



Summary

Child Development and Protection Sub-Cluster Meetings, October 2022 to August 2023

Introduction

The Government of Rwanda (GOR) is committed to building a strong child protection system to ensure effective prevention and response to all forms of child violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, and abandonment. In support to the GOR and the National Child Development Agency (NCD), Data for Impact (D4I) is leading an effort to strengthen the institutional framework through the establishment of strong linkages with the justice, health, and social protection sectors for improved service delivery to children.



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In 2022, the NCD established the Child Development and Protection Sub-Cluster (CDPSC) coordination mechanism to enhance collaboration between actors in early childhood development (ECD) and the child protection sector. The CDPSC is comprised of governmental and non-governmental institutions and operates under the National Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC) chaired by the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF).

Districts of Rwanda



The primary mandate of the CDPSC is to strengthen the synergy between the GOR and its stakeholders, in the design and implementation of policies, strategies, and plans related to ECD, child rights, and child protection. Sub-cluster meetings provide all actors with insights into ongoing project implementation, allow for knowledge sharing and troubleshooting, reduce duplicative efforts, and encourage cooperation, transparency, and accountability. D4I participates in the CDPSC meetings to provide technical assistance to NCD and its partners in all its efforts of strengthening monitoring and evaluation processes at both the national and district levels. The CDPSC meetings are forums that enable the NCD to track progress on implementations of the various interventions as per the Operational Plan.

Objectives and Composition of the CDPSC

The CDPSC has four main objectives:

1. Discuss sector and cross-sector planning and prioritization, according to strategic plans and development programs.
2. Ensure joint planning and reporting of actors involved in child-focused interventions.
3. Provide strategic guidance to the technical working groups to ensure regular reviews of their work and to enhance their functionality.
4. Promote and facilitate information-sharing among its members and dissemination of the best practices to other partners and the community at large.



The CDPSC is comprised of three technical working groups (TWGs): the nutrition and WASH TWG, the ECD TWG, and the Child Protection TWG. The Child Protection TWG is mandated to coordinate the programming and implementation of all interventions related to the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against children and promotion of children’s rights

Members of the CDPSC meet once per quarter to share plans, lessons, experiences, and good practices for integrated ECD and child protection programming, thus contributing to the goal of optimal child growth and development and the realization of the GOR national goals on ECD and child protection.

Child Development and Protection Sub-cluster Member Organizations

The stakeholders listed in the table below include both state and non-state agencies.

State Agencies	Local NGOs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) 2. Ministry of Health (MINISANTE) 3. Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) 4. Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) 5. Ministry of Justice (MINIJUST) 6. Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) 7. National Child Development Agency (NCD) 8. Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) 9. Rwanda Basic Education Board (REB) 10. Water and Sanitation Cooperation (WASAC) 11. University of Rwanda 12. National Rehabilitation Services (NRS) 13. Rwanda Information Society Association (RISA) 14. Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) 15. National Youth Council (NYC) 16. National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HAGURUKA 2. Collectif des Ligues et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme AU RWANDA (CLADHO-Rwanda) 3. Imbutu Foundation 4. Child rights Coalition Umwana ku Isonga 5. Ndera Nkure Mubyeyi 6. Children and Youth Sports Organization (C&YSO) 7. Empower Rwanda 8. Children Voice Today 9. Uyisenga Ni Imanzi 10. REACH CHILDREN 11. LEGAL AID FORUM
Development Partners	Faith Based Organizations (FBOs)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) 2. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 4. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE) Rwanda 2. Caritas Rwanda 3. Rwanda Interfaith Council on Health (RICH) 4. Compassion International
Private Sector	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private Sector Federation (PSF) Rwanda 2. KASHA 	

This Child Development and Protection sub-cluster meeting summary reports key highlights from meetings held between October 2022 and August 2023.



Key Highlights

D4I participated in two CDPSC meetings held in FY23, one in November 2022 and another in July 2023. The following are key accomplishments:

- **Developed Terms of Reference (TOR) for structures:** In FY22/23, the NCD developed draft TORs to strengthen stakeholder management, including for the inter-ministerial coordination mechanism aimed to reduce stunting through child development and protection programs. During this period, the TOR were reviewed and finalized by the CDPSC. During the reporting period, October 2022 to August 2023, the CDPSC,
 - Passed a resolution to divide the CDPSC into three TWGs—nutrition and WASH, ECD, and child protection.
 - Confirmed the administration of the CDP sub-cluster and the respective TWGs. The NCD will serve as the chair for both the CDPSC and the TWGs. UNICEF and the Imbuto Foundation will co-chair the CDPSC. USAID will co-chair the nutrition and WASH TWG, UMUHUZA will co-chair the ECD TWG, and UNICEF will co-chair the Child Protection TWG.
- **Co-designed and implemented child protection interventions:** As part of improving implementation, collaboration, and information sharing for child protection, the CDPSC is committed to involving partners from the design phase of each intervention, and to reviewing the progress made on indicators, to ensure that services provided to children are of quality.
 - At the TWG level, stakeholders were requested to explore synergies and leverage their implementation approaches to avoid duplication and enhance collaboration amongst the relevant partners.
 - The NCD involved partners in designing and validating a two-year multi-sectoral plan to reduce child stunting.
- **Mapping of stakeholders:** The NCD began an exercise to map partners and their interventions, operational areas, and geographic locations to increase synergies and avoid duplication during implementation.
- **Inaugural TWG meetings held:** The three TWGs held their first meetings after the November 2022 resolution and reported progress during the July 2023 CDPSC meeting.

TWG	Highlights from the TWG meetings
Nutrition and WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First TWG meeting held on July 6, 2023 • Spearheaded the development of the two-year multi-sectoral plan to reduce stunting in Rwanda. • The TWG partners undertook a maternal and child health (MCH) week in June 2023. • A colloquium (research conference) on nutrition was held on Dec 4, 2022, where three research studies were disseminated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rwanda drivers of child malnutrition analysis, a DHS 2019–2020 secondary data analysis, UNICEF, 2022. b. Rethinking childhood stunting and its associated factors in Rwanda, by University of Global Health Equity (UGHE)/USAID, 2022. c. Narratives behind the stunting reduction and non-reduction in districts of Rwanda—A case study, NCD/Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 2022
Early Childhood Development TWG	<p>The first TWG meeting was held on May 31, 2023. ECD Partners collaborated to launch a biannual ECD Day in three provinces.</p>
Child Protection (CP) TWG	<p>The first CP TWG was held on May 26, 2023. A resolution was passed to develop a TWG-level action plan to guide activity implementation</p>



D4I's Recommendations (in response to the CDPSC meeting reports)

To ensure sustainability of the CDPSC, D4I recommends the following:

1. Continue to hold regular TWG meetings on a quarterly basis, to discuss progress and jointly plan activities amongst stakeholders.
2. During the TWG and CDPSC meetings, the NCD should share data on the progress of interventions using the selected indicators as per the NCD Operation Plan and Results Framework.
3. Standardize reporting tools and roll them out for use among the implementing partners for all the programs.
4. Finalize and roll out the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Child Protection case management system for use by the NCD and its respective stakeholders.

For more information

D4I supports countries to realize the power of data as actionable evidence that can improve programs, policies, and—ultimately—health outcomes. We strengthen the technical and organizational capacity of local partners to collect, analyze, and use data to support sustainable development. For more information, visit <https://www.data4impactproject.org/>

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