersonal relationships.

Today, it is worth noticing that all social links have greatly suffered from tragedies of the last years so that it is not easy to have a clear picture of mutations that took place in minds and thus affected attitudes of individuals within the community.

It is quite easy to see the challenge of, but also the need for the reconstruction of a community basing on such foundations. Therefore, there should be a policy likely to provide families with counselling services as a means of family reconciliation, safeguard and protection.

It has been noticed that the Rwandan family has trouble keeping up with and adapting to various mutations taking place around it. Therefore, adaptation needed for the requirements of those mutations compels our country to reflect once more on the system of its family education, to readjust its family pedagogy. Indeed, it is needed to save, at all costs, the equilibrium between ancestral values and inputs from the modern world through a careful dosage, an attitude of understanding and acceptance of a new world with its new rules and regulations.

Rwandan family has always been considered as the core of life, cradle of the future and pillar of happiness: it is within family that a child is conceived, born, educated and given to the community for the good of the society. It is also within the family that the first interpersonal relationships are tied, and exchange, comparison and identification opportunities obtained. It is therefore needed to develop policies designed to strengthen and safeguard family as an Institution, and enhance the quality of family relationships taking into account changes, which occur in desired socio-economic development.

Given the progress of the modern world, the roles of family members have changed, especially as regards women, who, not only are subject to a less passive attitude in their traditional roles as wives and mothers, but also are required to exercise a social and professional function, which will undoubtedly increase

gradually. Therefore, it is needed to devise policies (formulae) to establish equilibrium within that new cohabitation, both from the professional and family perspective. Furthermore, it is needed to build capacity and strengthen responsibilities, authority and resources of each and everybody responsible to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities.

The shift from subsistence economy to market economy has impacted Rwandan family, since, traditionally, families and communities exchanged goods only for their useful value rather than for their monetary value.

Today, families greatly rely on a money-driven economy. A big number of families or of their members are relocating from rural areas to urban areas, while others are leaving their home regions to other regions in search of employment and better opportunities. It is therefore needed to build economic and financial capacity of families.

## **1.2. General Orientations**

### **1.2.1. Vision 2020**

The National Family Policy is in line with Vision 2020, which aims at building a modern nation, stable, fit, and proud of its fundamental values. Through Vision 2020, the country would like to have a population with a reasonable economic growth, socially secured, well nourished and healthy, educated and with a thirst for training and information, capable of making itself a real resource for the country.

It therefore means that Vision 2020 will be implemented through the achievement of various aspirations, including those repeated in the policy paper, especially the control of demographic growth, the reduction of vulnerability in a specific manner, change of Rwandan society and the reinforcement of the social assets, basing on national positive cultural values.

### **1.2.2. Constitution**

The major innovation in the Constitution is obviously the fact that it establishes in conjugal life comprehensive legal equality between the husband and the wife. Henceforth both spouses shall have equal rights, equal duties and responsibilities, both regarding their person and in connection with the management of their assets. It is for instance Article 26 in its 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph which provides that “parties to a marriage have equal rights and duties upon and during the subsistence of a marriage and at the time of divorce”. Another innovation in this new Constitution lies in the fact that it highlights the protection of the child and the mother.

### **1.2.3. Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Among the deep structural constraints faced by the Rwandan family, one of the most serious is its chronic poverty. This results in the shortage of income and production means to ensure sustainable living conditions.

One of the PRS priorities is human development, including actions that directly impact life quality within poor families, namely health, family planning, education, etc.

### 1.2.4. International Development Goals

The National Family Policy will also enable us to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. For instance, it is worth mentioning the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; the implementation of primary education for all; the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment; the reduction of infant mortality; improvement of maternal health, HIV/AIDS control; malaria and other diseases, as well as environment protection.

Considering the strategies of this policy, the objectives of NEPAD will undoubtedly be achieved at the national level. NEPAD shows that the most urgent challenges faced by Africa, especially by Rwanda, are only poverty and how economic development is to be reinforced. Peace and security, as well as governance quality are considered prior requirements for social and economic development and constitute some of the country priority activities in line with NEPAD.

## II. PRESENTATION OF RWANDAN FAMILY

### 2.1. Problem Statement

In order to identify problems in the Rwandan family, it is useful to make its critical analysis at economic, socio-cultural, political, legal and demographic levels, as well as at the human development level. Basing on this analysis, it will be possible to devise strategies designed to tackle major challenges currently faced by the Rwandan family.

#### 2.1.1. On Economic Level

Poverty is the greatest challenge faced by household security. In fact, the economic stress observed at family level reveals or triggers psychological difficulties between husband and wife, but also relationship problems between parents and children. The lack of income and resulting insecurity can also impact parental performance.

It is worth pointing out that the poverty situation currently faced by Rwandan families has various manifestations, especially hunger and malnutrition, poor health, absent or limited access to education and to other basic services, high morbidity and mortality rate due to diseases, social conflicts, violence risks, drug abuse, lack of decent housing<sup>1</sup>, discrimination and social exclusion. Poverty is also among the factors that lead young people to delinquency and prostitution, thus putting their families in trouble. This poverty has also negatively impacted the family structure, and which has resulted in an increase in the number of street children or children separated from their families, being therefore compelled to fend for themselves.

Other constraints on the Rwandan family regarding economy are especially high unemployment rate<sup>2</sup>, shortage of social security mechanisms, rural depopulation, persisting gender inequality, family disintegration, or dislocation. Furthermore, the intensification of HIV/AIDS impact and other pandemics put

<sup>1</sup> The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Census of the Population and Housing of Rwanda carried out in August 2002 shows that a significant proportion of houses is still covered with grass (11.5%), mainly in the Provinces of Umutara (32.2%), Byumba (16.3%), Kibungo (15.2%) and Butare (14.5%). The same census indicates that spontaneous housing (utujagari) represents 59.6% of the total dwelling units in Kigali City, 5.1% in Gisenyi, 3.6% in Kigali Ngali, 3.1% in Butare and Ruhengeri.

<sup>2</sup> Still according to statistic data from the 3<sup>rd</sup> census, 53% of the respondents admitted to be economically active, i.e., apart from children (16.2%) and students (25%), the remaining population can be said to be inactive or unemployed.

unprecedented pressure on family and on those who are socio-economically productive, particularly trained managerial staff. If all these challenges are to be efficiently addressed, an integrated approach that places the family at the heart of a comprehensive development programme aimed at supporting its integrity should be adopted.

