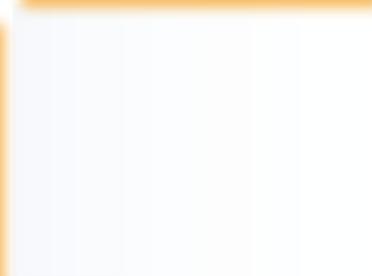
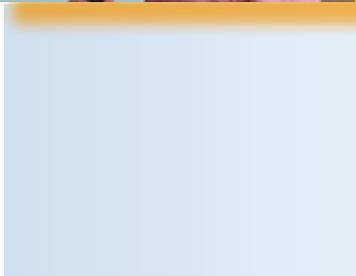
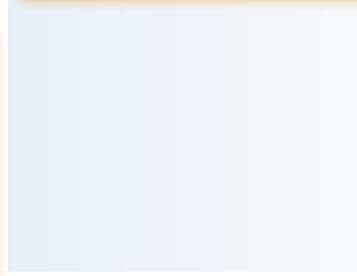




World Population Week 2010 Review



Everyone counts



Mr. John Rwangombwa
Minister of Finance and
Economic Planning

"As we celebrate the World Population Day, we don't consider Rwandans as an issue of numbers and statistics but we talk numbers emphasizing the quality of their lives."

"Every country counts its people. The numbers tell decision-makers about current and future needs".



Ms. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid,
Executive Director, UNFPA



Mr. Aurélien Agbenonci,
UN Rwanda Resident Coordinator

"Data that is sorted by gender and age can foster increased responsiveness by national decision-makers to the rights and needs of their intended beneficiaries".

A message from the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNFPA Rwanda Representative on the celebration of the world population day 2010

World Population Day was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989 as a way to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues. It grew out of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.

This year's World Population Day highlights the importance of data for development and the theme is "Everyone counts". The focus is on the 2010 round of the Population and Housing Census.

Today, on 11 July 2010 the world population is estimated to be 6.8 billion. Counting everyone is an integral part of ensuring that we take everyone into account. To be counted is to become visible. Good demographic data is critical for planning schools, health systems and public transportation, for designing policies based on future population projections, for monitoring the effectiveness of service delivery and much more.

Chapter XII of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action highlights the importance of valid, reliable, timely, culturally relevant and internationally comparable data for policy and programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Further, research is instrumental in order to increase people's access to a wider range of safe and effective methods for regulation of fertility. Also, data is crucial in order to conduct social and economic research, which is needed to enable programmes to take into account the views of their intended beneficiaries, especially women, adolescents and other less empowered groups. Data that is sorted by gender and age can foster increased responsiveness by national decision-makers to the rights and needs of women and youth and help build a more equitable and prosperous society.

The numbers that emerge from data collection can illuminate important trends. What striking situation does research reveal in Rwanda? What do the numbers tell us about progress toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals? Are certain groups left behind? Only by considering the needs of all women and men, girls and boys, can we achieve the MDGs and advance the shared values of the United Nations moreover public access to data contributes to transparency and accountability.



Minister states that “Everyone counts.”

Youth, women, men, elderly and children should all be considered at each phase of planning for development. This was a statement made by Honorable John Rwangombwa, Rwandan Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN).

Honorable Rwangombwa made this statement during the World Population Week’s press conference where MINECOFIN and UNFPA stressed the importance of data to media practitioners.

“Rwanda’s Vision 2020 objective of transforming our country into a middle-income nation in which Rwandans are healthier, educated and more prosperous, cannot be achieved and regularly monitored without using quality statistics in designing appropriate development policies.” said Minister Rwangombwa.

With reference to the importance of data, Mr. Cheikh Fall, the UNFPA Rwanda Deputy Representative said that generating, analyzing and disseminating population data is a critical process for sound and successful development policies and programmes.

“Good data is essential for making good decisions for development and to accelerate progress towards the MDGs”, said Mr. Fall. “UNFPA helps the UN system—and the world -track results because at UNFPA, data matters”, he reaffirmed.

