

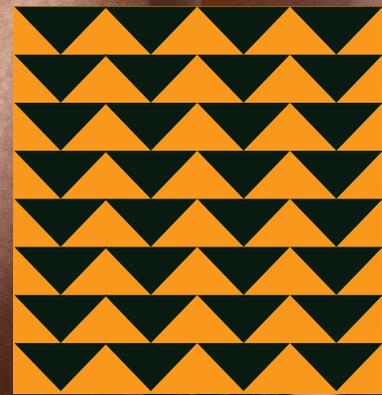
UNFPA Rwanda

Guharanira uburenganzira
n'amahitamo ya buri wese



**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO
ENSURE THE WELLBEING OF
WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 1, 2022



NEW YEAR NEW REPRESENTATION

Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah, the new UNFPA country Representative, joined the Rwanda team in November 2021. On November 17, 2021, he was received in the offices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Vincent Biruta, for his introduction.

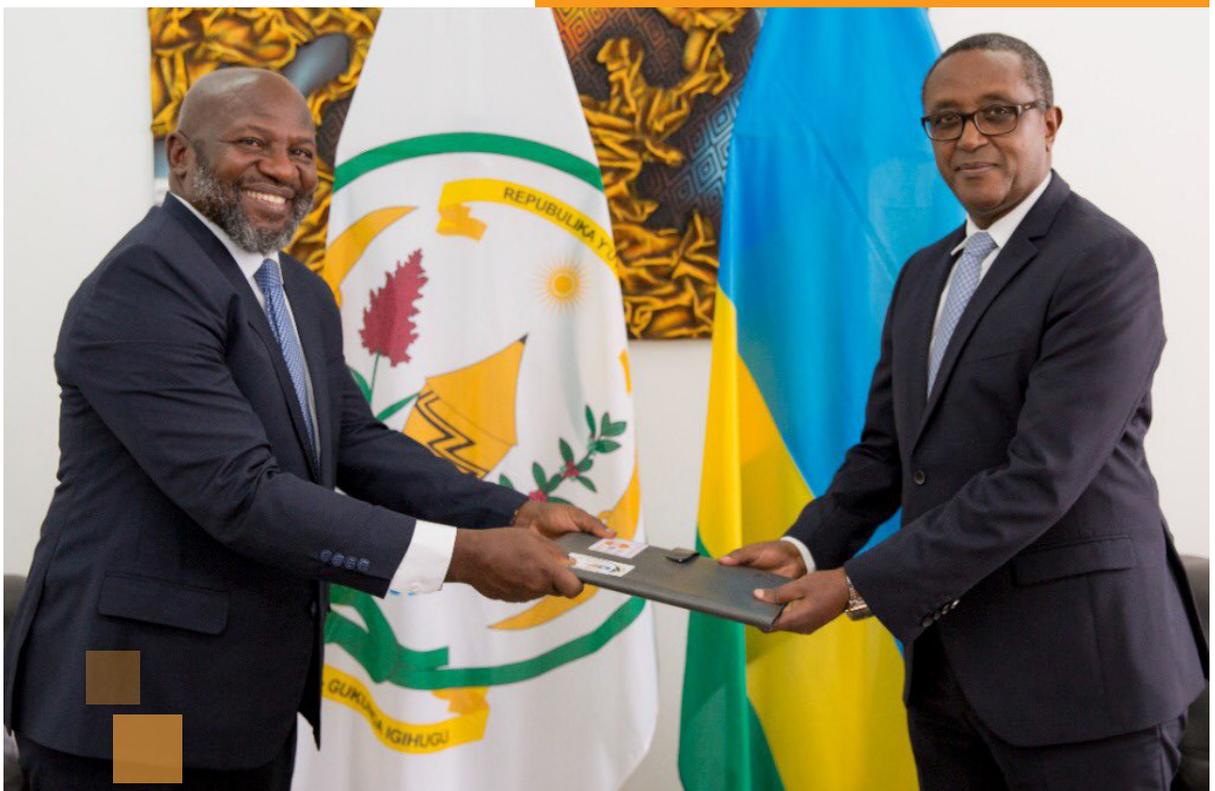
Asante-Ntiamoah expressed his pleasure to join the UNFPA country office team and commended the support of the Government of Rwanda and its leadership in strengthening SRH services towards realizing Rwanda commitments made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD in achieving the SDGs and Africa Union Agenda 2063.

Kwabena served as the Representative a.i. Malaysia & Country Director a.i. Thailand, and also as the Deputy Country Representative of UNFPA in Afghanistan and Cameroon.