### 2.1.2. On Socio-cultural Level

The Rwandan family that was formerly considered as a reliable value is currently facing trouble. It is shaken to its depth. The 1994 war and Genocide undergone by our country, but also the attractiveness of modernisation and globalisation are also involved in this phenomenon. In fact, the massacres and genocide have been perpetrated among Rwandan family members, and resulted in fear and mistrust within the community. Many children have been orphaned or separated from their parents during these horrible events. The structure of the nuclear and extended family has been modified by the serious loss of lives, internal discords, by foster care of unaccompanied children, and by change of roles due to all these upheavals<sup>3</sup>.

Consultations with the population have revealed that today's Rwandan family has become a particularly vulnerable institution, given the following factors:

**Polygamy:** Polygamy gives to the Rwandan family a fragmented structure, each of the wives generally living in a hut with her children, the whole group of those female huts making up a large "family" in which a man, husband and father, moves around, being dominant yet irregular. The paradox of such a system is that it puts the wife in an inferior and independent situation. She is only one of the wives of her husband, but she is also the head of her hut and responsible for her children. Likewise, the husband's position is both privileged and marginalized: glorious lord of a wide and multiple group, the husband cannot control to its depth and length the family life, which is actually an abstract entity, structurally fragmented into subunits that make up the female huts.

As a result of this phenomenon, there are greater instability within the conjugal nuclei and higher rates of repudiation. Polygamy and informal unions (illegal marriages or cohabitation) make the Rwandan family in general be a poor educational cell, with poor cultural potential.

**Situation of Single Parent families (widowers/widows):** Several rural households are headed by women due to widowhood or divorce, polygamy or absence of the husband. These women face alone challenges of life unsuccessfully, sink into extreme poverty and uncertainty about the future. Efforts aimed at helping them to improve their living conditions and overcome difficulties have to be everyone's concern, or otherwise these isolated women run the risk of sinking into anguish, which can have serious consequences for the whole Rwandan society. It is worth mentioning that old widows have slimmer chances of getting married than widowers, which compels them to be isolated and more often dependent on the good will of the extended family members or the charity of neighbours.

**Street Children:** It is a real, serious, and constantly increasing phenomenon. The 1994 war and Genocide have been a fertile land for this phenomenon, hardly known in the country a few years back, to spread at a high speed to the extent that it has become an invading reality in all provinces, commercial centres,

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<sup>3</sup> The 1994 war and Genocide have left 85,000 child-headed households, 34% woman-headed households, including 21% headed by widows (Source: PNRP, p.11)



markets, crossroads places, taxi stations etc<sup>4</sup>. Delinquency, hunger and extreme poverty can be seen everywhere through the young children for whom the street has replaced the family. Moreover, it has been observed that almost all those street children were born or have grown in troubled families (divorces, repudiation, death of one or both parents, abandonment of the father, absence of the legitimate father, remarriage, polygamy, etc.) In addition to these matrimonial circumstances, there are more often other unfavourable factors, especially parents' destitution due to diseases, disability, a big number of children to feed, loss of employment, etc.

**Old People:** The case of old people is also a concern for the Rwandan family promotion. It is usually known that they play key roles, as they are duty bound to transmit traditional values and wisdom. Their knowledge is needed for the development of strategies enabling the community to carry out changes. However, being confined home, forgotten or incapable of having access to other family members, they cannot help foster the expected symbiosis. Furthermore, the destruction of social structures can cause the loss of the family and community support and the disappearance of respect towards old people generated by the disintegration of social and cultural values. In extreme cases, this can lead to abandonment.

**Unaccompanied Children:** This category consists of orphans and children separated from their families and live in centres, foster families and in children's households or groups headed by a minor and without an adult person to take care of them (child-headed households).

**Disabled People:** Almost 5% of the population suffer from major disability. People with physical disability (lower or upper limbs) are far more numerous than others. Thanks to the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Census of the Population and Housing of Rwanda (August, 2002), it is now possible to know where people suffering from specific disability can be located in order to better conduct targeted, prevention or cure operations. It should be pointed out that these people suffer from the incapacity of being independent. Their history intricacies and their affective, psychological and relationship dependence compel them to rely on the assistance that another family seems to be willing to offer. That is the reason why the National Policy for Family Promotion should absolutely consider them.

**Loss of Traditional Values:** The solidarity between family members, patriotism bravery, integrity and honesty, respect and dignity, tolerance and hospitality, culture of peace, love of labour, habit of respect, good manners and courtesy, inviolable attachment to ancestral traditions, dedication to group leading to abnegation and sacrifice, fraternal affection effecting blood covenants, etc.; all these values are currently vanishing. However, it has been proved that people who do not draw their strength and references from the past of their culture are doomed to oblivion. Therefore, Rwandans must draw from their ancestors' behaviour, as they adapt to the current conditions, without surrendering to the inferiority complex. They should have their own and uplifting ambitions.

**Domestic or Conjugal Violence:** This phenomenon is involved in the traditional family solidarity jeopardy. Although it is not solely experienced in our country, its scale is alarmingly increasing in Rwanda due to the violation of victims' physical and moral integrity, but also, and above all, due to its negative impact on the social and economic flourishing of the Rwandan family. Therefore, the development of mechanisms and strategies to curb this phenomenon, which affects dangerously and in great silence the woman's security in her conjugal life, is of paramount importance.

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<sup>4</sup> Their number is currently estimated at 7,000 (Source: MINALOC, National Policy for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children, 2003)

**Juvenile Delinquency:** This phenomenon also deserves a particular attention and a deep study because it is taking on alarming proportions, especially in the Capital City and in big towns.

### **2.1.3. On Political Level**

The National Policy for Family Promotion is introduced in a very friendly political context, since, after the transition period, which lasted about 10 years, the country has entered a new era of its history by the promulgation of the new Constitution and the establishment of democratically elected institutions. Even though all conditions are met for the implementation of this policy, it should not be forgotten that divisionism and genocide ideology scientifically exploited by the colonial power and the regimes that succeeded it, have deeply distorted the social structures and the positive values then adapted to the Rwandan society.

### **2.1.4. On Legal Level**

In its Article 27, the Constitution, promulgated on 04 June 2003, stipulates that “The family, which is the natural foundation of Rwandan society, is protected by the State. Both parents have the right and duty to bring up their children.

The State shall put in place appropriate legislation and institutions for the protection of the family and the mother and child in particular in order to ensure that the family flourishes.”

However, this constitutional provision is not fully implemented yet, as transgressions can still be observed within the family; violence cases are regularly reported, especially involving violence against women and children.

