

HDI NEWSLETTER

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Dear Partners,

Welcome to our April Newsletter.

In this edition, we spotlight initiatives aimed at empowering individuals and organizations to drive meaningful change across various fronts.

We share highlights from our resource mobilization training with CBOs and CSOs, exploring the role of such training in enhancing the effectiveness of these organizations and amplifying their impact on the ground.

We also provide details about our ongoing partnership with Kepler University, where we were once again invited to share our expertise on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education.

Curious about what happened at our workshop with young people on FP2030 commitments? We bring you insights on harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of youth-led advocacy to drive momentum towards fulfilling these commitments.

Additionally, we revisit our workshop with Tubiteho Project Consortium Members, discussing strategies to amplify our collective impact and lay the groundwork for sustainable change.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration, both which remain crucial to our mission of driving meaningful change and making a lasting impact.



BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF CBOS IN RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY

In April, we organized a three-day training program on resource mobilization and advocacy for gender and sexually diverse Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) from various districts of Rwanda. This initiative aimed to enhance the capacity of these CBOs to secure funding and resources, ensuring their

sustainability and empowering them to effectively support their communities. The training sought to address funding gaps, promote self-reliance, and foster stronger advocacy and awareness efforts for the long-term impact and sustainability of gender and sexually diverse groups in the country.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

The first day of the training focused on strategies for identifying and securing funding to sustain their organizations' activities and objectives. Facilitators emphasized crafting compelling narratives and proposals that resonate with potential funders, showcasing the unique impact and needs of gender and sexually diverse communities.

Additionally, participants were guided through financial planning, transparent budgeting, and accountability measures to build trust with donors and ensure sustainable funding streams.

Participants engaged in exercises aimed at enhancing their understanding of these concepts, working collaboratively to apply them to their organizations' projects.

These tasks included drafting concept notes, formulating budgets, crafting proposals, and strategically allocating a hypothetical grant of \$50,000 to address their organization's financial needs.



This hands-on approach provided valuable practical experience, empowering participants to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios and develop strong capacity in project planning and resource management.

The facilitators used interactive real-world case studies, covering methods on how to engage policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public to drive legislative and social change.



EVIDENCE-BASED ADVOCACY

Participants explored strategic approaches to developing effective advocacy campaigns tailored to the unique challenges and needs of gender and sexually diverse communities. During this session, participants engaged in discussions to improve their skills in gathering, analysing, and presenting data to support their advocacy efforts. The facilitator guided them through various methodologies to ensure their advocacy is impactful and based on verifiable evidence. The facilitator explained that by using evidence, the participants can speak with authority, enhancing their position

and influence. The goal was to strengthen the community's ability to lobby for their rights while fostering a network of informed advocates capable of navigating the complexities of policy change and public perception, ultimately aiming for greater equity and recognition for the LGBT community. Additionally, they covered strategic communication. Topics included identifying key issues, crafting compelling messages, and leveraging media and social networks to amplify their voices.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT

Recognizing the potential destructive impact of conflict within organizations, our Program Officer-Key Populations, Suleiman Muhirwa led a discussion on conflict resolution, emphasizing its role in strengthening the sustainability of organizations. The training also addressed conflict resolution and management, focusing on methods to identify, address, and resolve disagreements within and between organizations.

Emphasis was placed on understanding the sources of conflict, whether personal, organizational, or ideological. The importance of promoting open, respectful, and honest communication among all parties and utilizing neutral mediators to facilitate discussions and reach mutually acceptable resolutions was highlighted. They discussed developing and enforcing agreements to ensure lasting resolution and prevent future conflicts.

This session aimed to promote strategies crucial for maintaining a positive and productive environment, essential for the success and sustainability of the participating organizations.

COALITION BUILDING

The final day focused on coalition and alliance building to strengthen collective impact. Participants explored methods to identify common goals that align with their missions, share resources such as expertise, develop joint strategies and campaigns, and provide mutual support through advocacy and solidarity.

