



# HDI

# HEALTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

*Striving for a healthy society*

# Quarterly Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2018





## Moonlight Testing for HIV

January-February

In January and February, HDI conducted 20 **moonlight sessions** to provide free HIV testing to key populations. HDI staff worked to identify nighttime “hotspots” for female sex workers and MSM (men who have sex with men) in order to provide easy, stigma-free access to HIV testing.

Female sex workers have one of the highest rates of HIV in Rwanda and HDI was able to address this by providing STI/HIV testing to 2,033 people total, identifying **57 new cases** of HIV, and referring key populations for additional treatment. HDI also provided prevention education and distributed thousands of condoms through these events.

## HDI Outreach Center: Providing Services to Domestic Workers

February 2018



In Rwanda, most families employ young men and women to assist with cleaning and running errands. These workers often have limited access to sexual and reproductive health information and testing services. In February, HDI’s Outreach Center focused on underserved domestic workers and conducted a campaign that brought **162 young women** to the center for HIV testing. We are pleased with the success of this outreach and continue to seek new ways to meet the needs of marginalized populations.

In total for this quarter, the Outreach Center tested **511 people** for HIV/STIs and distributed **38,668 condoms** and **5,956 lubricants**.





# Visit by Global Health Corps' Barbara P. Bush

January 30th

HDI continues to nurture its partnership with [Global Health Corps \(GHC\)](#) by welcoming two fellows each year to help with HDI's programs. On January 30th, HDI hosted the outgoing CEO of Global Health Corps, Barbara P. Bush, and welcomed the new CEO, Daniella Terminel, as well as GHC's Rwanda Country Director, Jean Rene Shema. Thanks to our current GHC Fellows, Amy Shipow and Lorraine Muhimpundu, for all of their hard work!





# Training Peer Educators from Kabuga Youth Center

February 8th



HDI expanded Project SHARE this quarter by providing access to our comprehensive sexuality education curriculum for out-of-school youth. On February 8, HDI trained **15 peer educators** and several youth center staff members from Kabuga Youth Center in the **SHARE program**, providing access to rights-based, factual information about reproductive health. Topics included family planning methods, policies on gender based violence and how to report cases, and laws and policies on safe abortion in Rwanda. Kabuga Youth Center works within three different sectors of Rwanda so we're excited for this chance to spread invaluable SRHR information to more youth in Rwanda!





# HDI Supports Student Conference on Family Planning

February 22nd-23rd

This quarter, students from University of Gitwe's Medical Students' Association approached HDI with the idea to facilitate a conference on family planning for university students. Thrilled with their initiative, HDI supported the students to organize the Conference on Family Planning and Sexual and Reproductive Health on February 22-23. **1,651 students** attended, and HDI assisted students to bring representatives from organizations like UNFPA, African Youth and Adolescents Network, and Great Lakes Initiative for Human Rights and Development to present at the conference. HDI staff spoke on panels addressing effective ways to educate on family planning and contraception as well as how to reduce the number of unsafe abortions and their complications in Rwanda. Additionally, staff led a session on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and discussed with students the meaning of CSE, its history, and its importance in Rwanda.



# Showcasing HDI's Services

**March 1st-2nd**

[Picture below] On March 1-2, staff represented HDI at the NGO Expo organized by APEX Media and Promotions Ltd. in collaboration with Rwandan Civil Society Platform. Over **50 local and international organizations** gathered at the Kigali Convention and Exhibition Village to showcase their work. HDI distributed **144 condoms** and **40 lubricants** to the public and offered demonstrations on modern family planning methods, how to use HIV self-tests, and correct condom use.



# Monitoring Rwanda's Human Rights

**March 26th-28th**

In 2015, Rwanda was reviewed in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) facilitated by the UN Office of Human Rights. A total of **193 countries** participated in a peer-to-peer state review of their current human rights status and received recommendations from fellow states on how to improve human rights in their countries.

