



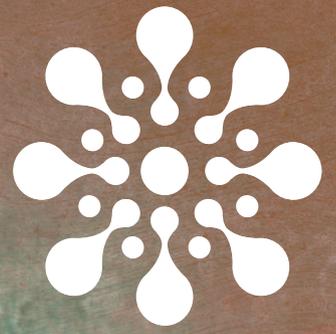
**UNFPA** Rwanda

Ensuring rights and choices for all

2020 Key Results

# FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACTIONS





ICPD25

International Conference on  
Population and Development



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Dear Partners & Friends,

The year 2020 marked a starting point in a decade of action in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action. It marked a move from Commitments to Action in the pursuit of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all - while ensuring no one is left behind. We committed to making the next decade one of impact & results, especially for women and girls.

Looking back on our work in 2020, we have made great strides in fulfilling our promise to improve SRHR for all, despite the exceptional challenges encountered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The

pandemic hit Rwanda by mid-March 2020, halting some planned activities and calling for our repurposing of resources as a One UN Family to assist the national response and recovery process. UNFPA joined the One UN to develop and implement a joint programme in support of the Government of Rwanda's Socio-Economic Response and Recovery with a strong focus on gender, human rights and leaving no one behind.

UNFPA supported national efforts to ensure continuity of SRH interventions, including 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.

COVID-19 has made reaching our goal of SRHR for all harder, but we did not retreat, and our march forward continues.

At the historic Nairobi Summit in November 2019, the Government of Rwanda committed to support universal access to sexual, reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health through six specific commitments.

Upon return from the defining Summit,

the Rwanda Ministry of Health established a roadmap in February 2020 for the dissemination and implementation of the Rwanda Commitments to ICPD25. This roadmap included the development of a comprehensive Plan of Action that was validated by a multisectoral and high-level stakeholders meeting in December 2020.

A year since the landmark Nairobi Summit, much progress continues to be made including significant improvements in maternal health and expanded access to voluntary family planning as highlighted in the dissemination of Rwanda Demographic Health Survey IV 2020 key indicators report released in December 2020.

Encouraging results for women & girls across Rwanda that could not be achieved without our esteemed partners, the strong contribution of our donors, and the trusted cooperation with the Government for the benefit of the people of Rwanda. Key drivers include visionary leadership, multi-sectoral engagement, active community participation, citizens' hard work and the growing support from development partners.

We commend the Government of Rwanda for its strong leadership, boldness and commitments made to support Sexual and Reproductive Health for all, including during this challenging time of COVID-19.

We have never been closer. We will not turn back now. The partnerships we built at the Nairobi Summit are strong enough to weather any storm.

Through this report, we celebrate our joint achievements over 2020 and recommit our collective efforts to address the unfinished business, reaching first those left furthest behind.

Together, we are getting closer to realizing our transformative results: to end preventable maternal death, end unmet need for family planning, end GBV and harmful practices, and end sexual transmission of HIV.

From Commitments to Action, as we accelerate the promises made at the landmark Summit!

**Mark Bryan Schreiner**  
**UNFPA Representative**





# FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACTIONS

1 YEAR AFTER THE NAIROBI SUMMIT ON ICPD25: KEEPING THE PROMISE!

In November 2019, the world converged at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, to mark the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development to take stock of the tremendous progress and reflect on the next decade of action.

164 member states attended, and the Nairobi Summit mobilized more than 1250 commitments from around the world, and many more pledges from the public and private sector. Rwanda is among the countries that renewed its commitments to transform the world by ending all maternal deaths, all unmet need for family planning, and gender based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030. Rwanda's Commitments were presented at the Summit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Dr Vincent Biruta.