“ Before this training, I didn’t fully understand unresolved conflicts were affecting our organizations on a deeper level. Many of the sexual and gender diversity organisations often struggle with internal disagreements that hinder their progress. We have now learned practical conflict resolution strategies that will---going forward--- strengthen our unity and empower us to move forward together and more effectively.

- Rogers Amutwendize,

Legal Officer, Amahoro Human Respect

The three day training program concluded with a commitment to promoting self-reliance and enhancing collaboration among the gender and sexually diverse Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).



EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH KNOWLEDGE TO SAFEGUARD THEIR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

In April, we were delighted to be at the '2024 Kepler Success Week' to share information and resources on sexual productive health. This event, carefully curated for young people, prioritizes equipping students with the life skills to foster positive impact

within their communities. We started our session with an exploration of the significance of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in fostering overall health, gender equality, and human rights.

We briefly shared information on the rights-based approach to health and how it applies specifically to sexual and reproductive health, emphasizing that everyone has the right to make informed decisions about their own bodies and health without facing discrimination or coercion.

With that covered, our facilitators opened the discussion with a topic on unplanned pregnancy, providing comprehensive information on the various factors that can lead to unplanned pregnancies and discussing the importance of education and access to contraception in preventing them.

Our session also discussed contraception, covering a wide range of options available, detailing their effectiveness, responding to questions around side effects and how to access them.

This session sought to empower students with the information needed to make informed choices about their contraceptive methods.

We also addressed the prevention, transmission, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS. In this session, we also highlighted the importance of regular testing and encouraged the students to be proactive in managing their sexual health.

A key component of our sessions was providing information on where to access SRHR services. We provided guidance on locating health centers, understanding the services they offer, and navigating the common barriers to accessing these services.

We also discussed strategies to overcome these barriers, ensuring that students feel confident in seeking the care they need.

Through these comprehensive discussions, we aimed to strengthen the capacity of the students to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, advocate for their rights, and support others in doing the same.



HARNESSING THE POWER OF YOUTH-LED ADVOCACY FOR FP2030 COMMITMENTS

This April, we organised a two-day workshop convening 25 representatives from various youth-led organizations to unpack the FP2030 commitments and equipping the participants with the tools needed for effective advocacy and accountability. The workshop opened with an in-depth review of Rwanda's national commitments to FP2030, outlining the new targets aimed at enhancing family planning services and their accessibility.



Facilitator Joel Serucaca from RBC/MCCH provided demographic data, highlighting the importance of these initiatives in addressing the needs of Rwanda's young population, which makes up over 64% of the country.

Participants engaged in group discussions that dissected each commitment, such as increasing the total demand for family planning and improving the quality of services, with a special focus on young people. These discussions not only deepened their understanding but also allowed them to visualize their roles in these expansive goals.

Through interactive sessions, participants developed a user-friendly tool that enables youth-led organizations to report their contributions towards advancing commitments. This tool also highlights the gaps and challenges they face. Essentially, it serves as an accountability mechanism for tracking progress and ensuring commitments are met. .

A focus was placed on evidence-based programming and the importance of detailed and accurate reporting, which are critical for the successful implementation of the FP2030 agenda.

The second day of the workshop centered on mobilizing action. The creation of comprehensive reporting tools was a highlight, with groups presenting templates that included detailed objectives, timelines, and strategies for future interventions.

Reflecting on the workshop, our Director of Outreach, Alliance Stella Ishimwe, said, "This workshop was about turning insight into action. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by these young leaders is exactly what we need to push our national goals forward."



Ernestine Uwimbabazi from 'Impanuro Girls Initiative', a youth-led organization shared her insights, "The collaborative environment here has been enlightening. Learning from each other's experiences and challenges gave me a solid ground to advocate for impactful changes."

The workshop concluded with a strong emphasis on the sustained involvement of youth in Rwanda's FP2030 goals. As the Country Director of AfriYAN Rwanda, Evode Niyibizi aptly put it, "Your involvement is not just beneficial but essential. You

are the catalysts for change, driving us towards a healthier, more informed society." This initiative highlights the power of informed youth advocacy and the importance of comprehensive planning in achieving national and international commitments.

