

**Reproductive Health Journalism Awards Question and Answer with HDI's Executive Director,
Dr. Aflodis Kagaba**

Q. What are these awards about?

A. These awards aim to recognize outstanding coverage by journalists on reproductive health in Rwanda. The main intent is to encourage media practitioners to raise more awareness about reproductive health issues through reporting. Issues regarding reproductive health are often considered taboo in our society and as a result we often don't have enough platforms to report and talk about them.

Q. How can one participate in these awards?

A. We shared the opportunity with various media outlets by calling for applications from journalists who have covered reproductive health through different media channels, including print media, radio, television, and the internet. Multiple journalists submitted their articles and stories on reproductive health. A team of experts assessed the journalists' work and then selected the best three. In future we intend to raise more awareness about the awards and attract more applicants.

Q. Why are these awards mainly focusing on reproductive health reporting?

A. Reproductive health is integral to HDI's work. It involves matters like family planning, HIV prevention, and encouraging young people to know more about their sexual and reproductive health system. There is a great need for an open written and spoken discourse about reproductive health issues. However it remains a silent problem because our society considers these issues a topic not open for discussion with parents or within school. We believe that media is one of the key actors that can help raise more awareness about reproductive health and its related issues, such as HIV, unwanted pregnancies, and STI's, among others.

Q. What is HDI?

A. Health Development Initiative-Rwanda (HDI) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Kigali. HDI's main objective is to improve both the quality and accessibility of healthcare for all regardless of socio-economic status through advocacy, education, and training.

Q. How is HDI related to these awards?

A. HDI is a Rwandan organization that focuses on health and human rights. As both a right and a health matter, reproductive health is one of our core programs .We have been educating youth and women about reproductive health issues and have been at the forefront of informing policies on reproductive health issues through advocacy efforts