



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Programs report

This report captures the achievements of Moucecore's programs through 2019. All the projects are highlighted here

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Introduction

This is a summary report of all projects implemented by Moucecore. The projects highlighted in this report are funded by two donors who have supported the work of this organization for many years. Now. The focus is put in range of areas including WASH, Environment, Agriculture, Livelihood and economic empowerment as well as child protection.

The report highlights the achievements of that range of projects for the year 2019. Even if the report doesn't give deep details of our work on the field, it however gives a clear picture of how Moucecore is fulfilling its mission.

The projects are implemented in three different districts including Nyamagabe in the South, Kayonza and Gatsibo in the East where the most vulnerable are in the heart of Moucecore's intervention. A close collaboration of the project staff, project participants, community facilitators, the church and local government structures remains the secret of the project success and a good strategy to pave a way to sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE HYGIENE, WATER AND SANITATION IN GASAKA AND KAMEGERI (WASH PROJECT)

The project was implemented in 2 sectors of Nyamagabe sector, namely Gasaka and Kamegeri. The main objectives of the project were: (i) to increase and sustain access to safe water through construction of 2 water pipelines with 4 water points that serve 400 new Households and (ii) Promote improved hygiene and sanitation for 4 schools by promotion of hand washing stations, safe rooms for girls and hygiene trainings.

Section 1: Access to safe water

The access to safe water was achieved through the construction of water pipelines and water points. However, for the sake of sustainability of these facilities, the project put more efforts in community mobilization through different channels.

Facilities construction in the community

Two water pipelines were constructed. The 1st water pipeline of 1.2 km was constructed in Kinyovu village, Kamegeri cell in Kamegeri sector. This waterline has three water points built in community and serve 113 households with a total of 487 individuals. A second water pipeline of 1.4 kms was constructed in Munombe village of Kigeme cell in Gasaka sector. With three water points, it serves 255 households with a total number of 1530 individuals. The community participation was highly witnessed in the construction process where they played a very big role of trenching the tunnel and back filling it.

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Community mobilization for WASH

The community mobilization was conducted at different levels. The local leaders were targeted but also the community members were reached. This mobilization was done as a strategy to create a path to sustainability because the more the community members were involved, more the ownership was acquired. Therefore, 135 Local leaders against 40 initially planned were mobilized to support project implementation. The huge difference in over-achieving this target was due to effective need for community participation, whereas initially proposal target thought of working with leaders from sector and cell levels. However, during the implementation, it was realized that the role of village leaders was paramount. Therefore, they were mobilized, which led to an increase number of leaders mobilized but also more involvement of community members. Hence, 1603 community members from four villages were mobilized for best wash practices. This double in

number was because during the project implementation, the community members from the villages neighboring the ones targeted by the intervention were mobilized as well.

Water safety and management

Water committees were established in different villages (Raro, Kinyovu, Munombe and Gitwa) which benefited from the water points. A total of 92 members from 9 Water Committees were trained through the year. The main topics covered by the training were water source management, water treatment, water transport and water storage. They were also trained on their roles and responsibilities including day to day management of water points and follow-up of water bill payments. The members are committed to wisely manage and protect their water points. These committees are the key stakeholders and their good understanding and involvement are crucial in sustaining the water points.

Section 2: Promotion of hygiene and sanitation in schools

The promotion of improved hygiene and sanitation targeted 4 schools. The interventions in schools focused on constructing hand washing stations, safe rooms for girls and hygiene trainings. The strategy consisted in mobilizing the education related stakeholders as an entry point in conducting these activities. Therefore, 57 people including sector education officers, school principals and other key people such as church leaders with a strong influence in the respective schools and the teachers were mobilized for school wash.

Hand washing stations

Four blocks of hand washing stations, each block with five taps at the four schools were constructed. Technically each hand washing station is comprised of a plastic water tank of 5000m³ that is connected to the pipeline water and then tank supplies water to the hand washing stations which are made of 5 taps and then a sewage system that captures waste water. These hand washing stations serve more than 2612 children in the respective schools. These facilities promoted hand washing practices and hygiene in general.