Kwabena has over 20 years working experience in peacebuilding, humanitarian and development work. He has worked with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations with the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and brings on board the nexus of linking peace, humanitarian and development. He has managed country portfolios in UNV Headquarters, Bonn, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Sierra Leone and South Sudan.

At the beginning of 2022, Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah paid courtesy visits to different partners to reaffirm UNFPA partnership with their institutions in advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights agenda towards achieving SDGs, and appreciated their commitment to UNFPA mandate.

- **January 19th**, with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Rwanda H.E. CHAE Jin-Weon.
- **January 20th**, with H.E. IMAI, the Ambassador of Japan in Rwanda.
- **January 21st**, with Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette, Minister of Gender and Family promotion.
- **January 21st**, with Ms Johanna Teague, Ambassador of Sweden in Rwanda.
- **January 25th**, with Mr. CHON Gyong-Shik, the Country Director of KOICA Rwanda, the Aid Agency of the Korean Government.
- **February 03rd**, with Hon. Rose Mary Mbabazi, Minister of Youth and Culture.
- **February 09th**, with Dr. Daniel Ngamiye, Minister of Health.
- **February 22nd**, with Hon. Marie Solange Kayisire, Minister in charge of Emergency Management.
- **February 23rd**, with European Union Ambassador to Rwanda Mr. Nicola Bellomo.



SNAPSHOT OF COURTESY VISITS



Meeting Dr. Daniel Ngamiye,
Minister of Health.



Meeting Hon. Marie Solange Kayisire,
Minister in charge of Emergency
Management.



Meeting Prof. Bayisenge Jeannette,
Minister of Gender and Family promotion.



Meeting Hon. Rose Mary Mbabazi,
Minister of Youth and Culture.



Meeting Mr. CHON Gyong-Shik,
the Country Director of KOICA
Rwanda.



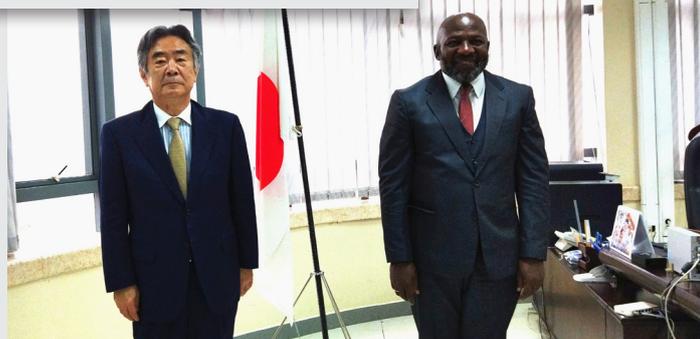
Meeting the European Union
Ambassador to Rwanda Mr. Nicola
Bellomo.



Meeting the Ambassador of the
Republic of Korea in Rwanda
H.E. CHAE Jin-Weon.



Meeting Ms Johanna Teague,
Ambassador of Sweden in Rwanda.



Meeting H.E. IMAI, the Ambassador of
Japan in Rwanda.

ENSURING EVERYONE IS COUNTED



UNFPA SUPPORTS THE PREPARATION OF THE 5TH POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2022

On 21 January 2022, UNFPA donated Laptops and their accessories worth \$333,562 to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), as part of the continuous support to NISR to efficiently conduct the 5th Rwanda Population & Housing Census 2022.

The handed IT equipment will facilitate remote management of field operations while keeping staff protected from COVID19.

"This equipment come at a good time when NISR is preparing for a digital census, the laptops will increase staff capacity to analyze incoming data, easing remote management of field operations and continue to facilitate the safety of staff and to curtail the spread of covid19. We are grateful for UNFPA's long standing relationship and valuable support."

Yusuf Murangwa, NISR Director General.

UNFPA uses its comparative advantages to support the government of Rwanda to generate, analyze and use data on population dynamics to inform planning, policy formulation, implementation and monitoring of interventions in development and humanitarian settings. UNFPA Disaggregated data are crucial to monitor the progress to achieve Sustainable Development goals.

"It is within the UNFPA mandate and mission, to support countries in using population data for policies and programs. UNFPA Rwanda appreciates the work and progress done by NISR, in the preparation of the 5th Population and Housing Census 2022. With this equipment handed over to NISR, we hope to see reliable and timely updated population Data while keeping the staff safe" said Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah, UNFPA Representative.



For the 5th Rwanda Population & Housing Census 2022, Rwanda opted for a digital census using new technology for data collection.

