



# HARMONIZING EFFORTS:

Integrating Reproductive Rights, Gender Equality,  
and Youth Empowerment

**2023 KEY RESULTS  
REPORT**



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE IN RWANDA

In stepping into the role of the appointed Representative to Rwanda, I am deeply humbled by the remarkable accomplishments of my predecessor, Mr. Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah, and the entire team at UNFPA Rwanda. Their dedication and vision have paved the way for significant strides in for advancing gender equality, ensuring reproductive health and rights, and empowering vulnerable communities, including youth.

In 2023, against the backdrop of the sixth Women Deliver conference held in Kigali, UNFPA witnessed a convergence of global efforts aimed at catalyzing action and dismantling barriers to progress for women and girls worldwide.

Throughout the year, the collaborative efforts of UNFPA and its partners yielded significant results. Working alongside the Government of Rwanda, One UN, and other development partners, we strengthened national statistical capacity through the analysis and dissemination of key indicators and thematic reports from the 5th Population and Housing Census. This collaboration has resulted in the generation of high-quality disaggregated data, facilitating informed decision-making and enhancing socio-economic planning and evaluation in Rwanda.

UNFPA supported initiatives to accelerate investments in universal access to primary health care, combat violence against women and girls, empower emerging leaders, and cultivate strategic partnerships to accelerate the ICPD Agenda.

Our commitment to achieving zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero Gender Based Violence remained unwavering. Through initiatives aimed at bolstering the maternal healthcare system, expanding family planning services, and equipping youth with comprehensive sexuality education and access to services, we made tangible progress in 2023.

Looking ahead, guided by our pledge to leave no one behind, we reaffirm our dedication to advancing gender equality, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, and empowering communities. We extend our deepest gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders, and supporters for their steadfast commitment and collaboration in realizing these goals.



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**Dr. Olugbemiga Adelakin**  
UNFPA Representative





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## TOWARDS ZERO PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS

In pursuit of its commitment to achieving zero preventable maternal deaths, UNFPA Rwanda has spearheaded multifaceted initiatives aimed at strengthening the country's maternal healthcare system. Through collaborative efforts and targeted interventions, UNFPA has addressed critical gaps in midwifery, policy frameworks, healthcare capacity, and community engagement.

- **Strengthening Midwifery Coordination:** UNFPA's support in Rwanda led to the establishment of the Midwifery Sub-Technical Working Group (TWG) under the Human Resources for Health - TWG, enhancing collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders to bolster the midwifery workforce. This sub-TWG resolved to develop a standardized midwifery curriculum for all levels of midwifery education.



**50** Scholarships provided to midwifery students to support the Ministry of Health's "4x4 strategy" to quadruple the health workforce in four years and ensuring they are able to deliver quality care.



**20** Nursing and midwifery institutions and **15** health facilities were provided with birthing simulation lab materials to enhance the practical skills and competencies of health professionals.



**75** University faculty members were trained in birthing simulation facilitation to ensure the effectiveness of Simulation Based-Learning through the newly launched SimBegin training program.

The faculty from **11** institutes are now enabled to ensure enhanced quality of education for around **2000** students monthly including improved skills, teamwork and communication ultimately leading to better quality of care.

- **Policy and Guideline Review:** Through technical assistance, UNFPA facilitated the review and revision of key guidelines aligned with RMNCAH policy, including the Termination of Pregnancy guideline, Post abortion Care guideline and the respectful maternity care policy, ensuring alignment with global standards and commitments.
- **Maternal Perinatal Child Death Surveillance and Response (MPCDSR) Approach Strengthened:** UNFPA supported MPCDSR workshops reviewing maternal and child health indicators and deaths including the revision of death audit tools. Following the gaps supported 83 audit committee members to gain improved skills in maternal and perinatal death audit practices.



In order to improve the referral systems and guarantee access to quality emergency maternal and newborn health care for everyone within 2-hours travel distance, a workshop was held to establish a network of **140** health facilities, constituting the EmONC facility network. The network has yet to be validated.



**200+** Healthcare providers across the country received targeted capacity building and mentorship in emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC), comprehensive abortion care (CAC), and disability inclusion. Leading to better case management for mothers and newborn and enhanced teamwork.





