



**HDI**  
HEALTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

*Striving for a healthy society*

# Quarterly Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL TO JUNE 2018



# Parents' KAP towards CSE: Validation Workshop

June 29, 2018



HDI organized a validation workshop on parents' knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) towards Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). The main objective of this research was to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of Rwandan parents towards the implementation of the ongoing CSE in secondary schools in the country. From the research findings, HDI with different stakeholders and REB are recommended to harmonize the teaching guide /manual on CSE especially for out of school adolescents and youth as well as parents. The materials should be user friendly and written in Kinyarwanda. The validation was attended by stakeholders from the government such as Ministry of Youth, MIGEPROF, Civil Society Organizations and development partners.

# Peer educators training and learning sessions for Sex Workers

April-June



With the support of The Safe Action Abortion Fund (SAAF), HDI is implementing a project that reduces incidences of unsafe abortions and rights violations among vulnerable women and girls in Rwanda. In this quarter, HDI held additional training . **60 peer educators** from 3 districts were trained on gender based violence prevention, lawful detention policies, and laws on access to safe abortion in Rwanda. HDI facilitated learning sessions for **360 Female Sex Workers (FSWs)** in 7 districts. In June, HDI hosted Mr Andre Deponti, a senior programme advisor from SAAF for a 3 days visit to learn more about HDI and our beneficiaries. Mr Andre was impressed by the project progress and provided positive and valuable feedback to improve further program implementation.

# Participation in the Training of Health care providers

April 16th-20th



As part of our partnership with Ministry of Health and Global Fund, HDI staff attended a training, organized by RBC, for health care providers on friendly service provision for key populations in Karongi District. **23 different health centers** in Karongi district were trained on ways of overcoming stigma and discrimination against key populations, providing comprehensive care, and offering quality services on HIV and sexually transmitted infections. HDI staff also reviewed Rwanda's national HIV priorities with health care staff and promoted new services on HIV, including HIV self-tests, a new system for indexing HIV-positive clients, and a new referral system to break the chain of transmission. Through this training, HDI strives to improve HIV care for all Rwandans and work towards meeting deliverables within the National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS.

# Celebration of \*World AIDS Day\*

April 5th

In April, Gasabo District held a celebration for the annual World AIDS Day. Rwanda has an HIV prevalence rate of **3%**, which is low but unfortunately, the number of cases is high in the capital-Kigali with a prevalence rate of **6.3%**.

HDI is prioritizing initiatives that target key populations, youth and adolescents to prevent new infections and reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. On April 5, HDI staff joined the Vice Mayor of Gasabo District and many other stakeholders for an event promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and offering free testing and distribution of condoms. Participants were encouraged to know their status, always use protection, and get tested often. Over **500 people** attended and **256 people** were tested at this event.





# International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia 2018

May 17th

On May 17th, HDI partnered with Isange Rwanda to celebrate the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT). HDI and Isange Rwanda was honored to welcome Nicola Bellomo, the Ambassador of European Union in Rwanda and Miss Alma Ibrahimovic representing the Ambassador of Kingdom of Netherlands to grace the event. The event was equally attended by partner organization like GIZ, local community leaders, religious leaders, civil society organizations, the media and parents of the LGBTI community. They all joined to celebrate and promote inclusion and acceptance for all Rwandans. The LGBTI community representatives thanked HDI for its collaboration and local leaders who attended and urged them to sensitize fellow local leaders to accept them in the community. Guests enjoyed the presentations and performances of members of the LGBTI community that carried key messages on the fight against discrimination and the importance of inclusion in Rwanda

# #NoMoreLimits Menstrual Hygiene Day 2018

May 28th



An annual Menstrual Hygiene Day is held on May 28th as an international celebration intended to break the stigma around menstrual hygiene for girls. This year, HDI celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day at Groupe Scolaire, a primary and secondary school in Ruhanga. Over **500 students** participated and some of them performed a skit exploring the importance of good hygiene and lots of dances and songs highlighting girls' talents were shared. HDI raised awareness of the Menstrual Hygiene Day on social media where a Q&A session took place on Facebook. HDI also equipped the girls' room with **50 packets of pads** as well as other hygiene products through the support of **Norwegian People's Aid**.