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H.E Mrs Jeannette Kagame addresses a high-level dialogue on Women leadership at the **Nairobi Summit**

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Rwanda commitments here <http://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/commitments>



**1 year after the Nairobi Summit**, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNFPA organized a high level multi-sectoral stakeholders meeting to disseminate the Rwanda ICPD25 Commitments made at the Nairobi Summit, review the progress made since November 2019, and validate the National Action Plan to fast track the implementation of commitments towards achieving the universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights by 2030. The meeting was chaired by the Hon. Minister of Health, and in attendance were the Minister of Education, Minister of Justice, Minister of State in the Ministry of Local Government, Members of Parliament, the UN Resident Coordinator,

UN Heads of Agencies, Global High-Level Commissioner for ICPD25 Commitments Prof Senait Fisseha, Development Partners, CSOs agencies and Academic institutions involved in SRHR for all.



The meeting discussed progress made so far, reviewed and validated the action plan of implementation of the ICPD25 commitments, roles & responsibilities of the various actors as well as required resources.



# 2020 A YEAR OF ACTION

In 2020, we embarked on the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development to deliver on SDG Agenda 2030.

UNFPA Rwanda worked with partners to Support the implementation of the **Rwanda Commitments to the Nairobi Summit**.

The validated Rwanda Action Plan prioritizes achieving:



**Zero**

unmet need for family planning



**Zero**

preventable maternal deaths



**Zero**

sexual transmission of HIV and zero gender-based violence



Key Progress between 2015-2020 includes:

- Increased mCPR from 47,5% to 58%
- Decreased unmet need for Family Planning from 19% to 14%
- Teenage pregnancy reduced from 7,3% to 5,2%