## Elevating midwifery: A Transformative Journey to Reach Zero Preventable Maternal Deaths in Rwanda

Rwanda has undergone a remarkable journey in tackling maternal mortality rates (MMR) over the past decade. From an alarming 1071 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010, the country managed to accelerate reduction reaching 210 in 2015 but in recent years the decline has been slower with MMR standing at 203 per 100,000 live births in 2020. With Rwanda currently operating at a ratio of 1 skilled health professional per 1000 population, below the WHO recommended minimum of 4 per 1000; the Ministry of Health in Rwanda introduced a comprehensive plan called the “4x4 Strategy”. This initiative aims to quadruple the healthcare workforce over four years while implementing significant enhancements to healthcare infrastructure and processes.

Dr. Menelas Nkeshimana, the Head of the Department for Health Workforce development at the Ministry of Health, highlights the urgency of the situation, emphasizing the need to address the current shortage of health professionals.

Examining the burden of work and quality of care particularly in maternal and child care, Dr. Nkeshimana underscores the stark reality of having around 2000 midwives registered for a population of 13 million.

**“To achieve our vision of reducing maternal deaths below 50 per 100,000 live births by 2050, we face the challenge of not only increasing the workforce but also strategically distributing these professionals across the country.”**

Notes Dr. Menelas.

At the current trajectory, MMR can only decrease to 156, underscoring the urgency of the mission. In response to this call to action, UNFPA in Rwanda has committed to supporting the 4x4 strategy, with a specific focus on midwifery, as a crucial step to combat maternal and child mortality rates.

In 2023, through partnership with the Ministry of Health, UNFPA Rwanda provided 50 students with midwifery scholarships. Alleluia Betty is one of the students who benefitted from the scholarship. She expresses her joy and gratitude for obtaining a scholarship, recognizing it as a crucial opportunity to contribute to addressing challenges like maternal and child deaths.

**“I wanted to pursue midwifery so that I can help save the lives of those mothers and babies who are in need. Some people discouraged me to choose this faculty due to perceived risks that come with it but I am ready to overcome the challenges by prioritizing my passion for the course and focusing my genuine interest in saving lives.”**

Explains Alleluia.

As part of the support to the 4x4 strategy, the need to emphasize on the quality of education became evident. Thus the Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNFPA embarked on a journey to develop a national standardized midwifery curriculum aligned to national and international standards.



Alleluia Betty, one of 50 midwifery students benefiting from UNFPA scholarship at Ruli Higher Institute of Health, applies hands-on practice with her teacher. ©UNFPA Rwanda

**“During our engagement, coinciding with the 4x4 reform announcement in July 2023, conversations with UNFPA were seamless. It served as a wake-up call, with their expressed willingness to collaborate in enrolling more midwives in education. At that time, our baseline data revealed midwifery schools operating at only 20% capacity, despite having the necessary infrastructure, validated curriculum, and faculty. The challenge was the lack of students to fill the remaining 80% of seats.”**

Says Dr. Menelas.

Through initiatives like the 4x4 Strategy, significant strides have been made in enhancing midwifery education and the quality of care. UNFPA's partnership with the Government of Rwanda will continue to focus on strengthening competency-based midwifery training; developing strong regulatory mechanisms to ensure quality services; and advocating for increased investments in midwifery services.



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## TOWARDS ZERO UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

In close collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and through targeted policy interventions, partner coordination, scale-up efforts, health workforce development, and multi-sectoral collaboration, UNFPA made significant strides towards ensuring informed Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights choices for all.

