



*Striving for a healthy society*

# Quarterly Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2018



# School event in APACE

## "Talk early, Talk often, Talk together, Prevent teenage pregnancy"

July 11th



Through the SHARE Program, HDI facilitated a debate in APACE secondary school where over **100 students** participated and school administrators. During the event, students debated the topic “poverty is the root cause of adolescent teenage pregnancy”-, thus sharing their experience on how they can prevent young adolescents pregnancy. The students highlighted the difficulties they face in accessing services to prevent teenage pregnancy; stigma around being open and talking about being sexually active. Moreover, they discussed the myths and misconceptions, surrounding girls' pregnancy and how there is an assumption that only girls should be blamed in case of pregnancy. HDI encouraged the students to join a health club, which would equip them with information regarding SRHR.





With the support from Global Fund, HDI participated in the Nyaruguru Open Day to increase awareness and knowledge on HIV and other STIs prevention and also sensitize the population to use different Reproductive Health Services including Family planning methods. At this event HDI provided different services such as HIV testing to **183** people; awareness session on condom use; HIV counseling & STIs screening, sensitized **1200** people on family planning and distributed **9,042** condoms. HDI appreciates the recognition from Nyaruguru District.

# Nyaruguru Open Day event

July 10th-12th





# Learning visit by AJPRODHO Center for Human rights

August 10th

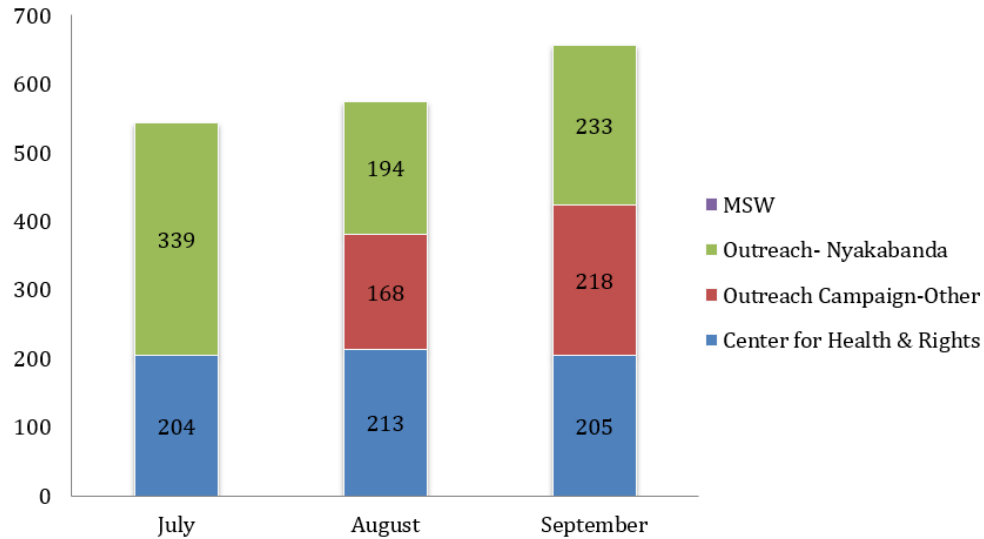
HDI received **27 students** from AJPRODHO's human rights training program, with the purpose of enhancing their knowledge about SRHR. The HDI center for Health and Rights introduced the students to services including HIV testing, condoms, STI screening, blood pressure test and information regarding pregnancy and safe abortion. It was an occasion for HDI to provide a safe space for students to express themselves on their needs and thoughts about SRHR. The RBC representative encouraged HDI to share the lessons learned with different members of the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and to set up more health centers countrywide and support different youth centers from different local communities through staff capacity building.





# Center for Health and Rights

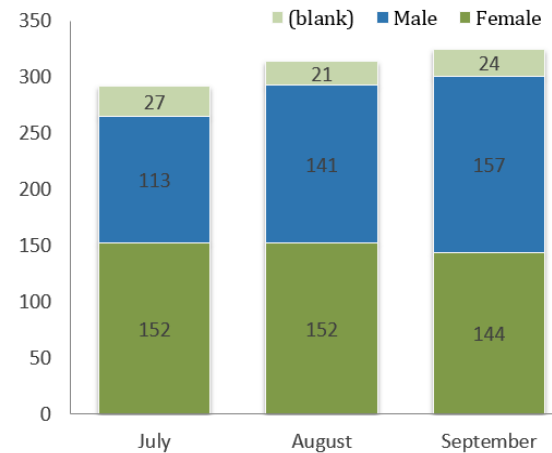
July-September



In this quarter, HDI Center for Health and Rights received **1774** clients, from Kicukiro , Nyakabanda outreach center and community outreaches.

HDI received **931** calls through our toll free hotline and **61.3%** of callers learned of our hotline through our radio program that airs every Saturday and Sunday.

## CALLS TO THE HDI HOTLINE



Month	Female	Male	Blank	Total
July	152	113	27	292
August	152	141	21	314
September	144	157	24	325
Grand Total	448	411	72	931



# Training of SHARE peer educators

August 16th

HDI facilitated a two-day training for adolescents from 15 different secondary schools in Kigali. The training covered age of consent, STIs, unwanted teenage pregnancy, and other relevant topics. Of the 27 trainees, 15 participants were female and 12 participants were male. HDI was excited to contribute to the improvement of participants' knowledge regarding their rights to a satisfying and safe sexual life, the right to access condoms regardless of marital status and the right to freely decide their sexuality. According to the evaluation, female participants' knowledge doubled with regards to menstruation and increased significantly with regards to risks of teenage pregnancy and STIs.