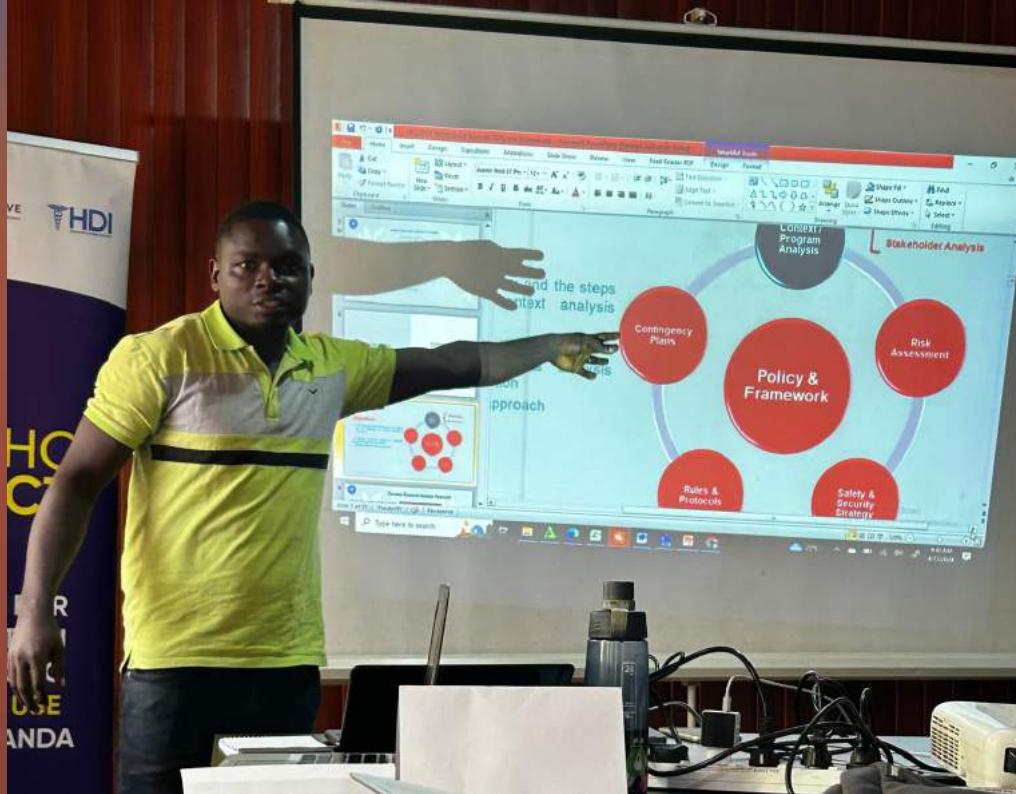
Rwanda is making strides towards fulfilling its FP2030 commitments, a continuation and expansion of the Family Planning 2020 framework. This initiative recognizes the crucial role of youth-led organizations in driving these commitments forward.



STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AMONG TUBITEHO PROJECT CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

In April, the Tubiteho Harm Reduction Project Consortium convened to review the strides made during the second quarter of project implementation. The goal was to assess collective progress, identify challenges among consortium members, and devise collaborative solutions.

The session commenced with representatives from each member providing insightful updates on activities, hurdles, and notable achievements. Notably, initial skepticism from law enforcement posed a significant challenge.



However, this obstacle was effectively addressed through transparent communication, where the project's objectives were clearly articulated, leading to a more receptive stance from the authorities. A focus on fostering knowledge exchange among members to amplify project impact and improve collaboration was highlighted. Collaboration and teamwork were deemed imperative to maintain project momentum. Furthermore, a detailed plan for the upcoming quarter was formulated, aligning activities with baseline survey findings for relevance and efficiency.