Girls' rooms

Four girls' rooms were fully installed in four schools. Three rooms were renovated and connected with piped water, bathroom and flush toilets inclusive while one room from Kirehe primary school, the construction work began right away from foundation stage and consequently this affected the planned available budget. Therefore, the heads of schools were advised to look for more resources from other channels to equip the rooms with the few remaining materials since the most challenging work has been addressed. These rooms facilitated the girl's education and solved cases of absenteeism among girls during menstrual days.

Hygiene trainings

40 teachers from GS Gikongoro, GS Mulico, GS Baro and EP Kirehe were trained. Using a guide book entitled Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for school children, seven topics were covered during this training: Children and WASH, WASH friendly schools, WASH behavior and practices at school, hand washing with soap, safe excreta, safe drinking water, personal hygiene for boys as well as girls/menstrual hygiene management. Trained teachers were equipped to teach school

children and sensitize the whole school community. A total of 2803 school children from the mentioned schools were trained on hygiene and sanitation. A focus was put on fecal oral contamination, WASH club activity planning, handwashing and water storage for drinking.

IEC Materials for schools

In addition to the training of teachers and formation of school wash clubs in four schools, one hundred and forty-four hygiene and sanitation posters were printed. The posters were distributed to be placed in the classrooms and will serve as a medium for continuous sensitization and a teaching tool for existing and new coming students. Each school received 36 copies whereas one copy contains fecal oral transmission, the second copy contains messages on clean water, third one contains effective messages on hand washing steps and fourth copy contains messages that discourages open defecation.

IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITIES IN KAYONZA DISTRICT, RWANDA

Section 1: Summary of achievements

The project is implemented in Rukara Sector, Kayonza District. During the 1st Year, the project has been implemented in 12 villages, namely Butimba I, Butimba II, Rwempasha and Kinunga of Kawangire cell; Karambo I, Karambo II, Kamajigija and Butimba of Rukara cell and Kigwene I, Nyarutunga I, Kinunga and Mirambi I of Rwimishinya cell. Around 6,600 community members in these villages were sensitized on environmental protection in general with a specific focus on forest resource management. As a means of increasing the capacity of SHGs to set up and manage tree nursery enterprises, four SHGs were trained on tree nursery set up and management as well as business development skills. 87,527 seedlings of different agroforestry varieties were planted in four tree nurseries. The SHGs received the seeds of grevillea, calliandra, leucena, orange and tree tomatoes while avocados and mango seeds were contributed by the SHGs members. By the end of October, 5,643 were transplanted in both public area and homesteads during the tree planting day organized by the project while 10,600 tree seedlings were sold for an amount of 228,000 RWF and further sales are planned in a near future. The trees planted in the private land were mainly made of grevillea, calliandra and tree-tomatoes. The SHGs initiated additional interventions such as growing tomatoes for sale to diversify the source of income.

In Rukara sector, firewood is the main cooking fuel and it is accessed through collection or buying from the market. Firewood collection is a tedious task with the average distance travelled per household being 2 km and sometimes the firewood collect round trip can take the whole day while for buying, the average monthly cost for firewood is approximately 6500 Rwf. To address the challenges associated with firewood collection and contribute to a reduction in the use of firewood fuel the project trained 48 masons on installation and maintenance of energy efficient stoves. The 48 masons trained managed to install 769 stoves in the households of the most vulnerable community members as per the project criteria. An additional 82 stoves were built for money allowing 15 masons to generate an income from the trade. The masons were also trained on business development and they are grouped in three SHGs for their continuous saving and lending.

They have developed business ideas and plan to initiate projects based on the acquired skills in order to serve their community through installing energy efficient stoves on an affordable price.