There are still some discriminatory practices against members of the family, a legal loophole and inadequate legal provisions in some areas of the family life.

### **2.1.5. On Demographic and Environmental Level**

Rwanda is still one of the most densely populated countries with more than 321 inhabitants per sq km <sup>9</sup> and an extremely high rhythm of the population growth. The reproduction rate (fecundity), which had decreased due to the success of family planning campaigns in the 1980s and 1990s, is again increasing. This phenomenon may partially lie in the family reconstruction will of the families who lost children during the 1994 events. Given this very high rate, the population growth rate is today at 2.9 per year. Basing on that, projections have been made to estimate the population evolution for the next 20 years. The average hypothesis provides that the population will shift to more or less 13 million of people by 2020.

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<sup>9</sup> The General Census of the Population and Housing carried out in August 2002 has shown that the total population is 8,128,553 for an area of 26,338 sq km, including 3,879,448 men and 4,249,105 women.

### 2.1.6. On Human Development Level

- **Education**

Despite significant progress achieved in education over the last years, the inequality of chances between the family members still raises multiple and complex problems. The latter are mainly due to the surviving prejudices, which privilege the education of boys compared to that of girls, and to insufficient material and human resources used in traditional education. As regards the prejudices, we obviously continue to witness, in many families, a sexist education with which the little girl receives education to submission and discretion, whereas the boy is educated as a future “boss”, who has to assert himself and his personality.

Beyond these considerations, it is worth noting that the rate of the Rwandan family literacy is not very high. Data from the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Census of the Population and Housing of August, 2002 show that out of the total population, 48.5 % of women against 54.9 of men are literate. In other words, 41.4 % of women against 34.4 % of men are illiterate, that is, the literacy situation is better among men than women. In primary school, though there is no difference between the enrolment rate for girls and boys, different surveys have highlighted the high class repeat and drop-out rate for girls, as well as their limited performance as compared to boys. The drop-out rate for girls is estimated at 15.2 % against 7.9 % for boys<sup>12</sup>.

- **Health**

Diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other related contagious diseases have somehow an impact on the family demographic structure<sup>13</sup>. Cases of physical, psychological and social trauma are also numerous following the 1994 Genocide. This situation heavily jeopardizes the welfare of the Rwandan family. Likewise, the lower life expectancy and the loss of household income have considerably increased poverty at the family level, which has to shoulder an additional burden of care and support to terminally ill patients.

## 2.2. Constraints and Opportunities

### 2.2.1. Constraints

Among the most important constraints, there are the following:

1. Extreme poverty for the most of Rwandans (more than 60% live below poverty line);
2. Genocide consequences have negatively impacted relationships within and between Rwandan families. Existing legislation does not provide enough room for strengthening family and some laws are prejudicial to some family members. There is also the absence of institutions at all levels in charge of close follow-up of problems faced by families.

### 2.2.2. Opportunities for the Implementation of National Policy for Family Promotion

Despite challenges and constraints identified all along this paper, our country shows important opportunities for the implementation of the National Policy for Family Promotion, namely:

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<sup>12</sup> MIGEPROF, National Gender Policy, Kigali, p.6

<sup>13</sup> According to the MINISANTE report of 1998, malaria is the main periodical cause of disease and more than 31% of deaths are due to it. HIV/AIDS prevalence is estimated at 11.9% at the national level and 10.8% in rural areas.

- Various programmes focused on poverty reduction ;
- Decentralisation and Good Governance Policy, already in full swing at the District, Sector and Cell level;
- Political will to promote the family welfare at all levels and positive values of our culture ;
- Identification and involvement of NGOs and the Civil Society in the issues relating to Family Promotion ;
- Existence of the Constitution and other legal texts favouring the promotion and protection of the family.

### **III. VISION, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES OF NATIONAL POLICY FOR FAMILY PROMOTION**

#### **3.1. Vision of National Policy for Family Promotion**

The main vision of this policy is to enhance the welfare of all population through a change of socio-economic conditions, thereby leading to the promotion of the welfare of the family, including gender parity while focusing on the welfare and protection of children.

Subsequently, Rwandan family will be able to thrive and live harmoniously, being at the same time a strong basis for future.

#### **3.2. Mission of National Policy for Family Promotion**

The main mission of the National Policy for Family Promotion will be to promote the Rwandan family as a natural and cultural basis of our society.

#### **3.3. Objectives of National Policy for Family Promotion**

##### **3.3.1. Comprehensive Objective**

Overall, the National Policy for Family Promotion is aimed at outlining a framework for the implementation and monitoring of programmes to ensure the protection and support of the family in order to enable it to play efficiently its vital role in the country development.

##### **3.3.2. Specific Objectives**

Specifically, the National Policy for Family Promotion is focused on priority issues, inasmuch as their resolution will contribute to the improvement of the life quality in families.

Those issues are as follows:

- Strengthening family relations;
- Safeguarding the culture and positive traditional values;
- Ensuring peace, democracy and security within the family;
- Protecting the child;
- Protecting vulnerable groups;
- Promoting family education.

**a) Strengthening Family Relations**

- Consolidating relations within the family and encouraging all its members to participate in the management of the family affairs by avoiding idleness;
- Involving the community as a whole in order to raise its awareness about the positive role that the woman must play within society;
- Promoting the sense of duty and responsibility within all members of the family;
- Promoting dialogue between the family members on issues relating to the family and those affecting the society and encouraging friendly terms with the neighbourhood;
- Planning domestic work and encouraging the family members to take part collectively.

**b) Safeguarding Culture and Positive Traditional Values**

- Making parents aware of their responsibility, informing them about the role that they must play towards their children, as regards the transmission of cultural positive values;
- Turning the family into a fundamental social institution through which morals and values related to the family order are conveyed.

**c) Ensuring Peace, Democracy and Security within Family**

- Promoting the culture of peace and an atmosphere of good harmony in the family. Combating drugs, alcohol and other substance abuse, destroying the life of the family members;
- Promoting human rights and good citizenship education within the family members in order to eradicate forever the genocide ideology and other sectarian trends;
- Urging family members with the majority age to participate actively in local and national elections (either to vote, or to run for elections) and to play the role in programmes put in place by local institutions.

**d) Protecting the Child**

- Defining the role of the child in the family and in the Rwandan society and developing related strategies and action programmes;
- Raising the parents' awareness of their responsibility in the education and social management of their children;
- Educating the child, preparing him for taking charge of his destiny in society.