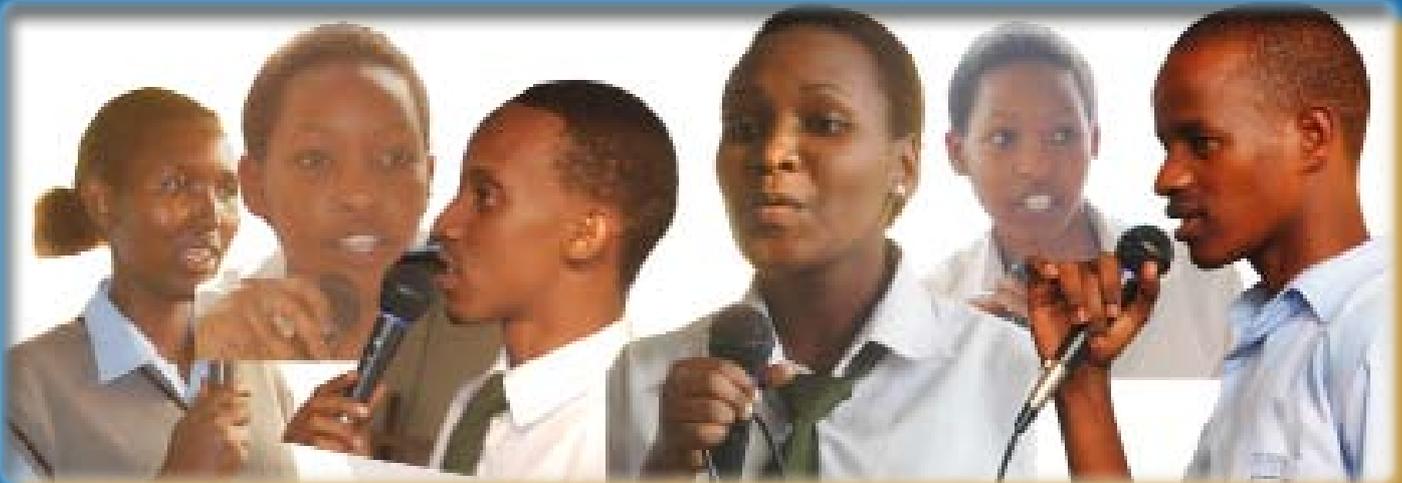
Family planning: a priority in Rwanda: Ministers affirmed

Family planning was recognized as a priority need in Rwanda during a live televised call-in talk show that winded up World Population Week celebrations. The four Ministers who were on the panel to respond to Rwandan's concerns. These weere: Hon. John Rwangombwa, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr. Richard Sezibera, Minister of Health, Hon. Protais Mitali, Minister of Youth and Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamaliya, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion.

They all rejoiced the steps made by Rwanda in the area of the contraceptive use: prevalence rate impressively increased from 10% in 2005 to 45.1% in 2009.(Health Management Information System 2nd semester).They also reaffirmed that the vast majority of maternal and newborn deaths can be prevented if all women have access to family planning, a skilled attendant at delivery, and emergency obstetric care when needed.



Students talk



“All adolescents should have access to all modern contraceptives.”

The population of Rwanda is very young. The percentage of the population aged less than 15 is 46.3% whereas the percentage of the population less than 25 is 67% .

A focus on adolescents and youth, and on their sexual and reproductive rights and needs, can have interesting and positive consequences.

Young people usually report that their first sexual intercourse “just happened” and that they were not planning to have sex at the time.

12.1 % of girls aged 15-19 in Rwanda have already had sexual intercourse and in some districts the percentage goes to 20.4; 17.3% of these girls in urban areas are not married. (DHS:2005).

Current data also suggest that the average year of first sexual intercourse for females is 20.3 and more than two-thirds (77%) of males have had intercourse by their 25th birthday.

Unfortunately, adolescents and young people still have little access to contraceptives.

During the World Population week, the UN, Population desk of MINECOFIN and partners have organized a debate among secondary school students on effective use of contraceptives among adolescents boys and girls.

During the debate, the students from four Schools (FAWE girls School, Lycée de Kigali, Kabuga High School and King David Academy) discussed whether all adolescents should have access to modern contraceptives.



Leaders commit

“Good data is essential for making good decisions.”



Local leaders have pledged to reinforce civil registration as a source of reliable statistics and data in our ‘dynamic’ Rwanda. That resolution came up as one of the recommendations of the World Population Day meeting that gathered officials of Association of local Government Authorities (RALGA), National Institute of Statistics (NISR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and leaders from Burera, Musanze, Gakenke, Huye Nyamagabe and Gisagara districts.



According to Bonane Nyangezi, the Mayor of Musanze district, civil registration is the only reliable and permanent source of data that can facilitate planning and development.