Despite the achievements, some challenges raised during the implementation period. These include: unavailability of suitable tree nursery sites to facilitate the set-up of tree nurseries, due to this challenge the project only achieved to set up 4 tree nurseries; prevalence of a poor business culture affecting the purchase of trees seedlings as many community members expected that the tree seedlings could be given to them at no cost. The project is addressing this by creating awareness on the benefits of agroforestry through community meetings and during tree planting days.

Section 2: Improvement of household economic well-being through environmentally sustainable business enterprises

Installation and maintenance of energy efficient stoves

48 trained masons have acquired appropriate skills to build efficient stoves enabling them to install 769 stoves with the support of the project. In addition, the masons were able to build an additional 82 stoves for a fee in their communities. It is expected that as the demand increases the masons will be able to develop their enterprises.

48 masons were selected and trained on energy efficient stoves building/ installation and maintenance. On job training sessions were conducted at the household level whereas 48 masons learnt by doing. Following a delay in starting the project field activities, the selection of 48 masons delayed. The selection of masons was done cell by cell and the few selected would start the training right away without waiting for all 48 in order to catch-up with the time that had passed. Therefore, only one trainer was hired and conducted the training sessions of small groups of masons. The activity took many days but all masons were trained.

For the sake of mobilizing the local community around the use of energy efficient stoves, 769 stoves were installed through household demonstration. 3845 community members were mobilized through this activity as the neighbors of the household benefiting from the stove installation took part to the demonstration session and were therefore sensitized.

Business development among masons

In order to strengthen the business spirit among the masons, their 3 SHGs were trained on business development. From 15th up to 17th October, a 3 days' workshop was conducted and facilitated by the CCT project manager. During the training, the participants took time to assess their environment, available opportunities and business ideas were identified by each SHG. The business ideas identified will be explored in the next project year.

Section 3: Increased forest cover and improved forest resource utilization in Kayonza District

5,643 tree seedlings were transplanted in public area and homesteads during the tree planting days while 10,600 were sold.

Initially the project targeted to reach 240,000 seedlings however a review of the project revealed that the target was not realistic due to the challenges of accessing land for nursery set and the cost associated.

The project achieved to install 851 stoves in the target community. The target of 1200 stoves was not achieved due to the delay in starting the project that affected the business aspects for the masons. It is expected the project will in the next year achieve the targets as community members are sensitized and the masons will be supported to further develop their business to reach more households.

Tree nursery set up

4 Self-Help Groups were identified and trained. On job training was conducted by the project officer. The sector agronomist facilitated the access of the tree nursery sites through the negotiations with other stakeholders. He also conducted monthly supervisions through which he provided technical advice for a better management of tree nurseries. The nurseries contain the following agro-forestry varieties: Avocados, mango, Greveria, Calliandra, Orange, Leucena and tree tomatoes.

Tree nursery enterprises

Each SHG was trained for 2 days on the business concept; job creation, marketing, opportunity recognition and searching for funds. The 4 SHGs were divided into 2 groups, the training of the 1st group was conducted on 12th & 19th August while the 2nd group was trained on 16th and 20th August.

The 4 SHGs trained on tree nursery set and management managed to produce 87,527 seedlings of assorted fruit and agroforestry trees. Out of the seedlings produced 10,600 were sold out and 5,643 transplanted during the tree planting days. The SHGs have been trained on business development and they will be continuously mentored to ensure they further develop the tree nursery enterprise.

Community mobilization on environmental protection

The mobilization was conducted through different meetings including Inteko z' Abaturage (Community General Assemblies); umuganda (monthly community work) and during the stove building demonstrations. The activity was done in close collaboration of the project staff and community facilitators. Around 4600 community members were reached by the message through these channels. In addition, the mobilization was conducted through the event of tree planting day. One tree planting day was organized at sector level and took place in Rukara cell, Butimba Village on 24th October. Around 300 community members participated and 5643 seedlings were planted.