**e) Protecting Vulnerable Groups**

- Promoting programmes of social security in order to help the family members suffering from chronic and incurable diseases, old people, disabled people and destitute families;
- Developing appropriate strategies to solve the problems of families in vulnerable and crisis situations (child-headed households, single parent households, etc.).

**f) Promoting Family Education**

- Eliminating all social, cultural and economic barriers to allow access of all family members to quality education, as regards especially cleanliness, hygiene, family planning, reproductive health, household resource management, adequate technologies and decent housing;
- Promoting adult literacy and community participation in education;

- Promoting parents' participation in issues relating to their children education.

#### **g) Building Economic and Financial Capacity of Families**

- Increasing the value of domestic economy through streamlined exploitation of available resources and use of modern production methods;
- Establishing fundamental balances both in terms of economy and macro-economy;
- Developing savings culture and helping family members access loans;
- Combating dependence and idleness spirit;
- Promoting association spirit and developing cooperative groupings;
- Modernising cottage industry and expanding markets for handicrafts.

### **3.4. Strategies of National Policy for Family Promotion**

The strategies devised below take into account issues and challenges faced by the Rwandan family and major orientations (strategic objectives) that must be set up in order to find lasting solutions to them.

#### **3.4.1. Strengthening Family Relations**

##### **a) Issues and Challenges**

Today, the Rwandan society is going through an emergence of nuclear families characterised by individualism resulting into the disappearance of the community life. Besides, the structure of the family and the different roles of its members are affected by the changes taking place in the social and economic development.

Moreover, the lack of communication and the absence of dialogue and exchanges of views between the family members as well as infidelity have contributed to the split of the family cell. This is noticed through the proliferation of polygamy and extramarital relations (concubines) and prostitution. Husbands are seldom in their conjugal homes. Legitimate wives and children are traumatised by this practice of "extramarital relations" because the very rationale behind them is the lie to one's spouse. Under these circumstances, the marital situation of legitimate wives is very fragile, not stable and irregular. The case of women living in cohabitation (couples whose partners have never had previous marriage, neither civil, nor religious) must also and, despite everything, of crucial concern to us. In fact, how can we tolerate that a woman be "expelled" or abandoned by a man who cohabitated with her, sometimes for many years, and who often leaves her in charge of children born of that union?

##### **b) Strategies**

- **Redefining the family in all its components, as well as the rights and duties of its members towards one another in order to enhance the quality of family relations**
- **Defining concrete programmes aimed at strengthening family cohesion**

##### **c) Envisaged Actions**

- Elaborating or revising laws aimed at strengthening and preserving the family as an institution ;

- Using national and international legal instruments to consolidate gender balance in the family and to ensure the child protection ;
- Fostering permanent and constructive dialogue between parents on one hand, and between parents and children on the other hand ;
- Translating and disseminating legal information in relation to rights, duties and responsibilities of the family members at all levels of the population ;
- Sensitising the actors of justice to a scrupulous application of the penal provisions relating to adultery ;
- Examining with a particular attention problems related to polygamy and cohabitation and proposing practical and legal solutions in order to put an end to them ;
- Developing training programme in favour of couples for an equal share of responsibilities in the interest of their families ;
- Promoting mutual respect, tolerance and cooperation within the family.

### **3.4.2. Safeguarding Culture and Traditional Positive Values**

#### **a) Issues and Challenges**

Since the introduction in Rwanda of new values supported by important means spread by the feared and obeyed coloniser, the Rwandans have progressively lost all that has ever made the strength of the Rwandan, all that has ever allowed him to survive, despite the hazards of history. In fact, before the arrival of the coloniser, the Rwandan society was a balanced society in which each and everybody had their place, in which the sense of family, as well as the solidarity, was real, in which the child had pride of place, and in which the chief ruled surrounded by wise people who could, if need be, counterbalance his decisions. Today, it is regrettable to notice that all these values tend to be rejected almost systematically.

However, the Rwandan culture contains highly appreciable elements, which, if ever codified and adapted, are likely to give to our country, a social, autonomous, and attractive physiognomy corresponding to the nature of Rwanda.

The currently crucially raised problem is that of knowing if we Rwandans, being completely aware of all these realities, are quite aware of our capacities to use them in order to achieve desirable development. We have to be convinced that the practices of our ancestors, in what they have as positive, are the pillars of our country development.

Therefore, being aware of them, knowing them deeply and adapting them to the present situation, will constitute a reliable step towards true development adapted to our family.

Moreover, the knowledge of these positive values constitutes a real guarantee against bad behaviours threatening our society. Thus, the Rwandan family must fully know where it has come from, what it wants and how to use what it has acquired.

#### **b) Strategies**

- **Upgrading positive values through sound education and policy restoring the sense of responsibilities with respect to the Rwandan culture and tradition ;**
- **Helping parents to better exercise their parental responsibilities in their children social education.**



### c) Envisaged Actions

- Making an inventory of socio-cultural values related to the Family Institution and promoting these values through their integration in the school programmes, as well as in mass education;
- Establishing Associations (Youth and Teenagers Clubs) to protect them against the evils of society and to educate them to positive family values;
- Promoting dialogue between family members on family issues and those affecting the society;
- Organising information programmes (TV, Radio, brochures.) on positive and negative aspects of the Rwandan culture faced by the families in order to avoid any deviation;
- Adapting our legislation to deep changes that the Rwandan family is going through.

### 3.4.3. Peace, Democracy and Security within Family

#### a) Issues and Challenges

It can be noticed that today's family is gradually being split. The case of women who are victims of sexual abuse, premature marriage, incest, domestic violence and of rape, seems to be a widely spread phenomenon, even though lack of data does not allow to ascertain whether it is increasing or not. In any case, it contributes to jeopardizing the traditional family solidarity and security. This situation partially originates from some cultural practices, which turns violence in family into a form of social life. It is in the same development that women and girls have been for years denied the right to family advantages such as inheritance and succession. Moreover, the silence around those forms of violence, lack of social references, mentality changes, parents' unavailability working during the daytime, and study at night, all these factors combined weaken the parent-children relationships, and open up way to all kinds of abuse on the part of domestic workers.

#### b) Strategies

- Ensuring and maintaining rights and privileges of the family and its members ;
- Preserving and promoting the culture of responsibility, the sense of conciliation and mutual respect within the family;
- Enabling family members to enjoy the benefits of decentralisation and good governance.