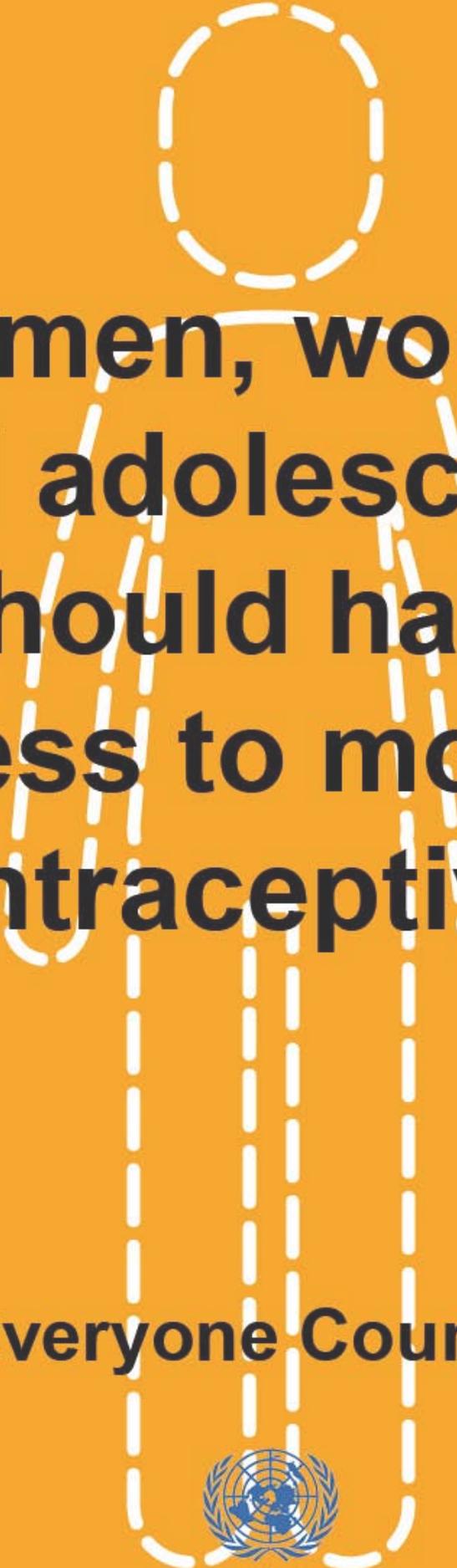
“Every birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption needs to be counted and registered to facilitate a better and consistent planning of our districts”, said Nyangezi.



Quality data is at the heart of any evidence-based policy making decision process. Without such data, we fail to link population dynamics, economy and poverty reductions’ strategies”, said John Rwangombwa, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning during a live televised call-in talk show that winded up World Population Week celebrations.

UNFPA has started distributing computers that will facilitate civil registration in all 416 sectors of Rwanda.





**All men, women
and adolescents
should have
access to modern
contraceptives.**

Everyone Counts



Donation



In a series of activities to mark the World Population Week, UNFPA donated three Ambulances, worth US \$ 161,799 (Rfw 94,590,963), to the Government of Rwanda. These Ambulances will boost the country's efforts in reducing maternal and infant mortality. On the photo, Dr. Bonaventure Nzeyimana, an official of Ministry of Health, is receiving the donation from Cheikh Fall, the Deputy Representative of UNFPA.



UNFPA also donated a batch of ICT equipment comprised of 30 computers, 30 printers and 30 UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) to the Ministry of Health. The cost of this equipment is estimated to US \$ 45,177 (Rwf 25,750,890). These will assist district pharmacies across the country to computerize reproductive health commodities.

UNFPA: Working for a better Rwanda

UNFPA has been operating in Rwanda since 1975. From that time on, it has been successful in advancing and advocating for Reproductive Health and Rights, Gender, Population and Development in Rwanda.

Currently UNFPA is implementing its sixth cycle of assistance through a country programme that covers 15 districts. The sixth Country Programme was designed in the context of the “UN Delivering as One” process to last for five years and to assist Rwanda in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The programme was developed in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and other UN agencies and is based on: the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Rwanda Vision 2020 and the Economic development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS).

The Rwanda-UNFPA cooperation programme focuses on:

Reproductive Health: UNFPA assists the government of Rwanda to ensure the availability of reproductive health services as well as youth friendly HIV preventive services. UNFPA also supports the Government in revising, developing, disseminating and implementing national policies, strategies and guidelines that improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the health system, particularly related to reproductive health.

Population and Development: UNFPA assists the government to increase the use of high-quality, disaggregated data to guide policy, socio-economic planning and monitoring.

Gender and Human Rights: UNFPA supports the government of Rwanda sensitizing all public and private institutions to apply gender equality standards in their performance, practices and behaviour. UNFPA seeks to enhance the rights of women and young girls, strengthen the response to gender-based violence, and promote women’s social, political and economic empowerment.



UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.



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RWANDA
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UNFPA Rwanda Country Office

Aurore Building, Umuganda Avenue, Kacyiru, Kigali,
Republic of Rwanda,

TEL: (250)252 58 30 03; 252 583010; 252 58 55 51

FAX:(250)252582501

E-mail:Rwanda@unfpa.org

website: <http://rwanda.unfpa.org>