



**KUNDA UMWANA ASSOCIATION asbl**

**ACTION WEEK REPORT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)  
IN KIBILIZI SECTOR, NYANZA DISTRICT, IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE**

**Introduction**

**KUNDA UMWANA** is a local Non Government Organization working in Rwanda since 2009 in the area of Early Childhood Development (ECD) especially with children under 7 years. On April 19, 2012 the organization participated in the ECD Stakeholders' Meeting in which the Legal Representative and Founder of **Kunda Umwana** along with staff in charge of ECD within Care International and a staff from UNICEF moderated group works about implementation of ECD.

At the same day, **Kunda Umwana** took the opportunity to do exposition on income generating activities done by parents. Those activities help them to develop ECD Centers.

On April 25, 2012, Kunda Umwana conducted public discussions around ECD in Nyanza District; at the head office of Kibilizi Sector. During that session, a presentation about **Kunda Umwana** and ECD was done by the Legal Representative. In that presentation, experience on ECD activities in Kibilizi Sector proved how parents' support makes possible the implementation of ECD policy and strategic plan.

Basing on results of the researches done by UNESCO, it was discovered that 80% of the brain of a person is developed from conception to the age of 3 years while

the rest of the brain is developed up to the age of 6 years. Reason appropriate care has to be ministered to the mother since conception and to the child especially during his early age.

## I. Theme

Public discussion around ECD

## II. Participants

- 2.1. ***On the National level:*** A representative of the Senate (1): The Senator in Charge of the Social Affairs Commission
- 2.2. ***On the level of the Ministry of Education:*** The official in charge of ECD (1).
- 2.3. ***On the District level:*** The District was represented by the District Education Officer (1).
- 2.4. ***On the Sector level:***
  - **Kibilizi Sector** was represented by the Executive Secretary and other civil servants working in the circumscription such as/
    - The Directors of Primary Schools: **7**,
    - All staff of Kibilizi Sector: **8**
    - The Representative of the Rwanda Defense Forces: **1**,
    - The Representative of the National Police: **1**.
  - **Cyabakamyi Sector** was represented by Agents in charge respectively of Social Affairs and Education (**2**)
- 2.5. ***On the Cell level:*** Nyanza District is made of 51 Cells. Each one of them should have been represented by 2 members (a representative of parents and one member of the Social Affairs). During the ECD public discussion works, the cells were represented by fifty (**50**) people.

## III. PROGRESS OF THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

After explanation on ECD policy and strategic plan in general and particularly on experience of *Kunda Umwana* in ECD implementation, booklets entitled

“Rwanda’s ECD Policy and Strategic Plan” as well as copies of one reflect in Kinyarwanda about ECD were distributed to all participants;



*Mr NIYONZIMA Theoneste*, the representative of **MINEDUC** and expert in ECD, after giving further explanations about the content of the booklets, reminded participants that the work of caring for children is not for the Ministry only, but also it should be a burden for all Rwandans.



*Honorable Senator Galcan NIYONGANA* indicated that the first responsibility in this work is for parents.



Thus, they understood in a clearer manner much about ECD by hearing answers about the following questions:

- What is ECD and why is ECD important?
- What is ECD policy and what does it do?
- Why does Rwanda need this policy and what is the goal of ECD policy?
- What should you do and what is the ECD strategic plan?
- What do you need to know about the strategic plan?

**After this, participants were divided into two groups:**

- **The first group** was chaired by one parent assisted by three persons (the Expert in ECD from MINEDUC, the KUA Program Manager and the Executive Secretary of Kibilizi Sector).

KUNDA UMWANA ASSOCIATION



*Group 1*



- **The second team** was chaired by one parent assisted by the Legal Representative and Founder of Kunda Umwana, a representative of the Senate, Director of one of the Primary Schools of Kibilizi Sector.



### *Group 2*

After group work and discussions that took the whole day, action plan for each cell and resolutions were developed.

#### **IV. OUTCOME OF THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION CAMPAIGN**

The fifty (50) participants, at their turn, conducted public discussions within their respective communities whereby 1,200 people from each Cell attended the discussion sessions. An ECD committee was elected in each Village (Umudugudu) especially in Kibilizi Sector.



*Discussion on ECD in different cells*

It was agreed that eight (8) ECD Centers along with 2 ECD homes would be started as soon as possible.



Thanks