Section 4: Lessons learnt

The Y1 implementation has left us with some learning:

- Getting the buy in of community members is very important for the project viability. Based on the experience of tree nurseries SHG, we faced a serious challenge related to the duplication of similar intervention in the same area. However, despite this challenge of duplication resulting to limited land availability for tree nursery set up, two SHGs managed to establish and successfully manage their tree nurseries in close proximity to other tree nurseries sponsored by other NGOs. By the end of October, one SHG sold tree tomato seedlings to one of the NGO sponsoring a nearby cooperative running a similar intervention. The above success was only possible because the local community was willing to engage and support the project to identify available opportunities.
- Use of local technology and materials facilitates community ownership and contributes to increase adoption as the products are affordable. Initially the project intended to construct cook stove using burnt-bricks which are relatively expensive compared to the unburnt mud bricks. However, during the project implementation community members proposed to the project officer to consider having the mason use a mix of both burnt and unburnt bricks to reduce the cost of one stoves that would enable target more vulnerable households above the 480 target. The suggestion was adopted and the project managed to reach 769 households without compromising the quality of the stoves. The involvement of household members during stove installation has also enabled the community members to learn basic maintenance skills from the masons.
- The marketing aspect of SHGs products has been weak for both, the tree nurseries SHGs and the masons' SHGs. This is an area that requires improvement with a mapping exercise of the potential clients being planned to start from the beginning of the next project year.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT IN GATSIBO AND KAYONZA DISTRICTSCT

Church and Community Transformation program is being implemented in Eastern province of the country, in Kayonza district where MOUCECORE works with different local churches and denominations. The project covers the area of Rwimbogo sector. The work of mobilizing the local churches and denominations started with the first semester of this year. The activities focused on mobilization and formation of Self Help Groups. Local Facilitators were selected, trained and they started playing their role in mobilization and follow-up. The project is working with 30 denominations: ADEPR, Adventist, Assembly of God, Catholic, Global salvation, Methodist libre, Lutheran, Miracle center, Deeper life church, Revelation, Dove, Snap, AEBR, Life Christian church, REFI, EPR, Restoration church, CERPAR, Eglise Anglican au Rwanda and accompaniment of other churches in Kayonza in CCT approach. The work is done through 67 local churches and 3 Mosques.

The participatory approach was used as the project's target population identified their problems and issues through a mapping exercise which was conducted in June. The main issues identified included: the land infertility, lack of livestock as well as the limited size of land owned by each household. Moreover, beneficiaries raised a need of improving their banana plantation. In addition, the local community became more aware of the problem of high rate of teen pregnancy in their area. From this mapping, steps were taken to mitigate the effect of some of the issues identified. Therefore, in relation to the issue of livestock scarcity, almost 47% of 184 SHGs took the initiative and invested in pigs, goats and chicken farming. Therefore, 1720 SHGs members have already benefited from this initiative. Furthermore, 16 SHGs rented farming lands as a means of addressing the issue of land scarcity and increased their agriculture production. In the same thinking, initiatives to improve banana plantation were taken whereas banana farmers' field school were launched and they planted 1512 banana plants on a surface of 2.5 hectares. A group of 21 women and youth completed tailoring training.

Section 1: Empowerment of the local Church

Religious community in Rwimbogo was equipped to assess the problems they face. Actually, 77 churches leaders from 30 denominations of Kayonza and Gatsibo were trained. They identified some challenges requiring redressing measures. 67 churches and Muslim mosques in Rwimbogo conducted an assessment which gave them a clear picture of each local church/Muslim community for further interventions.

Church mobilization

The church leaders have mobilized the church members on the CCT process and engaged their churches members in bringing the change in their lives and within their respective communities. This has reinforced unity of the churches in their communities and strengthened their voice to advocate for community issues. As a result of adopting the CCT approach, the churches planned interventions in their respective areas. The church leaders have even contributed in selecting the community facilitators who support the whole process on a daily basis.