In contemplating progress documentation, the consortium explored strategies like crafting documentaries showcasing Tubiteho's impact on People Who Use Drugs (PWUDs).

This tangible medium would serve as a conduit to monitor project impact and gauge community improvements.

HDI's Deputy Executive Director, Louange Gutabarwa, stressed the importance of evaluating outcomes beyond training activities, highlighting the significance of success stories and effective problem-solving strategies in maximizing the project's impact.

Key recommendations for future interventions included organizing first aid training for the implementation team and fostering greater community involvement in workshops and manual development. These measures aimed to augment project effectiveness and deepen understanding of on-the-ground challenges.

The meeting concluded with an affirmation to more collaborative problem-solving, facilitating knowledge exchange, and commitment to tracking progress among the Tubiteho Harm Reduction Project Consortium members.

STAKEHOLDERS SPEAK:



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This was a very constructive conversation. Before this session, I had a negative view on contraception. I realise now that I didn't have enough information about the different options available and how each method works. Now, I feel much more confident and informed about how to choose what's best for me when I am ready.

- **Ange Umulisa**, Student, Kepler College



We are excited to share the successful conclusion of our 2-day workshop focused on Rwanda's National #FP2030 commitments, tailored for 25 participants from youth-led organizations.

Empower Rwanda @EmpowerRwanda
Yesterday, @EmpowerRwanda was privileged to actively participate in #CSOs Convening organized by @HDIRwanda to review, analyse, and strategically plan to address the gaps in access to #SRH info&services by adolescents & young people. It also aimed at promoting advocacy for #ASRH.



Mr. Ishimwe Pacifique @Is... · 28 Mar
Replying to @EmpowerRwanda @HDIRwanda and 10 others
All was my pleasure to represent @EmpowerRwanda in analysing, reviewing & recommending around third periodic reports of the Republic of Rwanda on implementation of the African charter on the rights & welfare of the child. The raise of #teenagepregnancies was one of talking points



NIWEMWIZA Anne Marie ... · 29 Mar
Ibyo ukora wabikora neza ute, ugatanga amakuru kd utarushijeho guhohotera uwahohotewe? Thanks @ClementineN9, @AfriYAN_Rwanda & @HDIRwanda kudufasha kongera kwibuka kuba abanyamwuga.

HDI WISHES TO THANK OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

- AMPLIFYCHANGE
- BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPERATIVE
- CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE
- CRICKET BUILDS HOPE
- DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO RWANDA
- EAHP
- EQUIMUNDO
- EXPERTISE FRANCE
- FEMNET
- FOSI/OSIEA
- FP2030
- GIZ
- GLIHD
- GLOBAL HEALTH CORPS
- IMBUTO FOUNDATION
- IMRO
- IPPF
- JHPIEGO/MCGL
- MEDECIN DU MONDE
- MEDICAL DOCTORS FOR CHOICE
- MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR CHOICE
- MINISTRY OF GENDER AND FAMILY PROMOTION
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH
- MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
- MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID
- PARLIAMENT OF RWANDA
- PLAN INTERNATIONAL RWANDA
- PSA

- RNGOF
- ROBERT ANGEL AND FAMILY FOUNDATION
- RWANDA CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM
- RWANDA SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS
- RWANDA BIOMEDICAL CENTER
- RWANDA EDUCATION BOARD
- RWANDA GOVERNANCE BOARD
- RWAMREC
- SISTERLOVE INC.
- SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HEALTH
- STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION
- STOP TB PARTNERSHIP
- STRIVE FOUNDATION RWANDA
- THE CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
- THE DAVID AND LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION
- THE EMBASSY OF BELGIUM
- THE EMBASSY OF SWEDEN
- THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF NETHERLANDS
- THE GLOBAL FUND
- THE NEWTIMES
- UHAI-EASHRI
- UNAIDS
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- VSO
- WELLSPRING PHILANTHROPIC FUND
- WEMOS
- WHO
- WOMEN'S LINK WORLDWIDE