- **The five years implementation plan of FP 2030 national commitment** was developed and validated, guiding the main priorities to accelerate the reduction of unmet need for FP. In line with this, FP job aids, reference manuals were revised and validated.
  - **Engagement with religious institutions and thought leaders** through the Rwanda Interfaith Council to generate FP demand and improve service delivery resulted in development of sermon guides and the booklets for religious and local leaders to facilitate increased awareness raising and demand creation of SRHR/FP through community platforms.
  - **Partner Coordination and Synergy:** Quarterly meetings of the FP Sub-Technical Working Group facilitated efficient resource utilization and coordination among partners, ensuring alignment of efforts towards common goals.
-  No funding gap identified in the national Family Planning Supply Plan for 2023 due to a **13%** increase of domestic resources in only one year.
  -  **5%** increase in modern FP users within one year, underlining enhanced access and choice.
  -  **1M+** couple years of protection (CYPs) Family Planning Methods delivered.
  -  Over **208** healthcare providers across 10 Districts trained on approaches to catalyse the adoption of new and underutilized FP emphasizing Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP) and building competencies to offer a comprehensive range of FP methods.
- Enhanced the capacity of **108** Catholic-managed health facilities to improve quality counseling on all FP methods and referral. Over **60** professionals in these facilities were validated to provide the permanent methods.
- Promoted disability inclusion, empowering **65** healthcare providers on disability early detection, and supported **300** young people with disabilities with assistive devices for better access to SRHR/FP services.





## Rwanda: Fostering positive socio-economic impact through domestic investments in Family Planning

Rwanda has made remarkable progress in the health sector and has recently made significant strides in increasing domestic investments for family planning commodities. Aligned to the Family Planning 2030 (FP2030) global partnership, this commitment to investing in reproductive health and family planning interventions has yielded numerous benefits, not only in terms of individual well-being but also in unlocking Rwanda's economic potential. The correlation between harnessing the demographic dividend and family planning is one that Rwanda recognises as a country and the importance of domestic investment in family planning to achieve socio-economic transformation.

### Enhancing Contraceptive Use and Reducing Unmet Needs

Access to contraceptive information is central to achieving gender equality. When women and couples are empowered to plan whether and when to have children, and how many, women's autonomy is increased. This strengthens their economic security and well-being.

Over the past fifteen years, Rwanda has witnessed an impressive 48% increase in the Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) among married women (RDHS 2018/20). Furthermore, the country has successfully reduced the unmet need for family planning to 14% as of 2020. These achievements underscore the effectiveness of Rwanda's family planning programs in reaching and empowering marginalized populations.

### Government Commitment and Domestic Financing

With an increase in domestic funding from 32% in 2010 to 58% in 2020, Rwanda has consistently demonstrated commitment to domestic resource mobilisation towards the health sector. Against this background, the Government of Rwanda has signed the Compact of Commitment with UNFPA to continue to invest in family planning commodities. The political will and commitment demonstrated by the government has not only boosted key health outcomes including sustainable family planning initiatives, but also facilitates continuous domestic resource mobilization to expand healthcare access to all, ensuring that no one is left behind. By investing in the health sector, the government aims to achieve the 15 percentage mark as set in the Abuja Declaration for the well-being of its population, including family planning interventions.

### What is the UNFPA Supplies Match Fund?

In 2023, the government of Rwanda was awarded additional funding of over USD 1.0 million through the UNFPA Supplies Match Fund. The UNFPA Supplies Match Fund was no ordinary financial mechanism; it was a game-changer that leveraged additional government contributions. For every dollar Rwanda invested in ensuring access to quality-assured reproductive health and family planning commodities, the UNFPA matched it with another dollar. This initiative aims to encourage governments to increase their domestic financing for such essential commodities.

The impact of this initiative was beyond monetary gains; it signified a collective commitment to a brighter and healthier future for all citizens. UNFPA Supplies Match Fund together with Rwanda's Ministry of Health bridged longstanding gaps in reproductive health services. Contraceptives and maternal health medicines became readily available, empowering women and couples to make informed reproductive choices.

“ At UNFPA, we firmly believe that match funding and leveraging domestic resources are not merely financial strategies; they are transformative catalysts. Embracing the Addis Ababa Declaration, we join hands with partners to magnify the impact of our investments in reproductive health and family planning. It's time to move beyond mere funding and embrace sustainable financing models, propelling us towards a future where every person's reproductive rights and choices are fully realized, empowering them to lead lives of dignity and opportunity.”

