



United Nations Population Fund

Family Planning post training follow up on vasectomy, tubal ligation and validation in 10 District hospitals.

## UNFPA hands over equipment to youth friendly corners in Rusizi, Nyamasheke & Karongi.



*Dr. Agnes handing over to the District Mayors.*

UNFPA has continuously supported the access of Adolescents to Sexual Reproductive Health services in Rwanda particularly in the West province. Youth and adolescents are a key population to not only UNFPA but to many countries across the world. A healthy and wealthy youth is the backbone of every country.

The youth and adolescents aged 10-24 years in Rwanda represent 64% of the total population which compose 1.8 billion of the world population.

Like in other parts of the world, adolescents and young adults in Rwanda are considered a healthy segment of the population. Being a particularly difficult period of puberty and adolescence where young people often try to investigate their sexuality by heterosexual relations, it exposes them to great health and sexuality challenges. These challenges include the risk of HIV and AIDS, STIs, due to inadequate RH knowledge and limited access to RH services. This exposes adolescents and young adults to risky sexual behaviors, alcohol and substance abuse.

"We have distributed equipment/materials to youth friendly corners in Rusizi, Nyamasheke & Karongi worth about 40M Rwandan francs to strengthen the youth understanding of ASRH issues and access SRH services easily to help the adolescents know how make right decisions about their sexual life and mature into responsible citizens" Agnes Ntibanyurwa, UNFPA Assistant Representative said.

UNFPA being a UN agency with a goal of making sure that there is Universal access to sexual and reproductive health, realize reproductive rights and reduce maternal mortality to accelerate progress on the ICPD agenda. There has been strong partnership with the government of Rwanda through its implementing partners like the Ministry of Health



*FP Clients happily waiting to be served.*

To ensure quality of permanent methods of Family Planning provided, UNFPA in partnership with RBC conducted a post training validation of trainees' competency on vasectomy and tubal ligation in 10 District Hospitals in Rwanda.

The temporally FP methods are provided by Community Health Workers (CHWs), while at the hospitals, both permanent and temporally are provided which calls for strengthening the long acting and permanent methods. FP is one of the services which contribute to reduction of maternal health.

RBC with the support from UNFPA trained all service providers on FP permanent methods (vasectomy and tubal ligation) in all Districts Hospitals in Rwanda at the end of 2014. However, there was a need to validate the trainees in order to make sure of the validated number of Health service providers are able to provide those methods.

Mr. Joel Serucaca the officer in charge of Family planning at Rwanda Biomedical Center commended UNFPA's continuous support in the health sector.

"We have always had a fruitful collaboration between RBC and UNFPA which we are grateful for. This validation in particular is a great support to track provision of quality FP methods to families of Rwandans" said Joel

*As highlighted by the UNFPA mission: "Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled", the UNFPA program Officer in charge of family planning reaffirms commitment to support the Government of Rwanda to improve the health status of the population with a particular focus on maternal health, family planning, HIV and GBV prevention especially among young people and women.*

## “Planet 50-50: Step It Up for Gender Equality”

This month, as we celebrated the International Women’s Day, here is what UNFPA staff say;



“As commonly said, when you educate a man you educate an individual but when you educate a woman you educate a Nation. I believe women are influential in their homes & communities. Women can do more when empowered, we have what it takes given the right environment”  
– **Sarah Mukandutiye, Operations Manager**



I like the fact that we are empowered but again, as women we need to take up our roles & responsibilities as mothers. God created us with special values and roles for the family & our society which we should carry out well with the opportunities availed to us.  
**Chantal Umulisa, Finance Associate**

For millions of women and girls around the world, gender equality and the full enjoyment of human rights remain elusive. We appreciate that in Rwanda, continuous efforts are made to provide equal opportunities to women and men.



I would encourage other parts of the World to take action to eliminate gender discrimination and abuses starting from a girl child. Keep the girls in school and avoid child marriage!  
– **Agnès Ntibanyurwa, Assistant Representative.**

Women's day is a special day to celebrate and recognise the social, economic and cultural achievements with many challenges and barriers they face. I also recognize the progress made by the government to empower us to achieve our full potential in development.  
– **Pearl Advocacy & social media specialist**



“I believe women are strong and never give up when they have deep convictions that what they stand for, is right. For better results, empowerment should start at childhood stage. Boys and girls should be treated equally to be able to fulfil their potential”  
- **Robert Banamwana M&E and SRH Policy Advisor**



“Gender equality and protection of human rights, including the right to sexual and reproductive health, are important in and of themselves. Investing in women and girls is the smartest investment one can make. The achievement of gender equality, good health and quality education for all among others is what I would emphasise. As part of its mandate, UNFPA has helped improve women’s health and advance their rights which we will continue pushing” – **Jozef Maeriën UNFPA Representative**





*ARC doctors together with UNFPA Deputy Rep Daniel Alemu*

## UNFPA support to restore dignity and Reproductive health in refugee camps

A fruitful collaboration between the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and American Refugees Committee (ARC) for implementation of Sexual and Reproductive Health activities including, Family Planning, HIV prevention and Sexual Gender Based Violence has bared tremendous achievement in restoring dignity and reproductive health for refugees in Mahama camp in East province of Rwanda.

End of January, UNFPA handed over a donation of RH kits for clinical delivery assistance to Burundian refugees through ARC in addition to the seven hundred dignity kits to support

affected pregnant mothers in Mahama camp. The donated RH kits include; kits for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) treatment, Clinical Delivery Assistance kit - Reusable Equipment, Drugs and Disposable Equipment, Intra Uterine device, kits for management of miscarriage and complications of abortions, Suture of Tears and Vaginal Examination kit, Vacuum Extraction Delivery kit (1) etc

*‘We appreciate UNFPA’s support with RH kits and dignity kits and different trainings offered to be able deliver our health interventions and serve the refugees. These RH kits will reduce health risks and save lives of affected mothers’*  
ARC camp managed said.

UNFPA has also supported health centers and hospitals around refugee camps to manage complicated cases referred to the hospital and also serve the host community. It is in the same manner that UNFPA donated life-saving reproductive health kits to Kirehe District Hospital for the pregnant women and those having obstetrical complications. In addition to RH Kits, hospital staff were trained on gender-based violence and provided family planning methods for refugees.

*“Meeting basic needs of persons in need is a noble cause which all of us should be committed to. I therefore, reiterate UNFPA’s commitment to continue working with partners to assist the Government of Rwanda in humanitarian settings to uphold the dignity of affected persons.”* Daniel Alemu, UNFPA Deputy Representative.

In collaboration with partners, UNFPA has trained Community Health Workers in charge of maternal and neonatal health in the refugee camp, continued to provide family planning services, assisted deliveries, and trained health service providers on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crises. UNFPA supports the promotion of reproductive health and rights of all people in Rwanda and that includes all refugees and internally displaced persons.



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every childbirth is safe and every young person’s  
potential is fulfilled.*

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