### c) Envisaged Actions

- Establishing Centres for counselling and guidance of victims of family violence. These centres should function according to the principles of respect of human dignity, justice and gender equality;
- Facilitating access to information about laws pertaining to human rights ;
- Speeding up judgements of the perpetrators of the family violence, especially gender-based sexual violence;
- Launching programmes for rapid rehabilitation in favour of sexual violence victims, children, drug addicts, criminals and delinquents ;
- Strengthening traditional mechanisms of conflict and dispute management by involving families (specially women and old people) in the mediation and dispute settlement at the local level in order to prevent serious crises ;



- Scaling up public awareness about the misdeeds and drawbacks of the genocide ideology and other forms of division on the flourishing of the Rwandan family;
- Strengthening patriotism spirit by organising a dialogue open to all family members to exchange ideas and information on majors concerns so as to suggest ways and means of addressing them;
- Informing family members on decisions from administrative authorities at all levels;
- Sensitising family members on the respect of the common good and on the notion of the general interest supremacy.

### **3.4.4. Protection of the Child**

#### **a) Issues and Challenges**

The child occupies a central place in the Rwandan family because he is considered as a gift from God. However, this child, who warms up the family, is facing multifarious problems, namely:

- Childhood high mortality;
- Frequency of diseases;
- Poverty of parents (children of single mothers, children of prostitutes, children of prisoners, children of HIV/AIDS infected people, etc.)
- Orphan child-headed households;
- HIV/AIDS infected children, street children;
- Access to school not implemented for all the children.

Parents need to be sensitised to play their role as educators, accompanying people and facilitators of their children's education. They have to impart them the knowledge in accordance with their world vision.

**In addition, there are:**

- Loss of parental authority due to the absence or breach of parental duties towards children.
- Unavailability of parents (physical and moral) to take care of their children obviously and efficiently, even if they are aware of it and know it: in fact, little time is devoted to children.
- The children's care is entrusted to less dedicated, less morally available, inexperienced or less recommendable people, and this provokes the problem of identification model for children.

#### **b) Strategies**

- **Informing, training parents and raising their awareness about better exercise of their parental responsibility ;**
- **Raising public awareness about the children's needs and special rights.**

#### **c) Envisaged Actions**

- Encouraging the establishment of a national education policy, which should take into account the development of early childhood (establishment of day-care centres, nursery schools, crèches) ;

- Promoting training and management of the domestic workers, as for the execution of domestic tasks and the care of young children in the absence of parents ;
- Developing policies intended to prevent crimes among young people and adolescents.

### **3.4.5. Protection of Vulnerable Groups**

#### **a) Issues and Challenges**

An important number of persons suffer from serious handicaps. The variety of handicap forms calls for the diversification of strategies for taking them in charge. Therefore, many actions must be carried out to support vulnerable groups. In this connection, it is important to increase social wealth through community-generated activities, in order to arouse a compassionate feeling of solidarity in favour of vulnerable groups, which can be classified in different categories as follows:

1. Children in Critical Situations: Child-headed households, street children, working children, soldier children.
2. Genocide Survivors: Seriously injured, physically impaired, and made blind or deaf, including orphans.
3. Women: Widows, detainees' wives, pregnant women, raped women and girls.
4. Disabled People: Mentally impaired, physically impaired.
5. HIV/AIDS Victims: Infected, affected people.
6. Poor People: Indigent, destitute, poor people, but who happen to cater for themselves.
7. Old People: Without descendants nor property and the retired.

#### **b) Strategies**

- **Enabling the most disadvantaged and the most vulnerable members of the family to enjoy their rights and ensuring their welfare;**
- **Promoting mutual respect, traditional solidarity, tolerance and cooperation within the family, as regards taking in charge vulnerable groups.**

#### **c) Envisaged Actions**

- Setting up an appropriate structure to allow old people to play their role as actors of education, communication and leadership within their families and community (to exercise competences as for conflict resolution), will allow them to cope with suffered shocks (discrimination, despair and survival) ;
- Proposing concrete measures aimed at the psychosocial development and social, economic reintegration of vulnerable groups.

### **3.4.6. Promotion of Family Education**

#### **a) Issues and Challenges**

The role of parents is essential in the education of children, in the set-up of references and in the transmission of values, which are indispensable to them. This role is difficult to play, in particular when coupled with financial, social, and personal difficulties. It is also necessary for adults and parents to train

themselves for better assuming their role as modern educators, knowing how to preserve some undeniable traditional values and to integrate modernism.

As the education responsibility is not exclusively the prerogative of the father, mother or teacher, but has also to be assumed by all the three (the role of the mother being most essential in the infancy stages), this education must develop in understanding and trust: Between parents and children, between parents themselves, between parents and teachers, and between teachers and children.

#### **b) Strategies**

- Asserting the role of parents in the education of their children;
- Ensuring ongoing learning and enhancement of professional skills on behalf of adults;
- Developing the concept of responsible parenthood.

#### **c) Envisaged Actions**

- Enabling families to face conflicts caused mainly by lack of communication among family members ;
- Enabling the nuclear family to be a favourable and privileged framework for the transmission of positive traditional values ;
- Establishing “community homes” or “schools of domestic science” to train parents and future parents (adolescents) to better assume their role as educators;
- Proposing programmes aimed at reducing family tasks in order to free the family members, especially women and children, to devote themselves to educational activities and children, in particular girls, so that they can have enough time to devote to studies ;
- Promoting pragmatic programmes for mobilisation and mass education through media and other communication channels ;
- Eliminating harmful traditional and cultural practices, such as premature and forced marriage, sexual harassment, polygamy, cohabitation, incest, rape, etc.
- Promoting adult education, focusing on family planning, reproductive health, appropriate technologies, family resource management and task planning;
- Teaching children how to ensure rational use of family property and to do some household work in terms of their age and with no discrimination ;
- Making the family setting healthy and secure (avoid accidents and other dangers).

### **3.4.7. Building Economic and Financial Capacity of Families**

#### **a) Issues and Challenges**

Even though various reports on the national economic development indicate a growth in several sectors of activities, there is however the shortage of production at the family level, a chronic food deficit, subsequent fall in incomes, which entails low purchasing power for families. Apart from poverty, a phenomenon of hidden unemployment can also be observed in rural areas.

## **b) Strategies**

- Enabling the family to be the pillar for real, sustainable and comprehensive economic development;
- Diversifying and increasing the value of the activities of processing units;
- Developing the initiatives of family members for non-agricultural job creation;
- Controlling and curbing the phenomenon of rural depopulation.