**Kwabena Asante Ntiamoah**

Former UNFPA Rwanda Representative



A team from UNFPA and partners visit a health post equipped to provide family Planning Services. ©UNFPA Rwanda



## TOWARDS ZERO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

### #16DAYSOFACTIVISM: RENEWING COMMITMENTS

UNFPA Rwanda actively participated in the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\)](#) campaign, observed from November 25th to December 10th 2023 with the theme of “Unite! Invest to prevent violence against women & girls.” The campaign underscores the global effort to eliminate violence against women and girls. Through nationwide activities, including awareness-raising initiatives such as Car-Free Days sporting events and the dissemination of campaign messages, UNFPA Rwanda collaborated with the Government of Rwanda, other UN agencies, and development partners to raise awareness on preventing and responding to GBV, particularly violence against women and girls.

UNFPA joined the launch of the 16 Days of Activism in Bugesera District which featured various activities, including tree planting and road rehabilitation, advocating for concerted efforts and investments in GBV prevention and response. Additionally, UNFPA Rwanda actively engaged in the inter-agency campaign on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), reaffirming its commitment to implementing the Zero Tolerance Policy and promoting a culture of reporting and prevention among frontline workers and partners. Through dissemination of findings and the signing of a Code of Conduct, UNFPA Rwanda reinforced its dedication to combating GBV and ensuring the health, dignity, and security of survivors.



Participants at the 2023 16 Days of Activism campaign event in Kigali.  
©UNFPA Rwanda





## EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO ATTAIN THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Through strategic investments in youth-friendly services, capacity building of youth-led organizations, and socio-economic empowerment programs, UNFPA Rwanda supported the implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at enhancing the access of adolescents and young people to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information and economic empowerment



**Enhanced ASRHR Services:** Following the Youth-Friendly Services (YFS) assessment undertaken in 2022 which revealed that 18% of health centers in the UNFPA's three key districts (Karongi, Rusizi, and Nyamasheke), UNFPA invested in constructing "Golden standard" Youth Corners across the three key districts, resulting in **33** out of **61** health centers now offering Youth Friendly Services as per national standards.



**Youth Empowerment: 12,756** out-of-school adolescents and young people were identified in the three UNFPA-supported districts, and a resilience plan was developed to guide their socioeconomic empowerment. Of all the identified out-of-school adolescents and young people, **5,051** were supported through various UNFPA youth empowerment initiatives:



**Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Implementation:** UNFPA provided online and on-site CSE training to **9,046** teachers, resulting in **84.3%** of schools implementing CSE in line with national education curricula. This translated into **3,468** schools, including public and private, delivering quality CSE, thus promoting comprehensive sexual education across the country.

**580** adolescents were assisted in reintegrating into formal schools,

**573** young people were provided with vocational skills and startup toolkits to initiate income-generating activities,

**2,245** received Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) through the 18 community-based youth spaces created,

**1,653** young people were equipped with business development skills and financial literacy.



UNFPA also extended support to five targeted refugee camps, establishing **34** school-based health clubs and providing comprehensive socio-economic services, including ASRHR information, to **150** First-time Young Mothers. This initiative empowered **37,489** adolescents and young people aged 10-24 in refugee settings.



**Youth-Led Organizations Capacity Building:** Collaborating with AfriYAN Rwanda, UNFPA strengthened 25 youth-led organizations on ASRHR and ICPD25/30 advocacy. This culminated in hosting the National ICPD Follow-up Action meeting to assess the implementation of national commitments made at the Nairobi Summit, emphasizing youth engagement.



**Disability Inclusion:** UNFPA, in partnership with the Health Development Initiative, conducted a study to determine sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues among adolescents and young people with disabilities in Rwanda. The study findings were condensed into an abstract selected for presentation at the global conference on HIV prevention in Germany in July 2024. Additionally, **64** healthcare providers received training on disability-inclusive services, with a focus on early detection of disabilities in newborns. Moreover, **264** young people with disabilities were provided with assistive devices to improve their mobility when accessing healthcare services.



**Community Engagement and Sensitization:** UNFPA engaged religious leaders through the Rwanda Interfaith Council on Health (RICH) to disseminate a Sermon Guide on Maternal, Infant, and Adolescent Health. This initiative capacitated **245** church leaders and **40** mentors, facilitating dialogues that reached **10,005** adolescents and young people with ASRHR information.



