

Accelerating THE PROMISE





Towards ending unmet need for **FAMILY PLANNING**



Increased resources and partnerships for results.

The Parliament through the Rwanda Parliamentary Network on Population and Development (RPRPD) and UNFPA convened a high-level Partners' Advocacy meeting to review progress, assess gaps, and recommit to the Cairo promise with focus on family planning in Rwanda.

A number of Resolutions were derived from discussions. Among others: Revise existing laws and policies to facilitate young people's access on Sexual and Reproductive Health services; increase domestic budgetary allocation to Family Planning programs and activities; encourage Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) to raise awareness and promote Family Planning to their followers; and to collaborate with all Partners in Family Planning to establish complimentary programs.





Increased investment in Family planning

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) has committed to managing the population through, among other things, increasing the uptake of contraception and reducing fertility level as documented in the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2013-2018) and National Strategy for Transformation. To achieve this, the Government aims to focus at a sustained campaign on voluntary family planning, increasing the uptake of (modern) contraceptive methods for both men and women, and improving the living conditions of Rwandans through universal access to health and basic education.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Enabel the Business Case for Family Planning in Rwanda was developed to provide an evidence base on the returns on investment in Family Planning in Rwanda.

The business case seeks to uncover what returns Rwanda will get from investing US\$1 in the Family Planning programme:

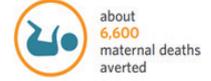
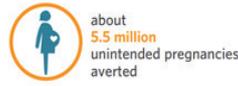
On average, between 2015 and 2050, every US\$1 invested in Family Planning could yield US\$112 in returns or savings across many sectors. The savings can be used to finance other developmental activities within or between sectors in Rwanda.

The business case unpacks the monetary savings that accrue to different sectors in Rwanda.

Many sectors will benefit from investments in Family Planning in Rwanda. The health sector's benefits (over 48%) are the greatest. Education (28%) and the economy (20%) will make substantial savings by investing in family planning. Although the share of financial savings accruing to the infrastructure (urbanization) and agricul-

ture sectors are less than 3% each, they are still substantial in Rwanda.

By 2023



Increased number of new users of FP programme

UNFPA supported a number of interventions aiming at improving quality of care in family planning services as well as demand creation. UNFPA in collaboration with Ministry of Health (MoH) / Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), Imbuto Foundation and other partners supported the Maternal Child Health week and its flagship campaign BAHONEZA. This campaign coupled sensitization and service provision, in total 35803 new users of family planning were enrolled in the program.





Towards ending MATERNAL DEATHS



Making pregnancy and delivery safer

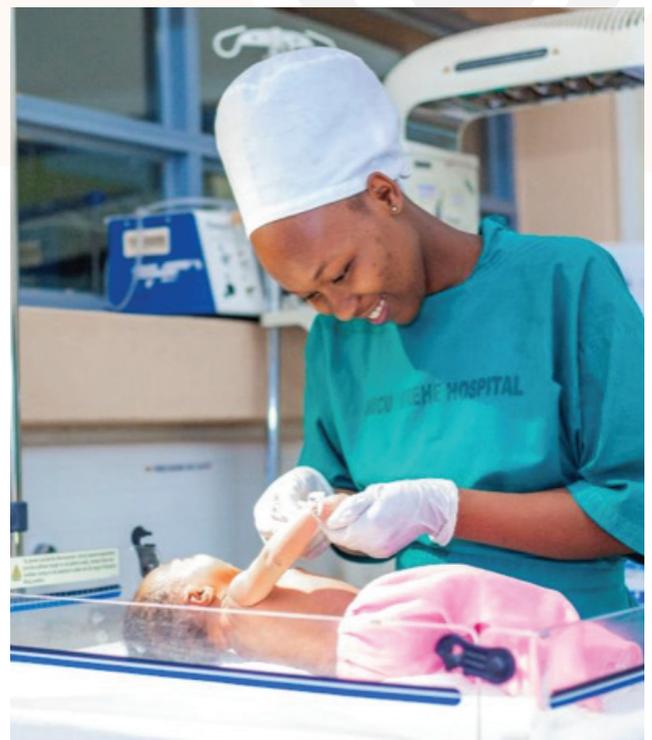
No woman should die while giving life. UNFPA works with midwives and medical associations to ensure safe motherhood and positive outcomes for both mothers and babies, and create an environment where midwives complement formal health services and are seen by both mothers and medical practitioners as a crucial part of maternal health care.