*Ref: DHS VI 2020 key indicators report.*



# SUPPORTING COVID-19 NATIONAL RESPONSE



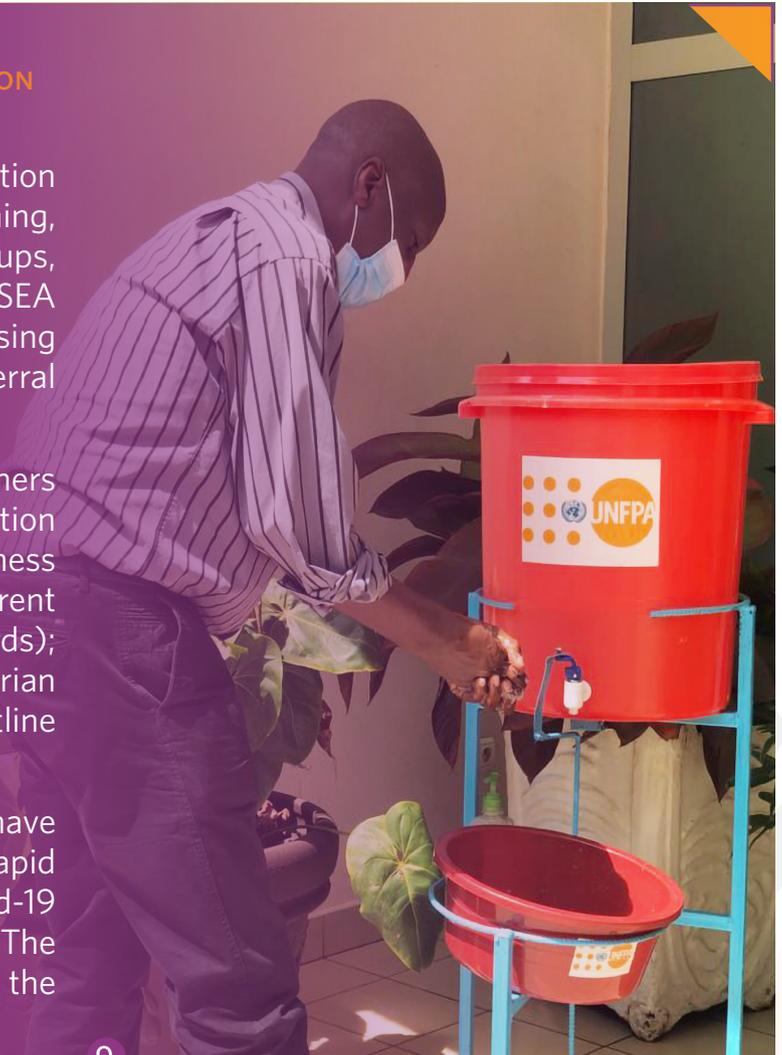
## CONTINUITY OF SRH INTERVENTIONS, INCLUDING PROTECTION OF HEALTH WORKFORCE

- UNFPA provided support to the National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan. A total of USD 322,805 was reprogrammed to support: continuity of essential SRH services, procurement of PPEs handed over to Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC), to protect frontline health workers as they deliver sexual and reproductive health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The PPEs handed over to RBC, include 71,477 surgical masks -Type-II R, Non-sterile, disposable that are made in Rwanda worth USD 23,182 and 14,700 goggles – panoramic, regular nose, indirect ventilation worth USD 50,458.

- UNFPA supported the revision of the National Guideline for Covid-19 Control and Case Management to ensure integration of continuity of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) essential services.
- UNFPA supported the design and conduct of the Rapid Assessment on Continuity of essential and life-saving Reproductive Maternal Child and Adolescent Health services amidst COVID-19.

### ✓ CONTINUITY AND ADAPTATION OF GBV SERVICES AND GBV PREVENTION AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- UNFPA engagement in Social Protection focused on gender mainstreaming, targeting of new vulnerable groups, prevention of and response to SEA during food/cash distribution, raising public awareness on GBV and referral pathways among others.
- UNFPA supported national partners in Gender-based violence prevention & response (GBV) public awareness raising activities through different media platforms (Radio, TV, Billboards); and referral networks in humanitarian settings through use of a free hotline by the community members.
- UNFPA and UN Women have commissioned a Gender Rapid Assessment on the impact of Covid-19 on women and men in Rwanda. The findings of this study will inform the response strategies to be adopted.





## ENSURING THE SUPPLY OF MODERN CONTRACEPTIVES AND OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH COMMODITIES

- UNFPA supported the continued joint monitoring of the supply chain of family planning commodities and maternal health lifesaving medicine to ensure availability at the last mile and minimize stock outs.





## RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, INCLUDING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

- UNFPA enhanced its support to the National Institute of Statistics Rwanda to ensure safe collection of Demographic Health Survey (DHS) data in the context of COVID-19, as well as the finalization of the DHS report.
- UNFPA contributed to COVID 19 prevention within Mahama camp by supporting the construction of a hand washing facility in the camp. In addition, 70,000 surgical masks were provided for prevention of COVID-19 among maternal and SRH frontline health workers delivering services within the refugee camps.
- UNFPA supported the ongoing SHISHOZA campaign, the communication campaign led by the Rwanda Biomedical Centre to sensitize the community on Covid-19 preventive measures with a focus on awareness raising on continuity of SRH essential and lifesaving services amidst the pandemic.





# Towards ending unmet need for **FAMILY PLANNING**



## ACCESS TO SAFE AND VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING

### ✓ Investment in Family planning

- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Enabel, UNFPA developed the Business Case for Family Planning in Rwanda in 2019 to provide an evidence base on the returns on investment in Family Planning in Rwanda. One of the key findings of the FP Business Case was that every \$1 invested in FP could yield on average a return of \$112 per annum

between 2015 and 2050 and that these benefits go beyond the health sector. The findings and recommendations of the FP Business Case and the data from the 2019/2020 DHS6 key indicators report provide good evidence to inform the 2021-2022 planning and advocate for sustainable financing for Family Planning.

- 40 health professionals (staff of MoH and the FPTWG members) benefitted from a dissemination session on the

findings and recommendations of the FP Business Case thereby increasing their knowledge on the returns on investment in Family Planning. It is expected that they will apply this knowledge in their planning and decision making processes.

✓ **Increased number of new users of Family Planning programme**

304,000 additional users of modern contraceptives from July 2019 to June 2020.

