



UNFPA

Rwanda

Ensuring rights and choices for all

2021 KEY RESULTS

**DELIVERING FOR WOMEN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE AMIDST
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**





FOREWORD

In 2021, despite the negative impact of COVID-19 to human lives, UNFPA managed to put measures in place to ensure that the rights, safety and dignity of women and girls in Rwanda are protected.

Through the support of our donors and partners, UNFPA has continued to support national efforts to ensure continuity of SRH interventions, including the protection of health workforce; the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities; addressing gender-based violence through continuity and adaptation of GBV services, prevention and mitigation; and national risk communication and community engagement, including through active youth engagement.

Through this report, we celebrate achievements made in 2021 despite the exceptional challenges encountered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

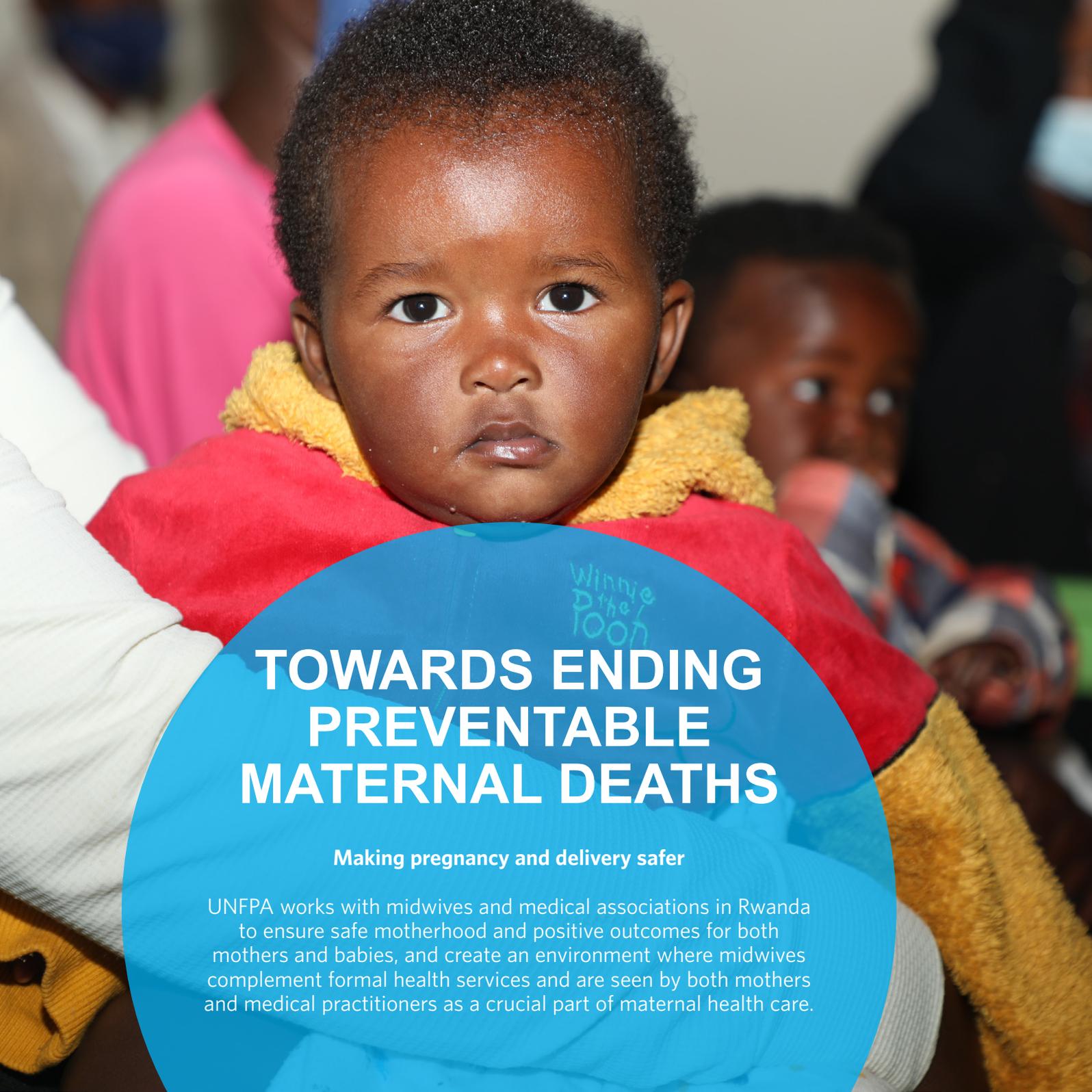
This was made possible by the collective efforts and hard work of the UNFPA Country Office Team under the leadership of my predecessor Mark Bryan Schreiner. Thank you for paving the way by making UNFPA work in Rwanda one of impact and results.