Midwives — Defenders of Human Rights

Building Capacity in midwifery

In preparation for the upcoming first Master's program of Midwifery in Rwanda, UNFPA supported the capacity building of various midwifery training institutions including providing 6 scholarships (5 for Masters and 1 PHD) to faculty members of

the midwifery department at the University of Rwanda. This will enable the University of Rwanda to avail qualified academic staff ready to run the new program of Masters in midwifery.



Supporting innovation in midwifery through digital technology and policy

UNFPA Rwanda supported the Rwanda National Council of Nurses and Midwives (NCNM) to develop and launch a web-based application that enables the council to provide a platform to facilitate for license applications, continuous professional development, and monitoring the mobility of nurses and midwives, among others.

This application will increase the managerial capacity of the council to better collect and analyze data on human resources for

health and increase evidence based planning towards achieving equity in deployment. UNFPA also supported the expansion of Mobile Learning System (MLS) in new 26 health facilities across the District of Karongi to ensure smooth transfer of midwifery knowledge and skills in a sustainable manner.

The portable Mobile Learning System (MLS) is an innovative approach to improving access to quality training for midwives and health workers in remote low resourced settings with poor infrastructure, erratic electricity, poor internet connectivity and lack of trained tutors, thereby improving the health outcomes in communities.



Putting Young People FIRST



Transforming Education to Empower Young People

3 ways UNFPA is Transforming Education in Rwanda to Empower Young People

Making education more relevant.

Through applications like [Tantine](#), developed by one of the winners of the first round of [UNFPA's Innovation Accelerator \(iAccelerator\) programme](#), youth-friendly education on sexual and reproductive health is available to youth in Rwanda

in an easily accessible and engaging format.

Making education more equitable.

Through the [First Time Young Mothers programme](#), implemented by the Imbuto Foundation since 2017, UNFPA has supported over 400 young mothers and their children in accessing an integrated package of interventions, with the long-term objective of increasing access and information to sexual and reproductive health services.



Making education more inclusive.

In July 2019, in partnership with key advocates of SRHR, UNFPA led a [Youth Traveling Caravan](#) in Rwanda to mobilise youth through five key districts, reaching over 7,000 community members. Led by young advocates including AfriYAN Rwanda, the Youth Travelling Caravan gathered stories and testimonies on key issues affecting young people's access to SRHR, including collective creative ideas on how to expand SRHR education in school and beyond. This culminated in a youth communique to accelerate the unfinished business on ICPD Programme of Action.



advocating for the removal of barriers that hinder young people from accessing ASRH information and services.

Youth participation and engagement have resulted in getting support from the Rwanda Prime Minister's office to revise the Reproductive Law mainly to remove the age of consent for young people to access ASRH information and services.



Capacity building of Youth Organizations

UNFPA supported 21 youth-led organizations under the umbrella of AfriYAN (African Youth and Adolescents Network) through capacity building of the network.

This programme enabled youth within the network to be vocal in advocating for Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRH&R),