## **c) Envisaged Actions**

- Increasing centres of development in rural areas;
- Establishing vocational training centres;
- Increasing and maintaining the quality of products by the use of modern production and conservation techniques;
- Ensuring that prices are competitive, affordable and profitable, as well as looking for local, national and international markets;
- Providing attracting and inducing remuneration by increasing the minimum salary.

# **IV. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICY FOR FAMILY PROMOTION**

## **4.1. Stakeholders in the Implementation of the National Policy for Family Promotion**

The implementation of this National Policy for Family Promotion will be the business of all Rwandans. On the side of the Government and other institutions, we think that the roles and responsibilities will be shared according to their respective mission. In any case, the responsible party at all levels must bear in mind that strategies defined in the area of family promotion have to be among their priorities and feel concerned by the implementation of the whole policy.

### **4.1.1. Ministry in charge of Family**

This Ministry shall be responsible for developing appropriate policies and programmes in favour of the family and integrity of its members. It will contribute to the establishment of a system for information management in order to centralise all issues affecting the Rwandan family. Moreover, the Ministry shall ensure the implementation of the National Policy for Family Promotion, and its coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

### **4.1.2. Ministry in charge of Finance and Economic Planning**

The Ministry shall be responsible for reorganising economic structures, no more responding to the family needs in order to attain food security for families. It shall promote the idea of Rwandan Solidarity-UBUDEHE- between different family groups and partners for fighting poverty.

#### **4.1.3. Ministry in charge of Agriculture and Animal Resources**

The role of this Ministry shall be to modernise traditional agricultural methods gradually, through the introduction of new techniques with higher productivity. In collaboration with other institutions, it will set up an early warning system for detecting potential causes of food shortage.

#### **4.1.4. Ministry in charge of Health**

As a Ministry in charge of health, its role shall be to provide HIV/AIDS infected and affected members with needed care and support and increase their access to medical care, support and treatment. It shall provide health education to families and encourage the establishment and reinforcement of pre-paid health insurance schemes (Mutuelles de santé) throughout all Districts in the country.

#### **4.1.5. Ministry in charge of Environment**

Within the framework of the National Policy for Family Promotion, the role of this Ministry shall be to promote the establishment of institutional mechanisms to ensure a viable environment for families. It shall also involve families and communities in planning, setting up and running water supply systems, by strengthening Water Distribution Authorities.

#### **4.1.6. Ministry in charge of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs**

Within the framework of the National Policy for Family Promotion, this Ministry shall play a crucial role in facilitating and coordinating the integration of family promotion into the programmes and action plans of the Provinces and Districts.

According to the new structure adopted in local government, the department in charge of family promotion shall be responsible for overseeing and facilitating the implementation of the National Policy for Family Promotion at the level of decentralised administrative structures. This Ministry shall take needed steps to ensure protection and assistance to groups in a risk socio-economic situation.

#### **4.1.7. Ministry in charge of Culture**

In collaboration with the Ministry in charge of family, this Ministry shall deal with actions planned within this policy regarding upgrading Rwanda positive values.

#### **4.1.8. Ministry in charge of Education**

In close collaboration with the Ministry in charge of Gender and Family Promotion, the Ministry in charge of National Education will be involved in the areas of vocational training, adult literacy, promotion of culture within the family, as well as in the organisation, functioning and development of crèches.

#### **4.1.9. Ministry in charge of Justice**

The main role for this Ministry shall be to elaborate, update and harmonise family related laws to provide to family members a friendly framework for the exercise of their basic rights.

#### **4.1.10. Other Ministries**

These Ministries shall include activities relating to family promotion in their programmes and sector strategies. They shall also participate in the development of family-oriented programmes, as well as in monitoring and coordinating its implementation.

#### **4.1.11 Decentralised Administrative Entities/Structures (Provinces, Districts, Sectors, and Cells)**

Their role shall not be limited to disseminating the National Policy for Family Promotion within the population; they shall also establish a forum for discussion and monitoring of the National Policy for Family Promotion implementation within each District, Sector and Cell.

#### **4.1.12. Civil Society Organisations**

The role of these organisations shall be to defend the family rights and insist on the necessity to address its problems. They shall initiate partnership between the Government and private sector in order to carry out actions aimed at ensuring better living conditions and the family welfare. They should participate in the development of programmes in favour of the family and monitoring their implementation.

#### **4.1.13. Family Members**

Family members should master the contents of the National Policy for Family Promotion by reinforcing the feeling of belonging to the same nation, and developing the sense of self-empowerment in all areas. They shall ensure good management of family budget to cover daily consumption expenditure.

#### **4.1.14. International Organisations and Donors**

Given that the country does not have all required financial and material resources for the implementation of all programmes and projects related to the implementation of the National Policy for Family Promotion, this policy shall be submitted to donors.

### **4.2. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of this policy will be ensured by the Ministry having family promotion in its attributions through the indicators contained in the table below. To this end, a periodic assessment of different activities shall be carried out according to participatory control mechanisms involving all stakeholders. More concretely, the Ministry shall set up programme supervision and control mechanisms, which will be launched at the national or provincial level in order to assess the progress made.

Moreover, all involved Ministries and institutions shall be called upon to join their efforts and work hand in hand lest any aspect of the National Policy for Family Promotion should be neglected or overlooked. To this end, they should elaborate information management systems to generate detailed data for family situation analysis.

## **CONCLUSION**

With the enshrining in the Constitution of an article entrusting the Government with the protection of the family, it has to be acknowledged that, from a social and political perspective, promoting and strengthening the family are of paramount importance as from now on. The emphasis put on this provision obviously shows that the family, despite its mutations and evolution, is ever at the heart of our society and that family harmonious development significantly contributes to its prosperity.

The National Policy for Family Promotion will therefore serve as a starting point for fundamental reflection on the role and place expected to be given to family in our society.

Under these circumstances, it will be possible for us to achieve the promotion of the Rwandan family closely connected with the best values of the past, which is an excellent way of securing a prosperous present and a brighter future.

## ANNEXES

### Annex One: Family Definition and its Attributions

#### ○ **Family: Reproduction and Socialisation Place**

As a group consisting of spouses and their children, family is above all a reproduction place. To this effect, it is responsible for the guardianship, economic maintenance, and education of children whose socialisation is initiated within family.

Furthermore, the family ambition is to provide a relevant framework for psychological and moral equilibrium of individuals; it is a place where a certain number of exchanges and affective relationships are to develop in a privileged manner. In this context, Rwandan family has ever been an ideal place for social and cultural values to be transmitted throughout generations, that is, a process through which an individual acquires and internalises norms and values of a society and/or social group to which s/he belongs.