ENSURING EVERY YOUNG PERSON'S POTENTIAL IS FULFILLED



RENEWED HOPE TO ACCESS EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEEN MOTHERS

On 27 January 2022, UNFPA, in partnership with Representatives from the government of the Republic of Korea, and the aid agency of the government of the Republic of Korea, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), conducted the second high-level Joint Monitoring Visit to Kigeme Refugee Camp and Host Communities in Nyamagabe District.

The visit was part of the Healthy & Empowered Youth Project that is being implemented by UNFPA Rwanda in the three districts of Rusizi, Karongi, and Nyamasheke; as well as in the refugee camps of Mahama, Kigeme, Mugombwa, Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and their host communities, with funding support from KOICA.

In the first 18 months of implementation, the Healthy & Empowered Youth Project counts numerous achievements, including in Kigeme

Refugee Camp and host communities around the camp. 56 First-Time Young Mothers (FTYMs) were trained on life skills and income generation. 26 FTYMs received loans to boost their businesses, and 30 were enrolled in a tailoring class at Kigeme TVET school. The 26 young mothers received loans ranging between 50,000 and 150,000 RWF.

The Healthy & Empowered Youth project has also supported the establishment and ongoing functionality of 112 school clubs.

Meeting the beneficiaries allowed the delegation to get first-hand accounts of the beneficiaries' testimonies on how the Project is impacting their lives, and to engage with project stakeholders and jointly discuss areas to improve and scale up the project.



"It is crucial for Rwanda to take a socio-economic advantage from an abundant young population, and in this vein, sound integration of the young vulnerable into the economy and society is a key factor in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth. Korea is grateful to partner with the UNFPA and appreciates its efforts to support the youth in vulnerable situations to access decent education, health and economic opportunity."

Mr CHOI Jongyun Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Korea in Rwanda.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT TO ACHIEVE DEVELOPMENT



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

From 3 to 5 March 2022, Rwanda hosted the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD 8) under the theme: ***“Building forward better: a green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”***.

To stress on the significance of the AfCFTA in achieving gender equality towards achieving SDG 5 and Agenda 2063 in Africa, ECA, ITC and UNFPA, organized on 28th February a side event entitled; ***“AfCFTA as a vehicle for gender equality towards Agendas 2030 and 2063: A normative framework perspective”*** to discuss the ways and prospects to attain gender equality, notably through trade, in the drive to achieve the global and continental goals in question.

A panel of speakers from different countries discussed the role of women’s political participation to support gender responsive legislations and policy making, Barriers to effectively develop and implement gender responsive legislation on the continent, Ways to harness the AfCFTA to fast-track women empowerment and be beneficial to women, Innovative approach on the continent to foster women’s economic empowerment, and the role of young people and youth innovators to African growth.

The deliberations provided a roadmap on women empowerment towards SDGs and aspirations of Agenda 2063 to feed into the broader discussions of this 8th Forum.



In her opening remarks for the event, the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director-P, Dr. Diene Keita emphasized the critical role of the AfCFTA in achieving the SDGs and the Africa Agenda 2063, including SDG 5 and aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063.

“Removal of barriers to trade is key in women’s involvement in trade under AfCFTA. Equally important is access to quality social services, including SRHR services and child care services to free women from the unequal burden of unpaid care work.” She stated.



Addressing the participants, the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion in Rwanda, Honorable Professor Bayisenge Jeanette confirmed that Gender equality and women empowerment are critical for the social, cultural and economic development processes.

“The implementation of the AfCFTA in a gender sensitive way will allow both women and men to benefit from this free trade area” She said.

ENSURING YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO SRH INFORMATION AND SERVICES



SYP PROGRAMME TO CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH STATUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN RWANDA

Launched in May 2021, the SYP programme is being implemented at national level and in the 3 UNFPA supported districts - Rusizi, Nyamasheke and Karongi. The programme intends to greatly contribute to improved Sexual Reproductive Health status of young people by supporting youth and adolescents to access ASRH services, including Menstrual Health, Youth Friendly Services and Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

From the 10th to 11th March 2022, ESARO hosted a two days Safeguard Young People Steering Committee Meeting, in which representatives from 12 countries discussed strategy, planning and best practices concerning Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

In her opening remarks, Beatrice Mutali, Deputy Regional Director / UNFPA ESARO acknowledged the Safeguard Young People Program excellent results in the Sexual and Reproductive Health for adolescents and youth and commended Swiss embassies, the Swiss Development Cooperation and the embassy of Netherlands who made it possible that Safeguard Young People is implemented in four more countries, including Rwanda.