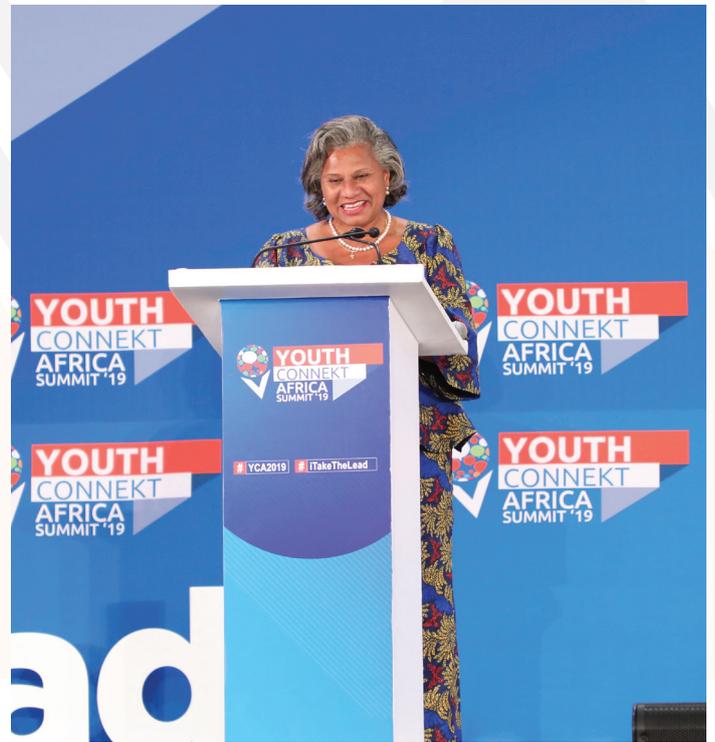




Youth Connekt Africa Summit 2019

Hosted by Rwanda's Ministry of Youth, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) from 9 to 11 October in Kigali, Rwanda,

The Youth Connekt Summit, under the theme, "Boosting an Industrious Young Africa" provided a great platform and audience to discuss exactly how and why youth health, employment and economic empowerment are deeply interconnected and why investing in youth is central to the achievement of the SDGs.



Building on 2017-18 engagement, UNFPA in 2019 led two sessions to highlight the important links between youth health and well-being, in particular around the critical issue of teenage pregnancy, and economic empowerment and development. Dr Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA's Regional Director for East and Southern Africa (ESAR), was among the high-level delegates at the Summit, participating both as panelist and guest of honor across several events.





In between sessions, the RD made time to engage with the Rwanda CO staff to learn about their journey and successes in shifting from service delivery to upstream policy results, as well with youth, in person at Youth Connekt, and virtually during the scheduled Live Tweet session. Both of these opportunities provided a forum for reflection and discussion on key priorities for the Rwanda's 8th Country Programme (CP).





"I commend you for your contribution to programmes, such as the Innovation Accelerator. Your work with us, is a significant contribution to our national efforts, in empowering youth in Rwanda" Said the First Lady of Rwanda Mrs Jeannette Kagame , at the I Accelerator II Awarding Ceremony.



Youth-driven solutions to teen pregnancy

UNFPA believes it is critical to invest in youth-led innovation by providing targeted & enabling support to youth-led organizations & initiatives to pilot new models & interventions to ensure that we do raise a healthy generation.

In 2019, implemented by Imbuto Foundation in partnership with UNFPA, the Ministry of Youth & Culture and KOICA, the iAccelerator Phase 2 sought to generate innovative, youth-led solutions for youth in Rwanda, to have increased utilization of health services and adopt healthy attitudes & behaviors. The given challenge of I Accelerator Phase 2 was **"Availing Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health information & services as a way of preventing teenage pregnancies"** following the pitching, the best 3 solutions were awarded USD 10,000 each as seed capital for their businesses and will receive 3 months of mentorship and training.



Women and INNOVATION



“Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change”

“The “Girls Take Over”

The “Girls Take Over” Initiative was aimed at providing a shadowing experience to young women in Rwanda, drawing on the evidence that having role models and career advice at an early age can be a game changer for young women and their achievements in the world of work.

Through the Initiative, 20 young girls spent half a day in various Institutions and Businesses with the view to get first-hand professional experience and follow the daily responsibilities of leaders in various sectors.

UNFPA’s Girls Take Over Initiative hosted Anisie Byukusenge from the Rwandan Organization of Women with Disabilities (UNABU).

Anisie is a Rwanda youth leader who served as UNFPA Representative for the half day as part of the shadowing experience.

She is passionate about Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)/Gender Based Violence (GBV) affecting women with disabilities.

Anisie and her fellow young girls who participated in job shadowing in different institutions benefited from the opportunity to interact with high profile leaders in international organisations, Embassies, and in the private sector to learn about a leader’s day-to-day responsibilities and enabled them to decide whether, and the avenues to use in order to embrace such career paths.