These results could not have been achieved without our esteemed partners, the strong contribution of our donors, and the Government's commitment to support Sexual and Reproductive Health for all. We sincerely appreciate your continued partnership and support.

Together we can do more, and together we will continue to deliver for the women, girls and young people in Rwanda.

Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah

UNFPA Representative



TOWARDS ENDING PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS

Making pregnancy and delivery safer

UNFPA works with midwives and medical associations in Rwanda to ensure safe motherhood and positive outcomes for both mothers and babies, and create an environment where midwives complement formal health services and are seen by both mothers and medical practitioners as a crucial part of maternal health care.

KEY RESULTS



All 61 health facilities located in UNFPA intervention area improved quality of EmONC services as a result of training and mentorship of health providers.



62% of health facilities located in UNFPA intervention area improved quality of Comprehensive Abortion Care services due to upskilling of 38 health managers.



338 midwifery students benefited from high quality education by 6 midwifery tutors who received scholarship from UNFPA (1 PhD and 5 MSc).



338 students from all midwifery schools across the country benefited from quality hands on practical sessions in skills Labs supported by UNFPA.



UNFPA contributed to improved midwifery skills among in-service midwives through training of 536 Master trainers in HBB and HMS.



UNFPA contributed to the integration of obstetric fistula prevention and management across maternal health services in 40 out of 61 health facilities located in UNFPA intervention area.

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY IN EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC AND NEONATAL CARE (EMONC)



With UNFPA's support, 59 health providers in the 3 UNFPA supported districts of Nyamasheke, Karongi and Rusizi had increased knowledge and skills in EmONC which they applied in the delivery of services across 61 health facilities. This has contributed to improvement in the quality of care and will ultimately contribute to reduction in preventable maternal deaths and neonatal mortality and morbidities in Rwanda.

ENHANCED ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE ABORTION CARE



UNFPA in collaboration with the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) and iPAS contributed to the expansion of access to Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) in 38 health centers that represent 62% of health facilities located in UNFPA intervention area, through strengthening the capacity Health Managers on provision of safe abortion services. The CAC services are expected to contribute to approximately 8% decrease in preventable maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion.

STRENGTHENED MIDWIFERY CAPACITY AND QUALIFIED MIDWIVES TO SAVE THE LIVES OF MOTHERS AND NEWBORNS



UNFPA contributed to strengthened capacity of the midwifery faculty at the University of Rwanda, to train qualified midwives able to save the lives of mothers and newborns. With the Ph.D. and Masters scholarships and personal computers provided by UNFPA, 6 midwife's tutors were able to continue their academic research and activities in the faculty and they will play vital roles in the launch and delivery of the upcoming first Master's program in midwifery in Rwanda. This will contribute to strengthened midwifery capacity in Rwanda as the University produces well qualified midwives to save the lives of mothers and newborns.



In collaboration with the Rwanda Association of Midwives (RAM), UNFPA contributed to improved midwifery skills among in-service midwives through training and mentorship sessions. A total of 536 Master Trainers, Facilitators and Champions increased their knowledge and skills on Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) and HMS (Helping Mothers Survive (HMS)). In addition, UNFPA provided a total of 50 anatomical models to all midwifery schools across the country to facilitate hands-on and practical sessions of 338 midwifery students and address the gaps of potential malpractices.

ENDING INCIDENCE OF OBSTETRIC FISTULA CASES IN RWANDA



UNFPA contributed to the integration of obstetric fistula prevention and management across maternal health services in health facilities. A total of 40 health providers benefited from trainings that increased their knowledge and skills on prevention, screening and appropriate management of obstetric fistula. This will in turn contribute to ending incidences of Obstetric Fistula in Rwanda.



