



Striving for a healthy society

Quarterly Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2019



HIV Testing Outreach for Vulnerable Populations

January-March



In this quarter, HDI conducted **54** HIV community outreach testing sessions to identify new HIV infections in collaboration with **18** health centers.

A total of **4,401** people from Bugesera, Nyarugenge, Muhanga, Ruhango, Rwamagana, Kamonyi, Gatsibo, Gicumbi, and Rutsiro Districts were reached. Among them, **95** people were newly diagnosed HIV positive, of these, about one third have already been initiated on ARV treatment.

"Know your rights"

January-March



With the support from Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF), HDI provided information on human rights to vulnerable women and girls and ensured that they are aware of the ways to protect their health. In this quarter, HDI held **8** sessions with 60 peer educators from 7 districts on GBV prevention & reporting, lawful detention procedures, and exemption on safe abortion in Rwanda. HDI reached **480** FSWs in **7** districts.

Empowering adolescent leaders to expand their role in SRHR policy advocacy

January 3rd-4th

HDI conducted 4 consultative meetings with **80** adolescents' leaders aimed at involving adolescents and young people in the development of the policy brief 'Expanding Adolescent and Youth Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Rwanda. The meeting was also an opportunity to jointly plan with adolescents and put in place an advocacy strategy to empower young people to play a central role in the advocacy efforts to remove age related barriers for accessing SRHR services in Rwanda. Through this process, HDI identified **20** champions who have shown confidence and willingness to represent young people from their communities in advocacy initiatives. This means that adolescents and young people will be at the forefront of their advocacy.



Engaging Kigali city social affairs & health officials in ASRH

January 9th

HDI held a consultative meeting with **43** officials in charge of social affairs and health from Sectors of the 3 Districts of Kigali city. The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness among healthcare providers and social affairs officers in Kigali city on the National Family Planning, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (FP/ASRH) Strategic Plan (2018–2024) and involve them in the implementation and collaboration. The meeting also aimed at engaging social affairs officers across all sectors and districts in Kigali City to contribute to the ongoing national debates on removing barriers for adolescents in accessing sexual reproductive health services. Mrs. Muhongerwa Patricia the Vice Mayor in Charge of Social Affairs in Kigali City commended HDI for considering the role of Social Affairs Officers in the improvement of health and wellbeing of Rwandans.



Empowering duty bearers to provide FP & SRHR to teen mothers & FSWs

January - March



In partnership with Imbuto Foundation and the Ministry of Health, HDI is conducting community awareness on FP, rights of patients & health service users, provisions on accessing safe abortion. Moreover, HDI is advocating for a friendly environment for adolescents to access SRH services by assessing how youth are informed of ASRHR and FP services in Rwanda and barriers for youth to access SRHR services under Baho Neza project. In this quarter, HDI held sensitization meetings with **409** teenage mothers and their parents, **395** female sex workers, **123** youth leaders, **152** local authorities including National women council members, religious leaders, law enforcement officers, and **156** health care providers in Bugesera, Nyaruguru, Rusizi and Gicumbi Districts. They were provided information on Human reproductive law, FP, provisions on accessing safe abortion and medical professional liability insurance law. After the sensitization meetings, **70** teenage mothers and **69** FSWs received FP services and **17** teenage mothers and **26** FSWs were tested for HIV/AIDS.

Testimonies from Beneficiaries

Teenage
Mother,
Rusizi
District

At 14 years old, I got pregnant from rape and gave birth to twins. I was alone, scared and desperate. At 15 years I met with my grandfather that I live with, but he couldn't help me because he is poor. I performed sex acts to gain money and never thought about contraception use, now I understand its benefits and promise to use those methods.

I did not wish my daughter to be impregnated, unfortunately she has 2 kids now and she is 18 years old. For her 1st pregnancy, I never thought of encouraging her to use family planning because I didn't expect this need until she got the second pregnancy. I now realize how important it is for teen mothers to use family planning methods.