Leaving no one **BEHIND!**



Access for female sex workers to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services.

UNFPA supported the integration of Key Population friendly services including female sex workers in the public health system. In 2019, UNFPA built the capacity of 19 health facilities including 4 from Nyamasheke and Rusizi, 19 out of 35 health service providers have been trained to help female sex workers access sexual and reproductive health and HIV services.



First Time Young Mothers (FTYMs)

Teenage pregnancy and early motherhood takes enormous effects on girls' education, discrimination, stigmatization, and low income earning potential which leads to continuous poverty. Most girls who become pregnant are forced to drop out of school and are more likely to become pregnant again when not given the right information and services.

Through the First Time Young Mothers (FTYMs) Programme implemented with Imbuto Foundation, 246 teen mothers from Rubavu district were able to access socio-economic support. Furthermore, the programme was scaled up to Rusizi district in 2019 and 154 teen mothers from Rusizi district are now accessing socio-economic support as well.





ICPD25
International Conference on
Population and Development



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Unfinished business

World Population Day (WPD)

On July 11th, 2019, Rwanda joined the world in celebrating World Population Day (WPD) with the rural community of Rusizi District to reach the last mile. Under the theme “25 Years of the ICPD: Accelerating the Promise”, the celebration renewed focus on the unfinished business of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Remarkable gains made since the Conference were celebrated, UNFPA and partners recognized how progress and best practices have built the foundation upon which to reach the last mile where Family Planning uptake and other Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services are lagging behind.



Rwanda's Road to the Nairobi Summit

Under the leadership of the Government of Rwanda and UNFPA, August's Umuganda was dedicated to the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the 50th Anniversary of UNFPA). It was an opportunity to recognize advancements made in family planning policies and programmes, encourage citizens to embrace family planning, and

acknowledge the importance of identifying when and how many children to have according to one's available resources and capacity, not by chance but by choice.



The value of the road, constructed in less than 4 hours, was estimated at 7 million Rwandan Francs (about 7,000 USD), a contribution appreciated by local leaders and community.



Youth Travelling Caravan



The Youth Travelling Caravan was one of the activities on Rwanda's road to Nairobi Summit. It kicked off in Rusizi District and included a 10-day mass outreach campaign around Family Planning and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi, and Muhanga Districts, which ended in Kigali City on Car Free Sunday. Through community mobilisation efforts the Travelling Caravan reached over 7,000 community members with SRHR messages and services - 579 people were tested for HIV and 223 clients received family planning methods.



Nairobi Summit



The Nairobi summit on ICPD25 was convened by the governments of Kenya and Denmark and UNFPA to mobilize the political will and financial commitments to finally and fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action.

Rwanda, represented by over 20 delegates including H.E the First Lady Mrs Jeannette Kagame, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of State/Health, UNFPA Rwanda, Media, Youth, and CSOs, renewed its commitments to transform the world by ending maternal deaths and unmet needs for family planning, gender based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030.

Rwanda commitments were presented, at the summit, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Dr Vincent Biruta. Rwanda, as the current chair, also delivered EAC commitments presented by the State Minister in the Ministry of Health Dr Patrick Ndimubanzi who also participated in different sessions of the summit as the key speaker.



"To attain zero unmet need for family planning, zero maternal deaths and zero violence and harmful practices against women and girls, including child marriage and female genital mutilation, we must work toward a mindset shift about women's rights over their own bodies, and their future," said H.E First Lady Jeannette Kagame during the high-level dialogue on women leadership at Nairobi Summit.



Towards ending SEXUAL TRANSMISSION OF HIV

International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa



Under the theme: “AIDS FREE AFRICA - Innovation, Community, and Political Leadership”, the 20th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) was held in Kigali Rwanda, from the 2nd to 7th December. Organized by the Society for AIDS in Africa, in close collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, UNFPA, and UNAIDS, ICASA aimed at promoting community, scientific, and technological innovations for ending AIDS.