#### ○ **Family: Production and Consumption Unit**

In societies based on private property, the family has not only a procreation role to ensure humankind survival as mentioned above, but also an economic role, as it constitutes a usual channel for the transmission of physical and financial heritage. It is also the source of labour force. As a consumption unit, the family members are currently targeted by all forms of manipulation from commercial services.

Coupled with family shrinkage, i.e., the shift from extended family (a feature of the former Rwandan family) to mononuclear family (parents and young children or schoolchildren), the Rwandan family is currently faced with several challenges as identified in the analysis made previously.



## **Annex 2: Retrospective Overview of Rwandan Family**

### ○ **Rwandan Family in Traditional Society (Before Colonisation)**

At that time, social relationships among Rwandans were more group-oriented. There was a general feeling of membership in families, clans and villages. When entering into any contract, the whole family was involved (felt committed). The family was referred to in its broadest meaning, as it consisted of a father, mother and children, but also of all other people with direct family relationships, or sometimes with indirect relationships.

### ○ **Rwandan Family during the Colonisation Period**

The Rwandan family history throughout colonisation has been ultimately (save some positive aspects in terms of economy and education) a history of disintegration of the social fabric, coexistence system, of the social contract that is no longer functional. In fact, with the coloniser arrival and his *divide and rule policy*, solidarity and homogeneity, which used to characterise the Rwandan family before colonisation have disintegrated.

Social and professional discrepancies going with physical differences regarding height and face features between the three ethnic groups have been introduced by the coloniser, which has led the extended family members to think in terms of ethnicity in order to obtain or safeguard political power and economic privileges associated with it. The social cemented fabric has disintegrated under the escalation of radical individualism with new forms of association and solidarity types.

Alongside this disintegration of traditional family, the precedence of nuclear family cell (monogamous or polygamous) has begun to take root.

### ○ **Rwandan Family after Colonisation and Great Changes in the 1980s**

Since the Independence, the Rwandan family has gone through rapid evolution, though it is hard to describe its orientation and proportions, especially given that there was not a National Policy for Family Promotion. The decisive changes at the level of the Rwandan family occurred in the 1980s.

Henceforth, parents and children embody two generations with deeply contrasting historical backgrounds and mentality. Parents have experienced great moments under colonisation and are deeply rooted in traditional Rwanda, while colonisation is unknown to children. Grandparents, who are no longer listened to, can only tell stories related to colonisation. Born within a changing world, children want to impose their own vision, clothing, ways of being and living, music, lifestyle, their sexual and family relationships, etc.

**Rwandan Family after 1994 War and Genocide**

The deep mutations that have occurred within family structures over the last decade have been characterised by the spread of single parent or reconstructed<sup>5</sup> families, child-headed households, free unions and premature marriages, but also by an increase in other shared forms of life such as cohabitation and by the evolution of women's role.

The progress of female professional activity is one of the mutations that have greatly impacted family lifestyles since the end of the 1994 Genocide. This phenomenon is an irreversible data due to the combination of multiple factors (large scale widowhood, high level of training, political determination to promote gender, evolution of mentality, evolution of parents' roles, nature of performed activities), and this phenomenon is of concern to all age groups, as well as social and professional categories.

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<sup>5</sup> Reconstructed families are those consisting of a couple in which the husband and wife have at least one matrimonial background and guardianship of one of the children.

## **Annex 3: Impact of other Policies on the Family Welfare**

### **3.1. National Programme for Poverty Reduction**

The implementation of the National programme for Poverty Reduction (NPPR) will impact very positively the family welfare because, as stated above, poverty constitutes one of the major constraints faced by the family in the way that it deprives it of the fundamental needs. The NPPR will build the poor people's capacity to increase their incomes, resulting in the enhancement of life quality: health, family planning, education, water and housing.

### **3.2. National Gender Policy**

It is obvious from the specific objectives of the National Gender Policy that the domains in relation with the family welfare will be targeted. Concerned areas are notably poverty reduction, agriculture and food security, health, HIV/AIDS, education and professional training, human rights and gender based violence. Given the fact that the ultimate objective of the National Gender Policy in terms of family promotion is to make it clear that the families cannot develop without a system of equitable sharing of responsibilities between husbands and wives and between boys and girls; the achievement of this objective will positively impact family welfare.

### **3.3. National Population Policy for Sustainable Development in Rwanda**

The Population National Policy is aimed at enhancing the quality of population life, and subsequently family welfare. In addition to the reduction of the population growth rhythm, this improvement will also be achieved through economic growth, food security, health, education, human resources development, rational environment management and good governance.

The objectives and strategies of this policy are intertwined and contribute to the family welfare, focussing on the involvement of both husband and wife in the family welfare, as well as in the development, the protection of the child, old people and the disabled.

### **3.4. National Strategy for Social Protection**

All the strategies developed in the paper of the National Social Protection Policy are aimed at the family welfare, as regards vulnerable groups in particular. Moreover, the strategies for social protection enable to reduce the number of those who temporarily live in poverty. They prevent poor people to sink deeper into poverty and offer an opportunity to overcome it.

### **3.5. National Policy for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children**

As seen above, the child occupies the privileged place in the family. It goes without saying that any policy or programme aimed at improving his welfare and protection will have a direct impact on the family welfare to which he belongs.

Overall, it can be said that all ongoing and future policies and programmes in the framework of the Vision 2020 will contribute to the development of the family protection and to the welfare of its members.

#### **Annex 4: Existing Laws Regarding Family Promotion**

This Constitution, in force since already a year on, replaced that of 10 June 1991, quite out of date, by more up-dated provisions, suitable to the economic and social conditions of our era.

Its major innovation lies without doubt in the fact that it institutes the full legal equality between men and women in conjugal life. Both the husband and wife enjoy, from now on, the same rights, the same duties, and the same responsibilities, as regards their person, as well as anything relating to their assets management.

That is stipulated in Art. 26, which provides in its paragraph 3, that "Parties to a marriage have equal rights and duties upon and during the subsistence of a marriage and at the time of divorce."

Another innovation from this new Constitution lies in the fact that it highlights the protection of the child and the mother.