✓ **UNFPA Supplies Partnership 2021-2030**

- UNFPA and the Governments of Canada and Rwanda co-hosted on 14th

December, the Launch of the UNFPA Supplies Partnership 2021- 2030 in a virtual event that featured voices from across the Partnership, including keynote addresses by Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, H.E. Dr Daniel Ngamije, Minister of Health, Republic of Rwanda, and H.E. Kamal Khera, Parliamentary Secretary of International Development, Canada. UNFPA Supplies entered its third phase from 2021 to 2030 as the UNFPA Supplies Partnership, paving the way for a new decade of commitment to advancing family planning and maternal health and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

## GLOBAL LAUNCH EVENT of the UNFPA Supplies Partnership



**Dr. Natalia Kanem**

UNFPA Executive Director



**H.E. Dr. Daniel Ngamije**

Minister of Health,  
Republic of Rwanda



**H.E. Kamal Khera**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of  
International Development, Canada



# Towards ending **MATERNAL DEATHS**



## MAKING PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY SAFER

### ✓ 2020 The International Year of Nurses and Midwives

- With 2020 declared the International Year of Nurses and Midwives, UNFPA supported the Rwanda Association of Midwives to celebrate the International Day of the Midwife on the 5th May, through virtual platforms, social media, live talk shows on Radio and Television. The day served as an opportunity to

recognize midwifery's contribution in defending women rights in Rwanda through ensuring the right to safe motherhood and RMNCAH service provision in general.



## ✓ Strengthening the capacity of midwifery teaching institutions

- UNFPA supported interventions to enhance quality midwifery education at the University of Rwanda as they prepare for the opening of the first Midwifery Master's Degree Program. faculty members received scholarships to pursue tertiary education in 5 Masters and 1 PhD programs. These graduates will then serve as lecturers for the maiden Master's Program of Midwifery at the University of Rwanda.
- UNFPA supported the University of Rwanda to conduct research to explore the use of blended learning in nursing and midwifery in order to ensure continuity of midwifery education amidst Covid-19 pandemic.
- Supporting innovation in midwifery through digital technology.

## ✓ Mobile Learning System (MLS) scaled up

- In order to address the language barrier that was expressed by health providers from Rutsiro and Karongi district in the previous version, UNFPA supported the translation of MLS modules from English to French. The four (4) Modules that were translated, recorded and packed into the modules Apps include Post-Partum Hemorrhage (PPH), Puerperal Sepsis, Eclampsia and Prolonged & Obstructed Labor.





# Towards ending sexual transmission of HIV AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



## ✓ Sexual transmission of HIV

- A condom situation analysis was conducted in 2020, the findings of which will inform the development of the Condom Strategic Plan in 2021. The condom situation analysis process provided an opportunity to advocate for and introduce the Condom Needs Estimation Tool (CNET) which has now been adopted and used for the quantification exercise of condoms considering all the target group users of condom.
- UNFPA supported the development of HIV e-learning modules and availability of a teleconference equipment to support continuous learning and coordination of HIV prevention programmes by the Rwanda Biomedical center.



# AGAINST MY WILL

**Defying GBV and Child Defilement that harm women and girls and undermine equality.**

UNFPA conducted a 2-week campaign in Rwanda to raise awareness on the importance of ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially for women and girls. Against My Will campaign kicked off on 30th June, with a dynamic webinar to officially launch the SWOP 2020 report and discuss the situation of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Teenage pregnancies in Rwanda. The campaign also celebrated the World Population Day on 11th July 2020.



# PUTTING YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST



## FULFILLING EVERY YOUNG PERSON'S POTENTIAL

### ✓ Empowering adolescents and young people

- In 2020, UNFPA strengthened its partnership with KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) by signing a 3-year (2020-2023) agreement amounting to USD 5,188,000 for the multilateral project entitled "Empowering adolescents and

young people in Rwanda to realize their human right to equality, sexual and reproductive health and freedom from violence and discrimination." The project was officially launched on 12th of August 2020 during the International Youth Day Celebration and presided by the Minister of Youth and Culture.

### ✓ Providing Youth friendly services

- UNFPA supported the Rwanda Biomedical Center to implement a mentorship programme with a focus

on ASRH to health care providers in health centers including the CHWs in the catchment area. The purpose was to equip the health care providers with more knowledge and skills on how to deliver youth friendly services in health facilities. The activity was implemented in 3 UNFPA supported districts of the western province. All 63 beneficiary health facilities received ASRH IEC materials including: 2000 booklets on how parents can communicate with their children on ASRH subjects, and ASRH manuals and computers to 30 health facilities to use in youth corners. The aforementioned was followed by orientation of 231 CHWs on ASRH to enable them support young people, provide basic information on ASRH to young people and be able to refer young people to health facilities.

