

NYABIRABA GBV ACCOMPANISTS EVALUATION DAY



On October 4th, 2021, there was a meeting with GBV accompanists from Nyabiraba, including pastors and community elected leaders. The purpose was to evaluate the work they have been doing as GBV accompanists. The meeting took place in the premises of Nyabiraba Commune. 15 people were there, including five men and 10 women. They shared what they have been doing since the June 2021 retreat and challenges as well.

My name is Alexandre. I helped a family who had land of conflict. Most members of the family had moved from their original land. Only one person from the family (Pierre) stayed there. When they came back after 15 years, Pierre refused to share the land. I was called to listen to them, and finally Pierre accepted to share the land with the rest of the family.

My name is Therese. I helped a married couple who was always fighting. The wife was beaten by her husband five times. She was every time wounded. The case became beyond my capacities that I referred them to the local administration for counselling. Now the husband no longer beats his wife. They are living peacefully.

My name is Joselyne. I helped a married couple where there was concubinage. The husband had two wives. He had destroyed his first wife's house. As the case was beyond my capabilities, I brought it to the Nyabiraba socio-cultural advisor. He then visited the family and asked the

husband to build again the house of his first wife. Now, she is living peacefully with he children. She cultivates in her field in order to survive.



CHALLENGES

The main challenges which were mentioned were the absence of GBV accompanists signs for conscious visibility, no torches or umbrellas when GBV accompanists have to travel at night or under the rain, hatred from GBV victims' spouses, insufficient knowledge on human rights and the national rules on homes and families, hatred from elected local leaders who condemn them because they listen to people freely. Actually, some local elected leaders require beer before listening to people in conflict.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- FWA should organize a training on national rules on homes and families for GBV accompanists
- FWA should organize a training against GBV which includes GBV survivors' perpetrators

- FWA should organize a training to raise awareness against GBV among the May 2020 elected local leaders
- FWA should find ways to encourage indigenous people (People from the Batwa ethnic group) to do legal marriages. One example which was given was to build a simple and cheap house for couples who are legally married. Indeed, they live in houses covered with grass



After the meeting, corn seeds were purchased for four savings and credit groups. Actually six of the GBV accompanists have initiated 25 Self-help groups (SHGs) for 613 women. Four self-help groups have now initiated income generating activities together. This last September they harvested 2,2 tons of potatoes while they had planted 210 kg only. Now this is the season for growing corns. The purpose here is to empower women economically as a way to prevent GBV.