TOWARDS ENDING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

According to the most recent Demographic and Health Survey (DHS-VI), Unmet need for family planning increased from 36% in 2000 to 39% in 2005, then declined consistently to 14% in 2019-2020. During the last 5 years, the use of modern methods has increased from 48% to 58%, and the total demand for contraception has increased from 72% to 78%. Demand satisfied with modern methods has increased from 66% to 75% during the same period.

KEY RESULTS



45,000 Community Health Workers countrywide are benefiting from the contribution of 40 Community Health Workers Master Trainers, equipped with skills to scale up delivery of essential health services.



In 128 health facilities, 152 health service providers increased their capacity on family planning service provision.



Capacity of 929 health providers were simultaneously strengthened: 802 health service providers were capacitated to deliver DMPA-SC and 127 trainers skilled to provide quality Hormonal IUD services.



1,265,950 Couples were protected from unintended pregnancies IN 2021. More than 330,000 of those protected couples are attributed to the contraceptives procured by UNFPA.



9,013 people received Family Planning methods through community outreach sessions..

DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES SCALED UP



A total of 40 Community Health Workers (CHWs) were equipped with skills to scale up delivery of essential health services to the underserved population including management of medical emergencies using the newly developed competency based training manuals. The 40 trained, together with others who will be trained in each district, will support the capacity building of 45,000 Community Health Workers countrywide who play a central role in the delivery of health services across the country.

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY OF HEALTH FACILITIES TO DELIVER FAMILY PLANNING (FP) SERVICES



UNFPA contributed to building capacities of health facilities to deliver quality Family Planning (FP) services. FP method mix and choices were expanded including permanent methods through upskilling of 16 medical doctors and 2 midwives to deliver various FP service choices including the newly introduced FP methods. In 128 health facilities, 152 mentee health service providers increased their capacities on FP service provision through mentorship by 36 district-based mentors, including in secondary health posts and private clinics networks.

QUALITY FP SERVICES INCLUDING THE NEWLY INTRODUCED CONTRACEPTIVES



As the new Family Planning methods (DMPA-SC and Hormonal IUD) were smoothly introduced in Rwanda, capacity of health providers were simultaneously strengthened: 802 health service providers were capacitated to deliver DMPA-SC and 127 trainers skilled to provide quality Hormonal IUD services. The trained health care providers will in return, train more than 500 additional health providers who will deliver quality Family Planning services in 30 districts hence contributing to increase FP uptake and reduce unmet need for FP across the country.

