

Women and Girls express themselves on DRR

The Disaster Risk Reduction week winded up with success on October 12, 2012. On the same day, Rwanda joined the rest of the world to celebrate the International Day for Disaster risk reduction attributing a special emphasis on women and girls involvement in disaster resilience.

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction ceremony took place in Rwamagana District in the Eastern Province where MIDIMAR staff, partners and stakeholders, District authorities and local residents participated in a community work dedicated to fixing the roofs with solid and durable materials as an example to be adopted by residents of that District which has experienced for several times severe windstorms that destroyed enormous houses and properties.

During the DRR week, several activities meant to sensitize women and girls to make visible their forces were conducted. Talks and discussions carried out in different girls' schools and women associations become a vivacious opportunity for women and girls to discover the unparalleled role they should play in instilling the culture of disaster prevention within the community. Women and Girls furthermore grasped the chance to express themselves on this year's theme: ***"Women and Girls, the [in] visible force of resilience"***



**MIZERO Sylvie S6,
E.S.N.D.B.C Byumba:**

"Women have a great role to play in Disaster risk reduction especially by raising awareness

in their families on avoiding behaviors and activities that may cause disasters like burning forests, keeping in houses inflammable liquid like fuel that can at any time attract fire. We commend efforts of MIDIMAR to educate us about Disasters. It would be better if even those who didn't get chance to go to school are given the same awareness."



**YANKURIJE Marie
Grace S6HEG,
GSNDBC: Byumba**

"Some women think that activities like building, planting trees, water

harvesting, urbanization and other similar activities are reserved for men only. But what men do, women also can. It is only a matter of mentality. Though I may not build a house but I can remind my husband to install a fire extinguisher or lightning rods in order to prevent disasters in case of related incidents."



**UWINGABIYE
Eugenie, S5,
PCM,GSNDBC
Byumba:**

"I got very impressed that lightning is killing many people and I realized that using our knowledge, we have to give our contribution by warning people on how to behave when it rains. For example, I learnt in physics the phenomenon of lighting and how its radiations can be conducted by a lonely tree. Normally I see people hide themselves under trees when it rains and next time I will warn them to avoid such behaviors. Public awareness is one of our major roles."



**Linda UMWARI, S5,
Gashora Girls School**
"I have learnt that the percentage of women in the world is almost 50% and we know

that we can take part in controlling disasters in our country. So, women responsibility should be giving out good ideas, to know that they have the potential and ability to take part in disaster management. As you know in the families you see a man can't do all things but a woman can do more, so in Disaster Management women can do more than men because they know that it is affecting their families which they love and their participation would be of great importance."



**Yvonne MUTONI, S5
Gashora Girls School**

"When women are faced by disasters, they are the first persons to stand up and get the life back to normal. The life of children and the entire families despite the conditions these disasters leave them. So with the empowerment of women that might include education about disasters, a significant change would be seen after this. Because, people aren't killed by disasters, but they are killed by ignorance on disasters. So if they keep learning about disasters and how to fight them even more, they should then stand up a fight it in a way they can after the empowerment they get to secure a safer world from all disasters."



**Narumanzi Leonile: Vice
Mayor in charge of Social
Affairs, Bugesera District**

Normally, the welfare of the family is founded on women. Therefore, women should keep up being good advisors in their families to make sure that all their properties like, houses, land and others are disaster resilient. Their contribution should be seen through environmental protection, hygiene and other activities. Our government is enhancing gender promotion. Therefore I urge women to invest efforts in Disaster reduction as they do in all other development activities.