"With Safeguard Young People we combat Gender based violence, we prevent teenage pregnancies, unsafe abortions and harmful practices and with the support of the donors it is possible to spread these important achievements in four more countries" she said.



The Rwanda Delegation was composed of AfriYAN Rwanda, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Rwanda, Rwanda Education Board, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, and UNFPA. They shared their best practice on integrating mental health into Comprehensive sexuality education.

"Comprehensive Sexuality Education prepares Adolescents and Youth to make a smooth transition from childhood to adulthood by imparting knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their lives; quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education can enhance feelings of self-determination, competence, and healthy relationships, which are important for mental health and problem solving abilities." said Ms Rachel Atete, Afriyan Rwanda



ENHANCING PARTNERSHIP FOR FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



ENSURING LIFE-SAVING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Kigali, 18 March 2022, UNFPA handed over maternal health medical equipment, to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian health facilities to deliver quality Sexual and Reproductive Health and maternal health services to women and girls in humanitarian settings.

From July 2021, with funds from the Government and the people of Japan, UNFPA in partnership with AHA, Alight, and Save the Children, is implementing a one-year project entitled: **"Strengthening Maternal, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response in humanitarian settings in the context of COVID-19 pandemic"**.

The project supports to avail additional spaces and equipment for quality provision of maternal health, sexual and reproductive health services while protecting women in reproductive health age using Sexual and Reproductive Health services and the frontline health workers.

The equipment handed over to AHA, Alight, and Save the Children is worth \$ 50,431.32 and includes: hospital beds, bed screens, trolley, stretchers, wheelchairs, Oxygen Concentrators and other crucial equipment for hospitals in humanitarian settings. It will equip safe houses that are being constructed in the refugee camps of Mahama and Kiziba with the generous support from People of Japan.



"The World is currently in an unpredictable situation, and vulnerable people are so often the victims of such situations including people in refugee camps. Rwanda is one of the countries that takes good care of refugees, this is why we decided to financially support all these efforts by stakeholders including UNFPA and other NGOs to ensure the wellbeing of refugees in the camps." H.E Masahiro Imai, the Ambassador of Japan to Rwanda.

"UNFPA would like to thank the people of Japan and the Government of Japan for their generosity and continued support to UNFPA and humanitarian response in Rwanda. We are also grateful to all implementation partners with whom we share the same passion to save lives of women and girls in humanitarian settings" Kwabena Asante Ntiamoah, UNFPA Representative.

REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY



ADDRESSING CAUSES OF PREVENTABLE MATERNAL AND NEONATAL MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY IN RWANDA.

Global maternal mortality remains high, with an estimated 295,000 women dying each year as a result of pregnancy and childbirth-related complications. Although sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest global burden of maternal mortality, Rwanda is among nine countries considered to have made significant progress in improving the health of women and children and is the only country in ESA region to have met both goals of improving maternal health (MDG 5) and reducing child mortality (MDG 4) ahead of time.

Despite the fact that Rwanda has made remarkable changes in reducing maternal, child and neonatal mortality, the country still has a long way to go to achieve the global target of maternal mortality (70 per 100,000 live births) by 2030.

As per Rwanda DHIS 2019-20 data, there were substantial improvements in the percentage of births delivered at a health facility (from 27% to 93%) and the percentage of births attended by skilled providers (from 27% to 94%). Evidence suggests that one way of reducing maternal and early neonatal mortality is by improving the availability, accessibility, quality and use of services for the treatment of complications that arise during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum. These services are collectively known as Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC).

In February 2022, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNFPA organized a 3 days' workshop for technical validation of the report, action plan development and preparation for the dissemination. The workshop reviewed and validated the findings from Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) Need Assessment as well and elaborated on an action plan to address the recommendations.

This was following the first ever National Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) Needs Assessment conducted by the Ministry of Health in partnership with UNFPA and Enabel to curb the maternal and neonatal morbidities and mortality. The main objective of the assessment was to collect baseline information on availability, accessibility and functionality of EmONC facilities to further inform on strategies to be undertaken in addressing causes of preventable Maternal and Neonatal morbidity and mortality in Rwanda.

FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACTIONS KEEPING ICPD25 ALIVE



YOUNG PEOPLE IN RWANDA COMMIT TO ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICPD25 ACTION PLAN

Kigali, 16 March 2022, The Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNFPA and AfriYAN organized a stakeholder's reflection meeting on the implementation of Rwanda ICPD25 commitments to self-evaluate on the progress made since the dissemination of the action plan and shaping the next steps towards achieving the Rwanda commitments with a focus on the meaningful youth participation towards achieving the universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights by 2030.