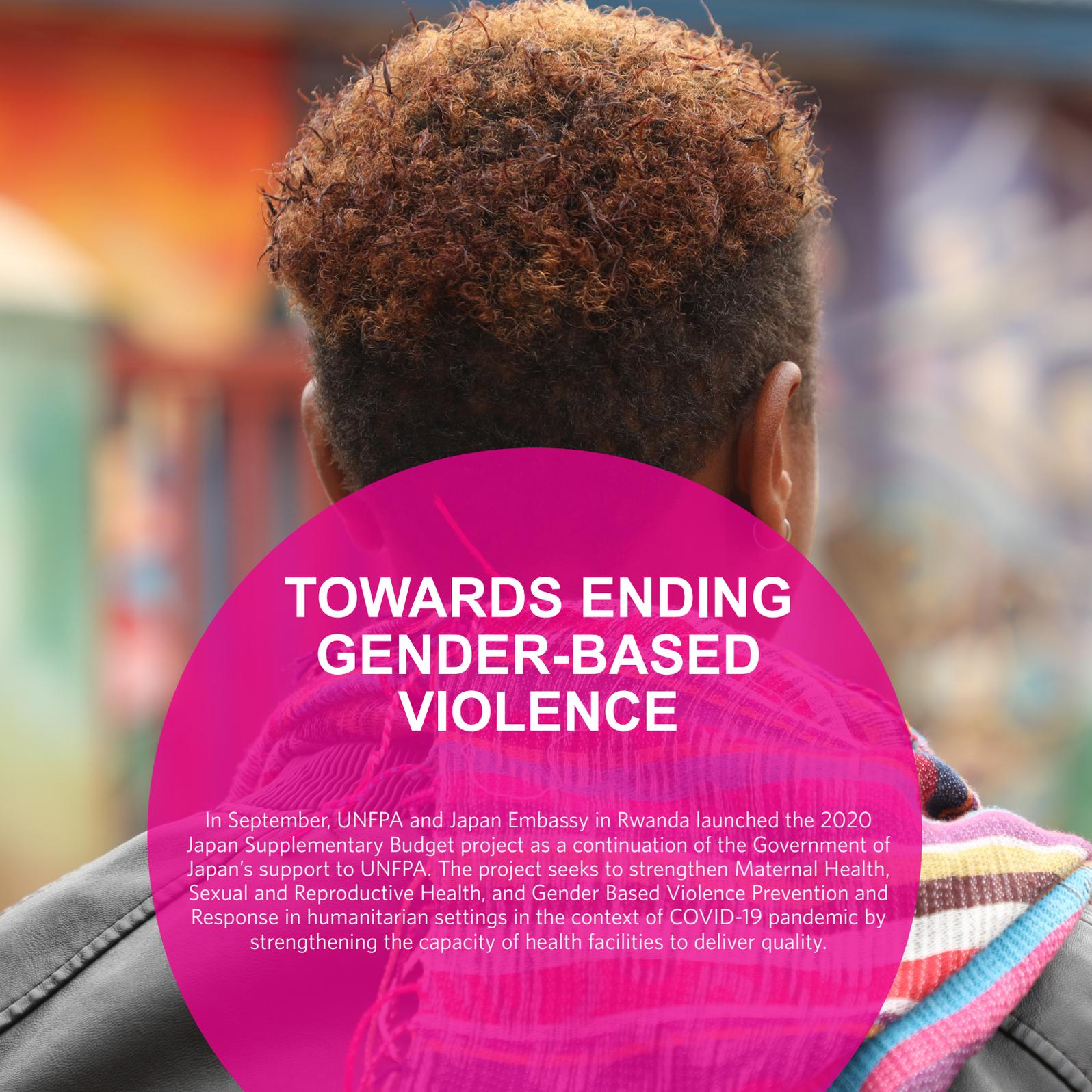


UNFPA and other partners supported the Government of Rwanda/ the Ministry of Health to procure contraceptives and life-saving medicines towards the reduction of maternal mortality and ensure the rights for all in SRH. The Couple Years of Protection (CYP) based upon the volume of all contraceptives procured are estimated at 1,265,950 CYP during a year period of 2021, of which more than 330,000 CYP are attributed to the contraceptives procured by UNFPA.

INCREASED UPTAKE OF FAMILY PLANNING VIA COMMUNITY



Through community outreach sessions, 9,013 people received Family Planning (FP) methods. The outreach was aimed at bringing FP services closer to people and reaching the furthest behind in both urban and rural areas. This contributed to increased method choice to all including the youth, men, women, persons with disability and those in the humanitarian context, while also protecting their privacy and addressing the missed opportunity in Post- Partum FP.



TOWARDS ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In September, UNFPA and Japan Embassy in Rwanda launched the 2020 Japan Supplementary Budget project as a continuation of the Government of Japan's support to UNFPA. The project seeks to strengthen Maternal Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response in humanitarian settings in the context of COVID-19 pandemic by strengthening the capacity of health facilities to deliver quality.

KEY RESULTS



56,895 people in refugee camps increased knowledge on GBV prevention and case reporting.



GBV prevention and response was strengthened in Kiziba camp through construction of a GBV safe room.



300 vulnerable girls and women benefited from psychosocial support through group counseling sessions.



Through the innovative remote management of GBV cases, 124 GBV survivors received referrals to GBV services and 188 GBV cases were managed.

GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS



UNFPA contributed to increased knowledge on GBV prevention and case reporting amongst 56,895 people in refugee camps. This was in collaboration with Community Activists who conducted home visits and awareness raising using loudspeakers.



GBV prevention and response was strengthened in Kiziba camp through construction of a GBV safe room. Once completed, the facility will offer additional rooms and space to provide quality support and services to women and girls affected by GBV in humanitarian settings.