All these constitutional provisions are meant to reinforce the already existing legal arsenal in this area at national and international level. It includes namely:

- Law n° 42/1988 of 27 October 1998 establishing the Preliminary Title and Book I of Civil Code;
- Law n° 22/99 of 12 November 1999, complementing the Book I of the Civil Code and instituting the fifth part relating to matrimonial regimes, succession and liberalities;
- Law n° 27/2001 of 28 April 2001 relating to rights and protection of the child against violence;
- The International Convention of the Rights of the Child adopted on 20 November 1989 by the United Nations (especially articles 16 and 19 of this Convention)<sup>8</sup>;
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948 which, poses as a principle that husband and wife must have equal rights in the matrimonial community (Art. 29);
- The International Covenant of 10 December 1966 on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 23 and 24);
- The International Covenant of 19 December 1966 on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Art. 3, 10 and 11);
- The International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Although legally established, these provisions, which protect the family, are faced with difficulties in their field application. They need to be adapted to evolutions of the family cell in order to meet expectations from its members and make these provisions more legible, more adapted to social and family lifestyles and to set up landmarks for future developments.

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<sup>8</sup> Art 16 of the Convention provides that "the child has the right to be protected against meddling in his private life, his family, his home, and correspondence and against all illegal violations of his honour". As for Article 19, it stipulates that "The State has the duty to protect the child against all forms of abuse perpetrated by his parents, or any other person to whom he is entrusted, and to establish prevention programmes and care to that end."

### Annex 5: Logical Framework of the National Policy for Family Promotion

**Global Objective: Ensuring protection and support to the family in order to enable it to play its vital and efficient role in the country's development**

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators</b>	<b>Expected Results</b>	<b>Verification Sources</b>	<b>Achievement conditions</b>
<b>1. Strategies for Strengthening Family Relations :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Redefining the family in all its components, as well as rights and duties of its members towards one another in order to enhance the quality of family relations ;</li> <li>- Defining concrete programmes aimed at reinforcing family cohesion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A detailed survey on relations currently characterising the Rwandan family members conducted and an educational manual published and disseminated countrywide;</li> <li>- Effective launching of programmes aimed at family protection through "Conjugal Counsellors"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The members of the nuclear family (husband, wife and children) fully assume their responsibilities in the respect of their rights and duties ;</li> <li>- Households are united and actively participate in the country development ;</li> <li>- Each family member participates in the management of current affairs ;</li> <li>- Disputes within the family reduced to the strict minimum ;</li> <li>- Cases of polygamy, divorce, cohabitation below 1% as compared to current situation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation report from Provinces and Districts;</li> <li>- Monitoring report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promulgating laws for family promotion and applying the existing ones;</li> <li>- Commitment of authorities at all levels.</li> <li>- Raising public awareness about rights and duties of spouses, positive traditional values included.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Strategies Aimed at Safeguarding Positive Traditional Values :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reasserting the weight of positive values through sound education and policy restoring the sense of responsibility towards the Rwandan culture and tradition ;</li> <li>- Helping parents better exercise their parental responsibilities in social education of their children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social training guide for children made available to parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive and negative traditional values identified and made known to the population ;</li> <li>- Behaviour and attitudes of the family members change tremendously.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussions and debates between family members and within the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communicating to the population positive traditional values to be promoted.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Strategies for Ensuring Peace and Security within the Family</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring and safeguarding rights and privileges of the family and its members ;</li> <li>- Preserving and promoting the culture of responsibility, sense of conciliation and mutual respect within the family.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Silence on conjugal (domestic) violence denounced and the violence made known to the public;</li> <li>- Dissemination of legal texts on rights and privileges of the family ensured down to the grassroots level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cases of domestic violence reduced to 0.5 of the current situation;</li> <li>- Drug and substance abuse stopped.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reports from mediators (ABUNZI) and local authorities at the ten-household unit (NYUMBAKUMU) and Cell level.</li> <li>- Police reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising the awareness of family members about the culture of peace, tolerance and social cohesion.</li> </ul>

Strategies	Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators	Expected Results	Verification Sources	Achievement conditions
<b>4. Strategies for Protection of the Child</b> - Informing, and training parents and raising their awareness about better exercise of their parental responsibilities ; - Raising public awareness about the needs and special rights of children.	- A guide (manual ) on children's rights available; - Parents perfectly take care of their children's education.	- All children enjoy their rights (education, health, etc); - The number of street children not beyond 1% of the current situation.	- Monitoring reports	- Raising public awareness about children's rights.
<b>5. Strategies for Protection of Vulnerable Groups</b> - Enabling the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the family to enjoy their rights and ensuring their social welfare. - Promoting mutual respect, traditional solidarity, tolerance and cooperation within the family as regards caring for vulnerable groups	- Identification of vulnerable groups accurately carried out countrywide (in Provinces, Districts, Sectors and Cells) and their number per category published.	- Social protection services set up; - All vulnerable people cared for up to 90%; - Delinquency in urban areas under control.	- Report from local authorities.	- Involving high level authorities; - Traditional solidarity set in motion.
<b>6. Strategy for Family Education Promotion</b> - Asserting the role of parents in their children education.	- Districts, Sectors and Cells involved in the process to train family members in family education.	- Crèches and nursery schools established at the level of each Sector; - All children with the school age attend school; - No dropouts or at least reduced to 5% till the end of primary school; - Adult literacy centres (IGA) attended up to 90%; - Change in Rwandans' mentality and lifestyle.	- Report from District, Sector and Cell authorities.	- Involving parents through education committees. - Raising funds for building schools and other training centres (IGA).
<b>7. Strategies for building economic capacity of families:</b> - Ensuring the family is the pillar for real, sustainable and comprehensive economic development ; - Increasing productivity, incomes, as well as increasing the purchasing power of families.	- Conducting an in-depth study on the economy of families in line with Vision 2020 ; - Defining priority areas and planning activities; - Project studies.	- Incremental increase in the income of families and purchasing power increased; - Significant enhancement of living conditions for family members and reduced number of families living below poverty line.	- Documents on socio-economic surveys conducted by decentralised services; - Priority Activity Plan - Projection Implementation Plan.	- Observing the involvement and engagement of local authorities in the dissemination of outcomes ; - Involving family members and the whole community in the establishment of development - Looking for funding sources for project implementation.

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

1. NGOs : Non -Governmental Organisations
2. HIV : Human Immunodeficiency Virus
3. GoR : Government of Rwanda
4. AIDS : Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
5. MIGEPROFE : Ministry of Gender and Women Promotion
6. MINISANTE : Ministry of Health
7. NPPR : National Policy for Poverty Reduction
8. NPFP : National Policy for Family Promotion
9. MINECOFIN : Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
10. MIGEPROF : Minister in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Family Promotion  
and Gender
11. NEPAD : New Partnership for African Development