2019 Key Results

Ensuring rights and choices for all

Accelerating THE PROMISE
Dear Partners & Friends,

As we start the New Year and Decade, I wish to sincerely thank you for your collaboration and commitment to UNFPA’s work in Rwanda. 2019 was a special year for us with double celebrations of UNFPA’s 50th Anniversary and 25 years since the ground-breaking International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Together we have recommitted to delivering the unfinished promise of the ICPD to ensure and protect rights and choices for all - an agenda that by 2030 will realize zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, zero gender-based violence & harmful practices, and zero sexual transmission of HIV.

Looking back on 2019, our journey celebrated Rwanda’s incredible progress over the last 25 years in delivering the promise of the ICPD, and also shed light on the efforts required to reach the last mile.

Together we engaged wide constituencies across government, civil society, donors, private sector, youth activists, people with disabilities, legislators, UN family, and others thru high-level regional/global forums hosted in the country. Culminating in the Nairobi Summit last November, Rwanda truly shined and demonstrated the highest level of political will and commitment to advancing the ICPD Program of Action.

2020 promises to be another historic year as we embark on the Decade of Action to deliver Agenda 2030. Let us build upon the momentum created to ensure commitments made are commitments delivered. It’s our pleasure to share a few key results over 2019 illustrating the impact of our work together. We count on your continued partnership to accelerate the promise of sexual and reproductive rights and choices for all.

Mark Bryan Schreiner
UNFPA Representative
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 to 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 (2018-2024) 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 when investments made in Family Planning. 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.

Return of Investment

[Diagram showing returns by sector: Health 48.5%, Education 28.4%, Economy 20.1%, Agriculture 2.8%, Urbanisation 0.3%]
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

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.
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 Travelling 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.
Youth participation and engagement have resulted in 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.

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 and role in advocating for the removal of barriers that hinder young people from accessing ASRH information and services.
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, 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 led two sessions in 2019 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, was among the high-level delegates at the Summit, participating both as panelist and guest of honor across several events.

“It is unacceptable that nearly 1 in 5 of our adolescent girls are still getting pregnant. We must maintain a sense of urgency and commit to ending teenage pregnancy. We must together shift from talk to action”. Dr Julitta Onabanjo
In between sessions, the Regional Director made time to engage with Youth Connekt Africa, the Rwanda staff to learn about their journey and successes in shifting from service delivery to upstream policy results. She also engaged with youth, in person at Youth Connekt, and virtually during Live Tweet session. Both of these opportunities provided a forum for reflection and discussion on key priorities for the Rwanda’s 8th Country Programme 2018-2013.
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 to ensure that we do raise a healthy generation. Implemented by Imbuto Foundation in partnership with UNFPA, the Ministry of Youth & Culture and KOICA, the innovation 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 iAccelerator 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.

“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” First Lady of Rwanda Mrs Jeannette Kagame, at the iAccelerator II Awarding Ceremony.
“Girls Take Over”

The “Girls Take Over” Initiative led by UN Women 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 day as part of the shadowing experience.

She is passionate about Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)/Gender Based Violence (GBV) affecting women with disabilities and serving as an advisor to UNFPA Rwanda.

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

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 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.
Unfinished Business

Rwanda’s Road to the Nairobi Summit

On July 11th, 2019, Rwanda joined the world in celebrating World Population Day with the rural community of Rusizi District to reach the last mile where Family Planning uptake and other Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services are lagging behind.

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 Youth Travelling Caravan kicked off in Rusizi District and included a 10-day mass outreach campaign in Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi, and Muhanga Districts. The campaign reached over 7,000 community members with SRHR messages and services - 579 people were tested for HIV and 223 clients received family planning methods.
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.
The Government of Rwanda commits to support universal access to sexual, reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health through the following actions:

- Reduce the maternal mortality
- Reduce neonatal mortality
- Reduce under 5 mortality
- Reduce Unmet need for family planning
- Reduce Teenage pregnancy
- Elimination of the transmission of HIV from mother to child
- Elimination of gender-based violence
Rwanda
Commitments at Nairobi Summit

1. Increase demand for Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health service for all Rwandans through awareness raising, engagement, education, and by expanding the number of health facilities that offer youth friendly services.

2. Ensure that the necessary legislative, policy and strategic frameworks, which provide for all persons to have access to quality integrated health services, are in place.

3. Improve further service delivery, access and uptake of health services in order to increase antenatal attendance, as per the WHO guidelines by 2030, and decrease maternal mortality ratio from 210 to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030, as per the Sustainable Development Goals’ target.

4. Endeavor to increase domestic budgetary allocation for health in line with the Abuja Declaration of 15%.

5. Improve further family planning services delivery, access and uptake by increasing the number of health facilities, skilled healthcare providers and by expanding the available contraceptive method mix, including emergency contraceptives, in order to decrease unmet need for family planning.

6. Strengthen governance systems that use reliable disaggregated Family Planning/Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health data to inform planning, decision making and accountability.
Towards ending SEXUAL TRANSMISSION OF HIV

International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa

in close collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, ICASA aimed at promoting community, scientific, and technological innovations for ending AIDS.

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,

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 Mabingue Ngom, UNFPA Regional Director for West and Central Africa at closing ceremony on behalf of UNAIDS. “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
ICPD@25 UMUGANDA (Community work) 31 August, 2019
World Population Day Celebration 11 July, 2019, in Rusizi District
Youth Travelling Caravan and Car Free Sunday 11-21 July, 2019
The launch of the i-Accelerator 20 September, 2019
ICASA 2019 2-7 December, 2019
Youth Connekt Africa Summit 9-11 October, 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 potential is fulfilled.