### Building capacity of Youth led Organizations



- Building on past achievements, UNFPA continued to provide technical and financial support to 30 youth-led organizations under the umbrella of AfriYAN (African Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development) through capacity

building of the network.

The network held its 4th General Assembly and Annual Retreat that provided member organizations with training on the national legal framework on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), SRHR information and services including the Ministerial Order on access to safe abortion, and advocacy skills and strategies for the realization of young people's SRHR. The active involvement and visibility in ASRH and young people's rights earned the network a long-term partnership with PROMUNDO and the Health Development Initiative which will further promote young people's voice in national, regional and international advocacy.



## iAccelerator2 winners coping with COVID-19 Challenges

“Despite Covid 19 crisis we have been able to value even more how the iAccelerator engages men and boys in the journey to fight against teenage pregnancies. This gave us more courage to value our project and we have been able to produce a TV show, partner with civil society organizations, and our youtube channel is now active” said Cyprien Iradukunda from **Flavours of Family Planning** project.

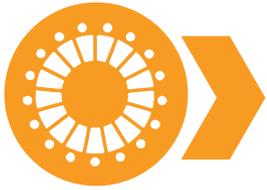


“We were impressed by how young people and parents liked and were excited about our educational board game especially during the lockdown. Our minimum viable product and the video for user’s guide is now ready and going to be released to the market soon” said Mick Ndayishimiye, one of the young innovators of **Urukundo Board Game**.

## iAccelerator phase 3

Phase 3 of the iAccelerator (iA) was launched virtually with more than 200 young people from different parts of the country. Two themes were set as challenges of the call; i) Availing ASRH information and services for adolescents and youth with disabilities, ii) Increasing knowledge and awareness on mental health issues, and mitigating the stigma faced in seeking help, among adolescents and young adults. 4 innovative solutions were awarded \$10,000 each.





# Leaving no one **BEHIND**



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

UNFPA joined the One UN disability inclusion initiative launched on 30th November, and handed over 3000 sanitary pads to HPV Gatagara to ensure adequate menstrual hygiene and improved access to SRHR for young girls with disabilities.



## ✓ Easy access of female sex workers to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services

- The population size of street and venue based Female Sex Workers survey in Rwanda was conducted and estimates Female Sex Workers to be within a credible set ranging from 8,277 to 22,919 with a corresponding median of 13,138. These findings will support effective planning of HIV/SRH programmes for Female Sex Workers.

## ✓ Humanitarian settings

- First Time Young Mothers (FTYMs) Project extended to refugee setting in 2020 with 165 beneficiaries reached with a comprehensive package of services including SRH information and services, GBV prevention and response and livelihood activities in **Mahama refugee camp** and scaled up in 2 other camps to equip 3 Youth corners with IEC materials and other equipment in 3 refugee camps.
- Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health services were initiated in **Kigeme camp** where 30 Health service Providers from **Gihembe camp** were trained to provide adolescents Sexual and reproductive Health services.

- The quality of health services in 6 refugee camps have been enhanced for the provision of SRH, HIV, Family planning and GBV services including those for adolescents and young people. A total number of 27,281 adolescents and young people aged from 15 to 24 were reached by SRH and GBV messages in humanitarian settings.
- UNFPA supported **3 Congolese** and **1 Burundian refugee camps** with 72 Emergency Reproductive Health Kits. 171 Female sex workers from the three refugee camps were provided with a comprehensive package of services including HIV/STIs prevention awareness and condom distribution.
- Increased understanding and social approval of Family Planning in three **Congolese camps** following 3 campaigns on the importance of using family planning methods and targeting 45 community leaders.
- To support the teacher training on SRH and GBV, a manual and a simplified guide were developed and used to train 35 teachers from 4 schools in the host community of Gisagara and Nyamagabe districts. These schools are used by both humanitarian and host community students.