Church transformation groups

184 Church transformation groups which work within the SHGs approach were formed and trained. They started the transformation process and the local resource mobilization in Rwimbogo sector. Each SHG has initiated an income generating activity and some have joined efforts to develop joint activities. Some of the initiatives are in farming while others are in tailoring. In this perspective, 89 farmers were trained on improved banana farming technics. Two plantations covering an area of 2.5 hectares with more than 1500 plants are in place in Nyamatete and Kanyegenyege. The sector office through the agronomist supports this intervention.

In addition to farming activities, some community members were supported through strengthening their entrepreneurship skills. This intervention focused mostly on youth and women. Hence, 40 youth and women were trained on tailoring. Actually, the project established a school and hired 2 trainers. The learners attend on a daily basis. The first group of 21 youth and women completed the training and second team made by teenagers who gave birth started their intake in November. They continue the training but initiate the saving as well.

Section 2: Community Empowerment

A strong collaboration between the local church and the government leaders is required to better empower the community. For this end, 45 government leaders and 64 churches leaders in Rwimbogo sector of Gatsibo District merged their insights to develop annual plans. Consultative meetings were facilitated by the project staff and a decision to mobilize the least engaged community members was taken to initiate and introduce them to SHGs approach and lean from existing ones. A plan to make a follow-up was made and the community facilitators are in charge of the task.

Process Facilitation

47 community facilitators completed the training. They make regular follow-up of SHGs and local churches and provide reports. The project Manager meets with them on a monthly as a means of monitoring the intervention and the process implementation.

The community facilitators mobilized and trained church members for holistic change. They also influenced other community members for positive change. They play a big role in making things happen and do follow-up and initiate the creation of new SHGs and do follow up of the existing ones.

Section 3: Lessons learnt

An active participation of the target population is very important for the success of the project. It motivates people to work hard and develops ownership. More efforts should be invested in mind-change change activities rather than providing the handouts. Working together and creating synergy allow community members to discover and recognize their assets and take advantage of those assets. Dependency mindset created among the community members belonging to Ubudehe 1st category is a hindrance to their development and, to some extent, delays our success, keep educating them is Moucecore's aim.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT (SEAD)

Sustainable Economic and Agriculture Development is a project aiming at reducing the proportion of people who are food insecure and living below the national poverty line in 4 targeted districts in South Province. Moucecore is implementing this intervention in Nyamagabe district. To contribute to this goal, the project specifically focuses on improving access to financial services through Self Help Groups and formal financial service providers and increasing climate resilient livelihoods in the target population from 9000 households through improved agriculture production value addition and trade of selected commodities. The achievement of the project outcomes requires (i) to strengthen the capacity of 9000 households of the rural poor to make informed financial decisions by promoting financial literacy; (2) to increase uptake of financial services from formal and informal financial service providers and other market intermediaries for 95% of total target household; (3) to increase access to markets and markets information by promoting value addition and provision of entrepreneurship skills and (4) climate smart agriculture (crop/livestock) practices adopted by farmers in target communities to increase production and conserve the environment.

Section 1: Access to Financial services

Households capacity strengthening to promote financial literacy

The project has trained 150 SHGs on SHG concept, methodology, membership and operating principles. They were also trained on financial literacy and financial products. 3000 SHG members made of 733 males and 2267 females demonstrated an improved score of 89% in financial literacy tests. They are also satisfied with financial services used. As a means of paving the way to sustainability, the SHGs members were trained on how to set up a co-operative and good governance. They are now well skilled despite some expectations as what the project will provide a startup capital. As the SHGs are supported by the community facilitators in their daily activities, 45 facilitators were trained as well.

Increased uptake of financial services from financial service providers

The culture of using the financial service has improved among the SHG members. An amount of 59.942.130Rwf was disbursed as loans. The loan takers invest their loans in different activities which contribute in improving their livelihoods. Some invest in farming activities while others invest in small business. As the members come from Ubudehe 1st and 2nd categories, access financial services and initiating different activities change substantially their lives but also contribute to building their self-confidence. One case to illustrate that is the story of Marie Chantal's family who had no land, no livestock, living in permanent insecurity about food, clothing and medication. The family relied on working for other people's fields to gain a small amount of money or just food stuff. Today, the family runs a business of selling vegetables with a monthly profit ranging between 15000 and 20000 RWF. They also have other activities generating incomes

such as chicken farming and charcoal selling. The family has clear plans for the future and assured path to sustainability.