The World converged at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 from 12-15, November 2019, to mark the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) to take stock of the tremendous progress and reflect on the next decade of action.

Over 8,300 people from 172 countries and territories participated, debated and celebrated at the Summit, including Governments, development partners, civil society organizations, academia, private sector, faith-based organizations, international financial institutions and grass roots organizations in pursuit of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Rwanda's Commitments were delivered at the Summit by Hon. Dr. Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



In his opening remarks Minister of State in the Ministry of Health Dr. Tharcisse MPUNGA stressed the role of Rwanda ICPD25 Commitments towards the achievement of the SDGs and recommended stakeholders for their tireless support towards the realization of social economic conditions for all Rwandans.

"Every human being has a fundamental right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, without distinction." Said Dr. MPUNGA Tharcisse

...ICPD25 MARCH CONTINUES

In 2020, as a follow up to the commitments Rwanda made at the Nairobi Summit, the Journey to move from commitments to action started by putting in place a joint action plan to ease the implementation for the commitments made at Nairobi Summit. This called for various stakeholders to work together, individually, and collectively to support the implementation of the Rwanda Commitments on ICPD25.

This year's stakeholders meeting held at Kigali Marriott Hotel in March 2022, reflected on the progress made so far, strengthening engagement among stakeholders by including youth in the implementation process.



"The Rwanda ICPD25 Commitments are part of the enormous momentum around efforts to achieve the SDGs, including a renewed commitment to "health for all."

Said Dr. MPUNGA Tharcisse



"Our role as a Ministry is to keep educating our young girls on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. One of our areas of commitment under the ICPD25 Commitments regards Teenage Pregnancies. We have a big role to play in preventing them."

Dr Uwamariya Valentine, Minister of Education



"Our commitment is to ensure proper accountability on issues affecting us. We aim to be at the forefront of the realization of the commitments for a country where we live a quality life with dignity, capacity and opportunity to realize our full potential."

Evode Niyibizi, Country Director AfriYAN Rwanda.



"Let me re-affirm UNFPA's commitment and support to the implementation of the Commitments and to our continued collaboration and partnership as we ensure that the ICPD25 Commitments are achieved in Rwanda."

Kwabena Asante Ntiamoah, UNFPA Representative.

ZERO UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING



EXPANDING THE AVAILABLE CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD MIX

The Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Health and its subsidiary center- Rwanda Biomedical Center- coordinates the implementation of the Rwanda ICPD25 Commitments including improve family planning services delivery, access, and uptake by expanding the available contraceptive method mix, including emergency contraceptives, in order to decrease unmet need for family planning.

Over the years, Rwanda has made significant progress in the delivery and uptake of family planning services, according to the Rwanda Demographic Health Survey VI (2019/20), knowledge of modern contraceptive methods among both women and men is high (99%-100%) with an increased total demand for family planning from 72% (2010) to 78% (2020). While the modern contraceptive prevalence rates increased from 47.5% to 58%, unmet need for Family Planning remained high at 13.6% over the past decade especially among sexually active unmarried women.

On 22nd March 2022, UNFPA handed over the Reproductive Health Commodities and Maternal Life Saving Medicine to Rwanda Biomedical center (RBC), that will contribute to prevent unintended pregnancies and support couples and individuals to protect their lives through deciding when they want to have children.



"These commodities will increase the availability of mixed Family Planning methods as well as the geographical and financial access with a focus on the unmet subgroup in the community. We thank UNFPA for its continued generous support to the Government of Rwanda in ensuring the access to safe, high quality reproductive health care and services to the last miles. We are making sure that this is available to adolescents and women who need them the most."

Noella Bigirimana, the Deputy Director-General of RBC.



"I would like to thank the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Health for its coordination and partnership throughout the implementation of the Rwanda ICPD25 commitments, ensuring the availability of quality SRH commodities and service up to the last mile"

Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah, the UNFPA Representative.

"There are many deaths that could be prevented if the supply chain of commodities, life-saving medicines and equipment is secured and effective" He added.



UNFPA, United Nations
reproductive health and right
agency.

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

Umuganda Avenue, Aurore
building PO box 6119, Kacyiru-
Kigali, Rwanda

 rwanda.unfpa.org

 [@UNFPA Rwanda](https://twitter.com/UNFPA_Rwanda)

 [UNFPA Rwanda](https://www.facebook.com/UNFPA_Rwanda)