## HDI's ED meets the representatives of the Community of Potters

August 23rd

HDI had a constructive conversation with representatives of the community of potters from Cyaruzinge village. The meeting's aim was to discuss the progress of the Community of Potters Health and Development (COPHAD Project) and to identify long-term activities to make the community of potters more resilient. The representatives showed the progress of the project, including the establishment of a nursery school, job creation and opportunities to educate young people on SRHR.

The representatives of the community of potters suggested that there should be a training of community members on hygiene, the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and also to empower young people on family planning methods, menstrual hygiene and SRHR in general.



# Lawyers dialogue on litigating health and rights

August 28th-29th

HDI organized a dialogue with 20 lawyers from the Rwanda Bar Association (RBA), members from CSOs and journalists to discuss the opportunities of litigating health and rights in Rwanda. The dialogue included discussions about the international and regional frameworks on SRHR, the Rwandan experience of litigating SRHR from lawyers and case laws from national, regional and international jurisprudence. The lawyers identified several challenges regarding litigation of health and rights, culture of silence among women victims of GBV. Participants concluded that Rwandan lawyers must defend for the rights of the population, especially the vulnerable. There is also a need for regional and international committees to establish a guiding document/platform on safe abortion.



# Awareness raising on the prevention of teenage pregnancy at GS Kabuga

**September 19th**

HDI conducted a school event at GS Kabuga, on unwanted pregnancies. There is still general lack of information about unwanted pregnancies which, which prompted a sketch about the role of parents or guardians in advising young adolescents to prevent early pregnancies by avoiding peer pressure. In the opening remarks, the Head Master articulated the important role of health clubs in schools in filling the gap about sexual reproductive health awareness. He further stated, that they had had more than 5 cases of unwanted pregnancies in 3 years, but after the introduction of health clubs no new cases have been reported. The event hosted 1400 students and 2 teachers. HDI commits to continue providing the materials needed which will help to improve knowledge and attitudes towards SRHR among adolescents.



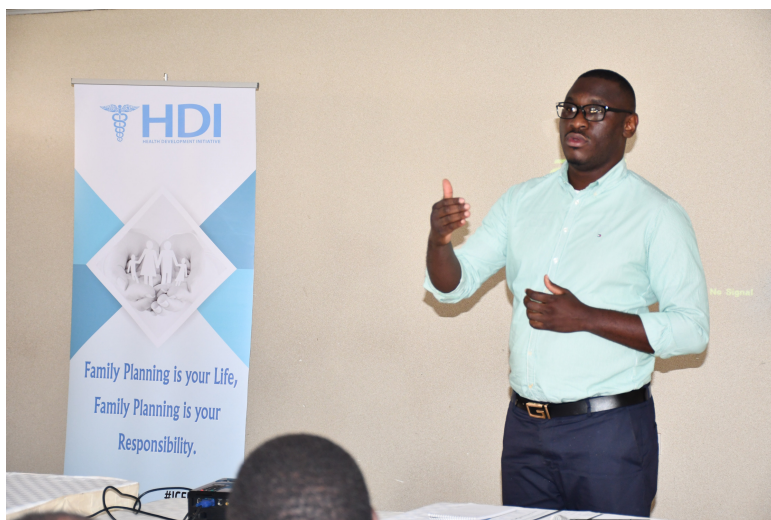


# Meeting with journalists

September 25th



HDI had a constructive conversation with **34 journalists** from different media houses, to discuss their role in advancing women's sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR). HDI informed them on the current law on abortion, the Maputo Protocol, the Rwanda maternal newborn, child and adolescent health policy (RMNCAH) and the upcoming International Conference on Family Planning. HDI encouraged journalists to produce investigative stories on adolescents' access to SRHR services and work with the community in addressing reproductive health issues.



# Celebration of World Contraception day

September 26th



HDI celebrated The World Contraception Day in Nyaruguru District, with a campaign on Family planning. This year's theme was “**Family Planning is your life, Family Planning is your responsibility**”.

The purpose of the campaign was to highlight and emphasize the role of men in the use of contraception. HDI provided **32** women with contraceptives for the first time, **231** people were tested for HIV/AIDS and received counseling. As misconception about contraception persists in Rwanda, HDI recommended the full commitment of local authorities, in reaching more people for sustainable and increased community engagement on the role of men in Family planning and SRHR in general. RBC, RDF, RNP; members of parliament, Nyaruguru District officials, Cyahinda sector officials and health centers were among HDI partners who participated.





Aiming at reducing unsafe abortions and human rights violations among vulnerable women and girls in Rwanda, HDI facilitated learning sessions among **420** Female Sex workers Workers (FSWs) in 7 seven Districts; four in the Southern Province and three in Kigali City. HDI successfully reached **60** FSWs per district, on gender based violence law and policies, lawful detention procedures, and law and policy on access to safe abortion in Rwanda. FSWs reported to have learnt and understood their rights.

# Know Your Rights: facilitating peer to peer learning sessions of female sex workers

July-September





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

July-September

In This quarter, HDI staff led a total of 3 trainings, a steering committee meeting and 2 workshops on developing strategic framework of LGBTI & SWs communities. The trainings involved 19 leaders and 19 facilitators from 19 community based organizations (CBOs) advocating for key populations members. The trainings included the training on non-discrimination project proposal writing & project design, training on advocacy skills, leadership skills and engaging with constituencies; social media and the use of ICT. The CBOs members also conducted self-help groups and documented cases of human right violation.





# HDI wishes to thank our partners and supporters:

- 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
- 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
- Norwegian People's Aid
- Peace Corps
- PROMUNDO
- PSA
- PSF/Emory University
- PYXERA
- Rwanda National civil society organisations
- SAAF/IPPF
- Stephen Lewis Foundation
- Stop TB Partnership
- UHAI-EASHRI
- UNAIDS
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- ViiV Healthcare
- WHO





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3530