Access to market and market information

During this year, 150 SHGs were trained on value chain management, business skills improvement, value addition, entrepreneurship, market access and market competitiveness. The stories from the SHGs members show how well they are translating the information gained into know how. Therefore, Damascene who sees his SHG as an opportunity to access capital to generate income shared his experience. He owned neither land nor livestock but thought of borrowing 20,000 which he used to buy manure to put in a hired garden on which he planted tomatoes and egg plants for sale and home consumption. From the income generated with the 1st harvest, he grew more tomatoes from which sales he managed to buy land for cultivation and a cow. garden on which he planted tomatoes and egg plants for sale For the promotion of the environment and a better use of forest resources and coping with climate change effects, 90 local trades people were trained on the construction of energy efficient stoves. The community members were also encouraged to link with solar energy providers in order to have other alternatives on energy. In total, 5811 SHGs members who are also farmers were involved in value addition practices

Section 2: Climate resilient livelihoods

Adoption of climate smart agriculture practices

The small holder farmers were mobilized around improved agricultural practices in 25 villages. These farmers were trained on land management practices, improved sustainable farming techniques and post-harvest management. In addition, community level awareness raising on climate change and adaptation strategies was conducted in 30 villages. The story of Vincent in one of many others where the loan from a SHGs led to developing income generating activities based on farming. Vincent rent a garden and a garden where he planted passions fruits, sold the harvest and, from the revenue, he managed to buy a cow and his own land. With the cow fertilizer, his land produces more yields up to 10 times compared to the situation before. In general, 90% of the target households have applied manure/chemical fertilizers in their gardens and 95% of small holder farmers dry their produce as one sure way to manage it. As a way of shifting the mindset and triggering a critical thinking in relation to minimizing the effect of climate change impact on small holder farmers, the project facilitated an event where the agricultural insurance providers explained their products and possibilities to work with the farmers.

Section 3: Challenges & Lessons learnt

Challenges

During this period, the project implementation faced a number of challenges:

- *High turnover of the sector leaders*: These ones are key stakeholders and their level of understanding the project and their buy in helps in the implementation process. Unfortunately, they have changed a lot and the new ones hardly have time to get used to the project and provide the required support.
- *Shortage of key staff that support cooperative*: it is in one sector that this person is present and is very instrumental in the success of the project in the sector. She was very much involved in identification of community facilitators, mobilization of SHGs, securing training venues and follow up of SHG performance with cell leaders and community facilitators
- *Expectations of local authorities in partners implementing SEAD*: in their partner meetings, they allocate certain tasks to partners that are not included in the project activities.
- *Vulnerability levels of project beneficiaries*: they expect handouts like what the government does for most vulnerable persons. Such members use it as an excuse/ reason to drop out of their SHGs allegedly for not receiving support.
- *Inconsistence in Savings*: most vulnerable households fail to get weekly contributions as they consume all they work for, hand to mouth livelihood. Majority have no land for cultivation, their survival is working for others, get paid money or food.
- *Land shortage*: rural area communities earn their livelihood on agriculture and livestock rearing, majority of SHG members have small pieces / no land. This perpetuates their poverty
- *Inadequate training venues*: this has been a big obstacle at the extent of postponing training due to lack of training venues or work in small rooms at cell offices that was in one way or the other a sacrifice on the part of cell leaders and cell the residents that needed their services.
- *Members do not want to disclose their income on sale of crops and livestock*: in the monthly data forms, we seek for this information and in most cases they refuse to disclose their income.

Lessons learnt

Despite many challenges, we have learnt lessons from the project implementation.