A total of 124 GBV survivors received referrals to GBV services and 188 GBV cases were remotely managed by GBV case managers through phone calls using mobile phones provided by UNFPA. This ensured continuity in GBV services even during the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns. In addition, a total of 300 vulnerable girls and women benefited from psycho-social support through group counseling sessions and individual counseling targeting First Time Young Mothers (FTYMs) in six refugee camps.



EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO ATTAIN THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

With funding support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the aid agency of the Government of Republic of Korea, and in partnership with the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth and Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, and the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), UNFPA is implementing a 3-year project named "the Healthy & Empowered Youth" in the three districts of Rusizi, Karongi, and Nyamasheke, as well as in the refugee camps of Mahama, Kigeme, Mugombwa, Kiziba, Gihembe, Nyabiheke, and their host communities, with the aim to empower adolescents and Youth in Rwanda to realize their human right to equality sexual and reproductive health, and freedom from violence and discrimination.

KEY RESULTS



1,831,035 young people reached with SRHR and GBV messages, increasing their awareness on prevention and response.



155,346 adolescents and youth utilized youth friendly services at youth corners in Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi districts and the Refugee Camps.



269,200 adolescents and youth reached with SRHR and GBV messages, through the Orange campaign.



1,010 adolescents and youth Living with disabilities received sexual and reproductive health services and information.



4 best innovative solutions have been selected and awarded, through iAccelerator initiative, to address ASRH, disability inclusion and young people's mental health using innovative ideas.



1,831,035 young people were reached with SRHR and GBV messages at national and subnational level, increasing their awareness on SRHR and GBV prevention and response.



155,346 adolescents and youth utilized youth friendly services at youth corners in Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi districts and the Refugee Camps of Gihembe, Kigeme, Kiziba, Mahama, Mugombwa, and Nyabiheke.



UNFPA supported **AfriYAN Rwanda** (African Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development Rwanda Chapter), an umbrella youth network of 21 youth organizations, in enhancing their capacity to mainstream SRHR, GBV and economic empowerment into their interventions as well as to advocate and demand accountability for progress relating to national SRHR commitments. Consequently, 269,200 adolescents and youth were reached through the Orange Campaign marking the 16 Days of Activism against GBV through youth-led activities delivered by **AfriYAN Rwanda** including by 35 young influencers trained on gender concepts and issues.



1,010 adolescents and youth Living with disabilities received sexual and reproductive health services and information during the commemoration of the 2021 International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



2021 marked the third year of the iAccelerator initiative that provides a platform for youth to address ASRH, disability inclusion and young people's mental health using innovative ideas. Phase 3 was successfully completed with the awarding of 4 best innovative solutions, thereby bringing the total number of iAccelerator start-ups from 7 to 11.



SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLANS

Since March 2020, UNFPA through the One UN in Rwanda is supporting the National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan with a focus on continuity of sexual and reproductive health services, including the protection of the health workforce, addressing gender-based violence (GBV), and ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities.



UNFPA contributed \$526,191 as part of the One UN support to the National Prevention and Response Plan. In addition, UNFPA provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) worth over \$110,000 towards protection of frontline health workers providing SRH services amidst the pandemic. These included: 156,040 Surgical masks, 10,240 Respiratory masks, 2,400 Examination gloves and 2000 Bottles of Hand sanitizers. The support contributed to continuity of SRH and GBV service while ensuring the safety of the health service providers amidst COVID-19 context, including in humanitarian settings.



UNFPA contributed to increased awareness on COVID-19 prevention through support to the nation-wide communication campaign 'SHISHOZA campaign' under the leadership of the Rwanda Biomedical Centre. UNFPA's support focused on awareness raising on continuity of SRH essential and lifesaving services amidst the pandemic and production of different communication materials.



With the support of the **Government of Sweden**, UNFPA contributed to enhancing the quality of midwifery profession as well as COVID-19 preparedness and response in Rwanda. Through UNFPA's assistance an International Expert Midwife was deployed to the National COVID-19 Command Post supporting case management particularly for pregnant women under home based care. The mid-wife also provided midwifery services at Muhima hospital, one of hospitals with the busiest maternity services, and mentorship to midwives and midwifery students.



Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

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