- UNFPA supported the rehabilitation of the maternity ward in **Mugombwa refugee camp** which has been completed and is currently operational in providing SRH services in the camp.
- The Gender Based Violence screening was initiated in health facilities in humanitarian settings where 1414 persons were screened for SGBV (431 **Nyabiheke**, 240 in **Gihembe** and 743 in **Mahama**) those who were

eligible were linked to GBV response services).

- Through training sessions, the capacity of 24 health services providers and 175 CHWs (including 20 peer educators, 109 female mentors) was strengthened to deliver quality SRH, Family planning, HIV/STIs services in **Mugombwa, Kigeme and Kiziba**.

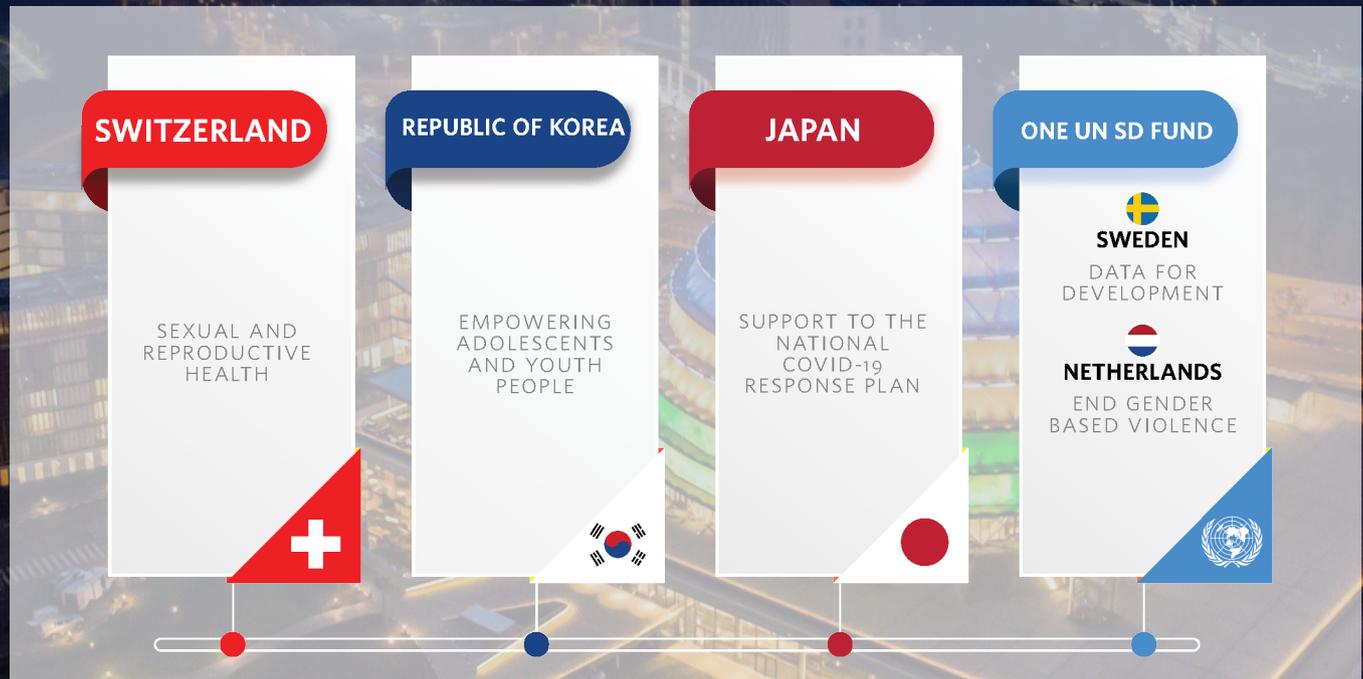




# INCREASED RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESULTS

The work we do with our partners and donors goes along way to completing the unfinished agenda on SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights).

We appreciate your collaboration and commitment to UNFPA work in Rwanda.





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

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