Officially opened by H.E President Paul Kagame joined by H.E Filipe Nyusi President of Mozambique and Mr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus the Director General of the World Health Organization, ICASA brought together nearly 8,000 delegates from different African countries.

The conference covered a wide range of issues related to HIV, infectious diseases, human rights and treatment, and dubbed a resounding success.



“We have had the opportunity to foster rich conversations, identify challenges and learn from the sessions that have taken place. At the beginning of this conference, we identified three main pillars: innovation, community and political leadership. We must continue building on this leadership, with the support of our partners, to accelerate progress and attain results,”: Rwanda's Minister of Health, Dr. Diane Gashumba





“The ICASA platform provides a unique opportunity for leaders, scientists, activists and communities to interact, reflect, engage and propose solutions to end the scourge of AIDS in our continent. We achieved this,” said Mabinque Ngom, UNFPA Regional Director for West and Central Africa. “We believe that it’s only through genuine partnership and effective collaboration that we can together end the HIV epidemic,” he added.

Integration of HIV/AIDS and adolescent sexual reproductive health

Mahama Refugee Camp is one of Rwanda’s six refugee camps, that currently hosts over 60,000 Burundian refugees. Nearly 25% of the total refugee population are adolescents and youth between the ages of 10 and 24 (UNHCR, 2019). UNFPA works closely with government, UN agencies and other partners to ensure that reproductive health is integrated into emergency responses, with a particular focus on youth.

Through the financial support provided by The Japanese government, tremendous achievements have been registered including **reduced incidences of maternal health** by strengthening the referral system, 1,388 safe births, 69,734

adults and young people reached with SRH information including HIV, FP and GBV prevention and management.

In support to One UN humanitarian interventions in Rwanda, UNFPA has implemented SRH services in Mahama Refugee camp, including **family planning and HIV/AIDS counseling and testing**, as well as screening and management services for Sexually Transmitted Infections.

In addition to supporting tailored interventions for young people, UNFPA has initiated three permanent **youth friendly centers** managed by a full time midwife in charge of adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Since their establishment, more than 4,311 adolescents and young people have used the SRH clinical services. Furthermore, 262,645 male condoms and 78 female condoms were distributed to young people for prevention of HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancies.

From January 2018 to June 2019, 611 boys and 782 girls were tested for HIV and 58 boys and 167 girls were screened and treated for STIs. Moreover, a total 431 of adolescent girls used **modern contraceptive methods**, and 636,724 male condoms and 78 female condoms were distributed. As community health workers distribute condoms throughout the camp (i.e. in toilets and the youth friendly space), adolescents can access them anonymously and free of charge.



Roadmap to The Nairobi Summit

Launch of the State of the World Population Report 21 June, 2019

ICPD@25 Photo Exhibition 21 June, 2019

World Population Day Celebration 11 July, 2019, in Rusizi District

Youth Travelling Caravan and Car Free Sunday 11-21 July, 2019

ICPD@25 UMUGANDA (Community work) 31 August, 2019

The launch of the i-Accelerator 20 September, 2019

Youth Connekt Africa Summit 9-11 October, 2019

ICASA 2019 2-7 December, 2019

Nairobi Summit 12-14 November, 2019





Looking ahead

In 2020, as we embark on the **Decade of Action for Sustainable Development** to deliver on SDG Agenda 2030. UNFPA Rwanda will work with partners to:

Support the implementation of the Rwanda Commitments to the Nairobi Summit including advocacy for increased domestic allocation to family planning, support legal review to eliminate barriers to adolescents' access to SRH services

Promote Gender Equality and elimination of all forms of sexual and gender violence and harmful practices against women

Support the generation and use of quality data to inform policy and decision making

Promote innovation in SRH including in addressing the high rates of teenage pregnancy

Strengthen partnerships to realize our transformative results:

Zero unmet need for contraception, so every woman and adolescent girl can decide for herself whether or when to get pregnant, and how many children to have.

Zero preventable maternal deaths, so no woman in the world will have to die for want of reproductive health care.

Zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against women.

Zero sexual transmission of HIV.





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

UNFPA, United Nations reproductive health and rights agency

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