- Much as some SHG members drop out due to different reasons, citing failure to get contributions as one reason, majority praise the approach that has helped them gain self-esteem as respectable members in their communities who can survive without handouts because they have learnt to work and save.
- Community facilitators did not only benefit SHG members but also the entire community. Local leaders use their expertise, they seek their advice on matters that concern community members, as most households belong to SHGs

- VADFs were instrumental in helping small holder farmers to improve their yields. Community farmers say they have gained knowledge and skills in farming techniques through VADFs

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN GATSIBO DISTRICT

This project aims at mobilizing, educating and thus bringing a positive change in relation to child protection among the population of Rwimbogo sector of Gatsibo district. A participative approach was used whereas both rights holders and duty bearers were involved in promoting rights. Therefore, 10,000 Children were empowered to recognize, speak out and advocate for their rights. Moreover, parents, teachers and church leaders were equipped to ensure that children's rights are respected and all issues hindering those rights are addressed. The most frequent child rights issues observed in Rwimbogo include school dropout, teen pregnancy, child labor and exploitation, drug use and negligence and neglecting treatment.

Section 1: Working with rights holders

Club speak in action

The project was committed to empower children as a means of building their capacity to advocate for their rights. This was done through establishment of 25 school clubs and 28 teachers were trained to facilitate the activities of these clubs. 1428 children were trained on their rights and are well aware of those rights and how to promote the children's rights in their respective communities. A community campaign was organized as a means of raising awareness of a critical issue of child abuse in Rwimbogo sector.

Awareness initiatives

Campaign against children abuse attended by over 4500 people including children and adults. This campaign held on 11/10/2019. MOUCECORE also participated actively in celebrating the African child day held on 16/06/2019. The SPEAK clubs from different schools conveyed their message in a child friendly way through songs, dances and other activities. The political leaders including the governor of Eastern Province and the Mayor of Gatsibo district among others, attended the event and mobilized the community members around the issue of child abuse as well.

Section 2: Duty bearers' empowerment and initiatives

Local churches

32 Local churches among 61 reported to have written child protection plans which are being used during implementation. Though not all the local churches having written child protection plans, but the general content of it which they are trained in are being implemented in all the 61 local churches worked with this project. Clearly noted that documentation is still an issue. These include having an active Sunday school with 3 adult leaders trained to teach children based on their age groups, children choir in place, playing place at church depending on church capacity and provide them time to play supervised by their adults' leaders. Church leaders, Sunday school leaders and children leading "SPEAK" clubs were all trained child protection and abuse prevention while denomination leaders and pastors trained on developing church's child protection plan. Not all denominations having written action plans but at least all of them are implementing child protection activities and contributing for that in their communities

Government structures and parents

During this year, Parents from the 15 targeted villages understood the importance of protecting children and committed to start groups of transformed parents aiming to transform others towards child protecting. These groups are formed at village level in partnership with the existing structures including village leadership, family's friends and the church. Currently 13 groups were started having 364 committed members, leaders trained, recording materials provided, trained on group's child protection record keeping and started working but the project staff is uncertain about sustainability after project's phasing out prematurely. Other 24 villages were targeted during the third year of the project along with sustainability plan for all parents' groups formed.

Section 3: Challenges and lessons learnt

- Insufficient funds which could not allow all the planned activities to be implemented. This made us leave some activities without budget including: One day Meeting with 25 school leaders; One day Meeting with 30 Sunday schools leaders and school teachers; Training of 80 Club committees members from schools and churches; Facilitate planning on child protection at Sector level, in 8 schools and in 22 church denominations
- Unhealthy funds distribution due to the organization's capacity. Under this project, over 75% of the funds goes in staff and administration costs whereas only below 25% injected in activities' implementation which is a high challenge towards project implementation and success.
- Prematurely phasing out of this project which disturbed all of the activities. For the sake of sustainability plan, some of the activities were changed a little bit to be able to make a simplified exit strategy which were designed to be planned in the third year which was cut off by the donor