Parent of
Teenage
Mother,
Nyaruguru
District

FSW,
Rusizi
District

I was a house-girl at the age of 15. It all started from being homeless after the divorce of my parents. At that time I met someone who drove me into sex work to gain money. 1 year later, I got pregnant, now my child is 1 month and 2 weeks, and the training helped me to know the benefits of FP use because I am not ready to have another child.

Testimonies from Beneficiaries

Youth
Leader,
Rusizi
District

Even if I used contraceptive methods, I did not feel the obligation to mobilize others in doing so. Now I commit to providing information to my fellows about SRHR and FP.

I am glad to participate in this meeting where I learnt a lot of things that are useful in our work, such as medical liability insurance law and my contribution in providing quality ASRH services.

Healthcare
Provider,
Rusizi
District

Faith
leader,
Gicumbi
District

I do support the SRHR service provision to women and girls to protect their lives and improve family welfare. I call upon other religious leaders to uphold and advance women's rights on reproductive health.

Strengthening CSOs' SRHR services to key populations

January 28th

HDI convened a sensitization meeting with 10 civil society organizations working with key populations. The objective was to raise awareness on the Human Reproductive Health law, provisions on accessing safe abortion, family planning and rights of patients and health service users. During the meeting, Dr Aflodis Kagaba introduced the objectives of the Baho Neza project to the participants and presented on the Rwanda Maternal, Natal, Child and Adolescent Policy.



Encouraging journalists to report on SRHR

February 12th

Under the BAHO NEZA project, HDI conducted a sensitization meeting with **30** journalists from different media houses in Rwanda as the media is an invaluable tool for spreading messages to thousands of people at a time. The objective of the meeting was to expand their knowledge on Human Reproductive Health Law, FP, provisions on accessing safe abortion and medical professional liability insurance law. The meeting enhanced the role of journalists in disseminating accurate information on friendly ASRHR service provision for teen pregnancy reduction.



Awareness campaign on anti-teenage pregnancy, GBV & Child's rights

January - March

HDI, in collaboration with MIGEPROF, raised awareness through campaigns in **6** secondary schools: Groupe Scolaire Gasogi, APAER Rusororo, Groupe Scolaire Ruhanga, Groupe Scolaire Gicaca 1, Groupe Scolaire Kabuga, and CGFK. In these schools, HDI met with approximately **6,000** students and **40** teachers. The campaign aimed at raising awareness on the prevention of teenage pregnancy, fight GBV and making students aware of child's rights. HDI also facilitated a session on increasing knowledge on Sexual Reproductive Health & Family Planning. The campaign provided a forum for students to share plays, songs & poems about SRHR challenges.



HIV sensitization meeting with FSW's peer educators

January - March



HDI organized a quarterly meeting with FSW peer educators for collecting data on HIV and STI, referrals for HIV testing; promotion of condom use and STI diagnosis in 3 Southern Province Districts: Nyanza, Huye, and Nyaruguru. Moreover HDI staff supported 4 health centers in those same districts where **78** people were tested for HIV and **37** received family planning methods of their choice. There was also a consultative meeting on HIV prevention and medical professional liability insurance law among key populations, including **40** local authorities and healthcare providers from each of the 3 districts. Additionally, HDI conducted a follow-up of female sex workers in selected hotspots and sites in all these 3 districts.

HDI wishes to thank our partners and supporters:

- Amplify Change
- Catholics for Choice
- CDC
- The Center for Reproductive Rights
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Delegation of the European Union to Rwanda
- DFID
- EAHP
- The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- The Embassy of Sweden
- FEMNET
- FOSI/OSIEA
- GIZ
- Global Giving
- Global Health Corps
- The Global Fund
- Norwegian People's Aid
- Peace Corps
- PROMUNDO
- PSA
- PSF/Emory University
- PYXERA
- SAAF/IPPF
- Stephen Lewis Foundation
- Stop TB Partnership
- UHAI-EASHRI
- UNAIDS
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- ViiV Healthcare
- Women's Link Worldwide
- WHO
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Local Government
- Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
- Ministry of Justice
- Rwanda Bio-Medical Center
- Rwanda Education Board
- Rwanda Governance Board
- Imbutu Foundation
- GLIHD
- IMRO
- RNGOF
- RSOG
- RBP partners





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