# Family planning Outreach

May-June



- In Rwanda, reproductive health (RH) and family planning (FP) still need to garner more attention. When comparing the results from DHS 2010 to DHS 2014-2015, the increasing trend of contraceptive prevalence rate is not significant (45% to 48%) compared to the results seen between 2005 and 2008 (10% to 27%). In May & June 2018, HDI staff conducted 2 outreach campaigns for **56 Adventist women in Bugesera** and **12 employees of the Women's Bakery in Gasabo** with the purpose of raising awareness on FP methods to fight against misconceptions regarding contraceptives. Among the **68 participants (65 were female and 3 were male)** 88% of the participants had complaints that they had not received comprehensive information about birth control options and this caused discontinuation of their use. HDI was pleased to contribute in filling this gap, provide correct information and promote the use of birth control methods.





## Empower, Include, Respect: Training of CBOs leaders and facilitators May-June

This quarter, HDI staff led a total of **3 trainings** to empower key populations to learn about relevant laws and advocate for their right to health and non-discrimination. The training involved **20 leaders and 20 facilitators** from 20 community based organizations (CBOs) advocating for key populations members. The training included discussions on patient rights, the principle of non-discrimination, conducting self-help groups meeting, documenting cases of Human rights violation and discrimination and rights embedded in the Rwandan Constitution of 2003 revised in 2015 and the National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS 2018/19-2024. From 25th June, 20 leaders from the project facilitated self-help groups meetings and shared knowledge with their peers on GBV, policies and laws on non-discrimination and how to document their rights violation.

# Inter-universities final debate on SRHR

June 6th-7th

HDI, in collaboration with Girls leaders forum and Mount Kenya University Rwanda, organized an Inter-University final debate competition with **10 universities in Rwanda**. The preliminary competitions concluded in December 2017 where 10 universities across the country had internal competitions and the best teams of students were selected to represent their institutions at national level competitions. These debates aimed at engaging students, especially young women leaders in breaking taboos and enabling them to express their opinions on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. The winner of the Inter-University debate competition was Mount Kenya University Rwanda! We thank Amplify Change for their support.



# Teenage Pregnancy is not just a girl's issue

June 21st

The Rwandan youth experiences systematic, institutional, cultural, and political barriers to accessing SRHR services, especially the teenagers. It's in this regard that HDI in collaboration with Men Engage Rwanda organized a teenage pregnancy campaign in APAER Rusororo/Gasabo to talk about ways through which Rwanda can prevent and respond to teenage pregnancy issues. This activity was designed differently from other campaigns because it employed a holistic approach by involving men and boys to prevent teenage pregnancy. The debate brought **15 secondary schools** together and attendees included students, teachers, the school administration and external partners. This event hosted 798 students from APAER Rusororo and 12 students from 12 other schools. Additionally 25 teachers from APAER Rusororo and 12 from other schools within Kigali.



# Gasabo Open Day event

May 24th-29th

HDI Staff shared information at the Gasabo Open Day event about Family Planning (FP) and HIV with the aim of reaching a number of populations to raise their level of awareness on SRHR issues so that they can openly discuss them in the community and at home. At this event, HDI distributed leaflets on family planning and HIV and also distributed condoms. HDI received over **250** visitors to our stand.



## Every life Matters!

April 24th-26th

The World Health Organization estimates that 15% of the world's population lives with a disability. In Rwanda, people with disabilities face challenges such as negative community attitudes, inaccessible facilities, and lack of access to services specifically for visual and hearing disabilities. In April, HDI was excited to send one of our nurses to a training on providing health services to people with disabilities. This training was organized by the Umbrella of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities in the Fight against HIV/AIDS and for Health Promotion (UPHLS). The training equipped the community with knowledge and skills on respectful attitudes towards people with disabilities in order to normalize difference and promote increased access to health services. HDI participated in the training with other civil society organizations, religious leaders, and community health workers.

# HDI wishes to thank our partners and supporters:

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Local Government
- Rwanda Bio-Medical Center
- Rwanda Education Board
- Rwanda Governance Board
- Amplify Change
- Catholics for Choice
- The Center for Reproductive Rights
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Delegation of the European Union to Rwanda
- DFID
- EAHP
- The Embassy of the Netherlands
- The Embassy of Sweden
- FOSI
- OSIEA
- GIZ
- Global Fund
- Global Giving
- Global Health Corps
- GlobeMed
- Jumelage/Rhineland-Palatinate
- Lawrence University
- Norwegian People's Aid
- Peace Corps
- PROMUNDO
- PSA
- PSF/Emory University
- PYXERA
- Rwanda civil society organisations
- SAAF/IPPF
- SIDA
- Stephen Lewis Foundation
- Stop TB Partnership
- UHAI-EASHRI
- UNAIDS
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- ViiV Healthcare
- WHO





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