

Quarterly Newsletter

Highlights from January-March 2017



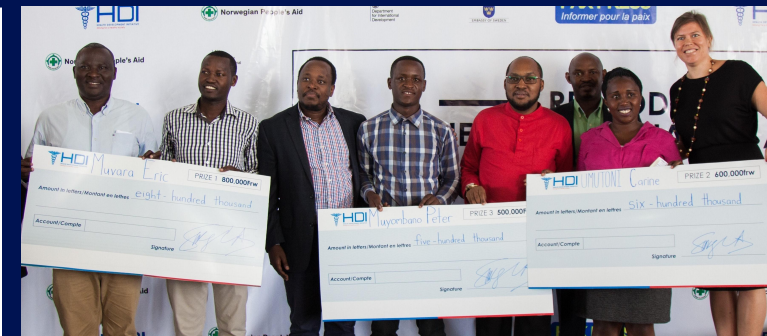
The First Annual Reproductive Health Journalism Awards

February 22nd, 2017

Openly discussing sexuality remains taboo in Rwanda. This impedes people's ability to make well-informed decisions about their sexual health. The media is an invaluable tool for normalizing the open discussion of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

HDI wanted to acknowledge and reward journalists who have candidly reported on sexual and reproductive issues in Rwanda. Thus, we organized the First Annual Reproductive Health Journalism Awards. Our objective was to raise awareness about reproductive health and rights in Rwanda by recognizing exceptional media coverage on reproductive health, to encourage journalists to cover these issues, and to collectively review national policies on reproductive health and rights.

Our panel of three judges independently evaluated journalist submissions. Our awards ceremony was attended by over 80 representatives from media houses, government ministries, and civil society organizations. We hope that these awards will encourage journalists to report more on sensitive, but necessary issues that affect society. We look forward to hosting the second annual awards next year!



Our Winners

In 3rd place was Muyombano Peter from Flash Radio. He reported on the ongoing debate between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health on whether to allow condoms inside of public schools. He received 500,000 Rwandan Francs.

In 2nd place was Umutoni Carine from Rwanda Television. She created a TV broadcast which discussed the positives and negatives of contraceptive options available in Rwanda. She won 600,000 Rwf.

In 1st place was Muvara Eric from Kigali Today Radio. His radio broadcast explored the causes of widespread teenage pregnancies in Rwanda. He won 800,000 Rwf.

Congratulations to our 3 winners! We hope that they and other journalists in Rwanda continue to provide excellent reporting and spread awareness about reproductive health and rights.



"I can grow beans and corn because of HDI. My children go to school with clean clothes because of HDI. Before we used to beg for money, but now we are able to work and cultivate."
-Uwimbabazi Claudine,
Cyaruzinge
Community Member

Checking in with the Community of Potters

HDI has been working with the Community of Potters since 2008. We work on holistic solutions to poverty and health within two villages, Cyaruzinge and Masoro.

In Cyaruzinge, we are excited about our new project of bringing fresh water into the homes of community members, which will improve hygiene and health. We have begun meetings and discussions with the local government branch in order to commission the pipe installation.

In Masoro, community members have pooled their profits from last year's mushroom project in order to build a new mushroom house and expand their business. They are optimistic that the income from their new house will improve their community's quality of life.



An Interview with SHARE Peer Educators

Project SHARE (Sexual Health And Reproductive Education) continues to be a successful way to educate youth on making wise choices about their sexual health. HDI is currently revamping the SHARE Manual so that our lesson plans can be as effective and comprehensive as possible.

SHARE is possible because of the hard work of Peer Educators, exceptional young people who attend HDI trainings and then share their knowledge with their contemporaries. We spoke with two Peer Educators who lead health clubs to out-of-school youth in Kigali. To read the full interview, go to our website at:
<http://hdirwanda.org/interview-with-share-peer-educators/>



"It has always been my dream to meet and educate people about what I am privileged to know. SHARE is helping me achieve this dream."
-Uwase Angelique, Peer Educator

"The youth that we work with are very happy with the program. It is very good because we are in the same age group as our students, so we can openly talk about things. If I were an older person or a father, then they would hold back from being honest."
-Ndanga Joli, Peer Educator

Gasabo District HIV Awareness Day

March 21st, 2017

Gasabo District partnered with Rwanda Development Organization (RDO), AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), UNICEF, and Health Development Initiative to organize the Gasabo HIV Awareness Day.

The event was a success and had over 400 local community members attend. Guests enjoyed dance performances, a theater sketch on the dangers of unprotected sex, and a poetry reading on HIV. A woman living with HIV gave her testimony about how she lost family to HIV and has struggled with stigma from her community. Multiple honored guests gave speeches, including HDI's Programs Director and the Vice Mayor of Gasabo.

Over 330 people registered for free HIV blood testing. To promote HIV prevention, 11,700 free condoms were distributed. By raising awareness and encouraging people to be voluntarily tested for HIV, we can stop the spread of HIV in our lifetime. HDI applauds Gasabo District's efforts to prevent the spread of HIV.





Ruhango District Joint Action Development Forum Expo

March 15-17th, 2017

Since 2015, HDI has been working in the Southern Province on HIV prevention among key populations (female sex workers and men who have sex with men) and on Tuberculosis prevention among vulnerable populations (the elderly, children below the age of five, and diabetics). Ruhango District officials invited us to showcase our work in the JADF Open Day Expo.

During the exposition, we educated the people of Ruhango who visited our stand on TB prevention, HIV prevention, and family planning. Our stand was visited by over 650 people during the 3 days, most of whom were adolescents and youth. We were also honored to have the Southern Province's Governor, Mrs. Marie Mureshyakwano, and Mayor of Ruhango, Mr. Mbabazi Francois, visit our stand among many others.

We distributed condoms and lubricants to the people who visited our stand. On the closing day, HDI was awarded with a certificate for being a good implementing partner in Ruhango District and with a medal for being among the supporters of the JADF Open Day.



Thank You to Our Sponsors

Without our partners, none of our work would be possible.

Many thanks to:

- Ministry of Health
- Rwanda Bio-medical Center
- Rwanda Governance Board
- The Center for Reproductive Rights
- The David and Lucille Packard Foundation
- DFID
- The Embassy of Sweden
- FOSI
- GIZ
- Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB, and Malaria
- GlobeMed students
- Norwegian People's Aid
- PSA
- Project San Francisco/Emory University
- Promundo
- UHAI-EASHRI
- UNAIDS
- UNICEF
- ViiV Healthcare.

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