In March, a Rwandan coalition of civil society organizations had its 2nd workshop to review the progress of local implementation of UPR recommendations. Our Human Rights Officer represented HDI as one of **28 local NGOs** in attendance. These local civil society organizations discussed challenges met and actions needed to further address the recommendations. HDI is proud to participate in this opportunity to promote the human rights and dignity for all Rwandans!





# Peer Educator Trainings for Sex Workers

February-March

Sex workers in Rwanda continue to experience **unfair discrimination** and often are afraid to access their rights. Through the **Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF)**, HDI led a total of four workshops this quarter to inform sex workers of their rights. Twenty women per district were selected to be peer educators to pass on this information to other sex workers in their communities. Topics included the right to be represented by a lawyer, lawful reasons for detention and body searches, training on gender based violence, and a review of the laws and policies regarding access to safe abortion. The remaining two trainings will occur in April. Through this initiative, HDI will have provided this training and support to a total of **140 women** in **7 different districts**.

# Africa Reproductive Rights Workshop in Zanzibar

March 4th-8th

[Picture top center] HDI was honored to participate in the **2nd annual** Africa Reproductive Rights Initiative Strategic Workshop on Strength and Communication for Effective Litigation and Advocacy on Reproductive Rights. The conference was organized by the **Center for Reproductive Rights** and had representatives from all over Africa, including Senegal, Congo-Brazzaville, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda. HDI staff shared our expertise on advocating for safe and legal abortions in restrictive settings and highlighted our successes in lobbying for changes in the Rwandan penal code for women seeking safe abortions.



# HDI Supports Local Business to Organize Family Planning Session

March 16th

[Picture bottom center] On March 16, HDI led a session on family planning education to a local business interested in providing quality women's health services to their female employees. **56 people** were trained on contraception options and tracking menstrual cycles, and trainees included both management and their employees. HDI commends local businesses for prioritizing women's health!



# HDI Committed to Becoming the Center of Excellence on Health and Rights in Rwanda by 2022

March 2018

At the close of the Strategic Plan for 2014-2017, HDI embarked on a mission to revamp its vision and strategy for a new five-year period. Several international consultants assisted with the **2018-2022 Strategic Planning Process** and the month of March was full of brainstorming sessions, staff interviews, and skills development trainings.

What emerged was a clear vision for the next five years, with an emphasis on the development of a new and improved communications plan. Before 2022, HDI strives to become a **center of excellence on health and rights** in Rwanda, including delivering **45,000 services** through our centers and increasing our number and range of publications. We promise to be an **empowering voice on health and rights** by broadening our advocacy efforts and giving **voice** to Rwanda's most marginalized. We seek to **pursue institutional growth and learning** by developing a robust monitoring and evaluation system and communication strategy and increasing opportunities for staff development. We appreciate the support of our donors and stakeholders in this mission and look forward to the next five years!



# HDI redefines its Strategic Direction for the next five years

HDI wishes to thank the **Packard Foundation** for its support of HDI's 2018-2022 strategic planning process . HDI was also delighted to be selected as one of three organizations in Rwanda to participate in **PYXERA's Global Health Corporate Champions-Rwanda**, in which three international consultants shared their expertise with HDI to develop a new communications plans.

**Thanks to all our supporters and our amazing team of consultants!**



**Sarah Osman** from Osman Advising Services led the planning process by conducting staff interviews, leading focus groups, and facilitating brainstorm sessions.



**Kelly Chandler** from DowDuPoint Transactions (Michigan, USA) provided support for the communications plan, particularly with social media interventions.

**Patricia Kneis** from WE Communications, Munich (Germany) provided technical assistance to develop a new communications plan.



**Yannick Pfister** from SAP Innovative Business Solutions, St. Ingbert (Germany) assisted with creating new communications systems and structures.





# 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**





## Contact Us

**Email:** [info@hdirwanda.org](mailto:info@hdirwanda.org)

**Website:** [www.hdirwanda.org](http://www.hdirwanda.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/HDIRwanda/](http://www.facebook.com/HDIRwanda/)

**Twitter:** @HDIRwanda

**Phone:** +250 788 309 262

**Hotlines for Sexual and Reproductive Health  
Information:**

3530

0780 903 530

0722 903 530