## Breaking barriers: Road to reshaping sexual, reproductive health for youth in Rwanda.



*Thanks to this project, we feel like we can dream big, even though we're living in the camp. We're thankful for the chance to learn and improve ourselves, which not only helps us but also makes us better parents. It's given us the power to stand up for ourselves and overcome the tough parts of being young moms.*

A young mother supported through UNFPA's Youth Empowerment Program in Mahama Refugee Camp



Insufficient or limited access to comprehensive information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) presents a critical concern, creating a scenario where young individuals encounter increased vulnerabilities. This inadequacy significantly hampers endeavours to reduce the risk of youth exposure to various threats, such as Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV, early and unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and the looming spectre of gender-based violence (GBV).

Amidst challenges stemming from inadequate access to information, UNFPA Rwanda supported the implementation of various initiatives aimed at bridging critical knowledge and service gaps in sexual and reproductive health (SRH), socio-economic empowerment as well as combat GBV among adolescents and youth three districts – Rusizi, Karongi, Nyamasheke – and several refugee camps, namely: Kigeme, Kiziba, Mahama, Mugombwa, and Nyabiheke, along with their respective host communities.

Through initiatives like the “Healthy & Empowered Youth” project, funded by KOICA, a group of 20 First-time young mothers in the Mahama refugee camp were able to start and run a soap-making business.



*When I had just finished primary school, something unexpected happened. I found out I was going to have a baby. Living only with my father, who did his best but couldn't support both my education and the upcoming arrival. I had to leave school and eventually my home. Back then, everything felt impossible and hopeless. But things are changing now.*

**Adeline Muhaweninama**, a young mother who graduated from vocational training through UNFPA's youth empowerment program

Born from a financially struggling family in rural Rusizi, Adeline was forced to abandon school, leave her home and her aspirations behind when she found out she was pregnant at the age of 15. She started living a life of wandering as she struggled to support herself and her unborn baby, seeking ways to secure their livelihood.

Adeline's story mirrors the widespread issue of school dropouts and sometimes family detachment due to teenage pregnancies, a persistent challenge not just in her home district, Rusizi, but in all parts of Rwanda where the national prevalence of teenage pregnancy is at 5.2% according to the latest Rwanda Demographic Health Survey, released in 2020.

For many teen mothers, the inability to provide basic necessities for themselves and their children forces them to forego education, perpetuating a cycle of limited opportunities and economic struggles. In addition, Social stigma amplifies the isolation and mental strain on these individuals and their families.

Recognizing these challenges, UNFPA Rwanda, thanks to the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, through the Safeguard Young People Program in the Western province, embarked on a transformative initiative to help out-of-school teen mothers regain hope and economic resilience by helping them to return to school or start technical and vocational education.



TVET Students supported by UNFPA receive startup toolkits essential for their chosen professions after graduating. ©UNFPA Rwanda





## GENERATING AND USING POPULATION DATA TO INFORM POLICY AND PROGRAMMES

The launch of the 5th Census main indicators report underscored the importance of data in shaping policy dialogues and guiding the development of the next National Strategy for Transformation (NST2). Through collaborative partnerships and targeted initiatives, UNFPA facilitated data analysis, sub-analysis, publication, and dissemination, reinforcing its commitment to harnessing the power of data for sustainable development in Rwanda.

- **High-Level Data Dissemination:** The Government officially launched the 5th Census main indicators report during the National Dialogue Council, with results influencing policy dialogues and the preparation of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST2).
- **Technical Assistance and Thematic Analysis:** UNFPA provided crucial technical support to NISR for thematic data analysis of the 5th population and housing census, resulting in the production and dissemination of thematic reports, media training, and promotion of data analysis and use, fostering informed decision-making at various levels of governance.
- **Promotion of Data Analysis and Use:** UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) and NISR in promoting data analysis and use through dissemination workshops for DHS 2019-2020 district profiles in 2023, fostering informed decision-making at various levels of governance.



**18** Thematic reports were produced and disseminated, covering areas such as fertility, gender, and socio-economic characteristics of youth and people with disabilities, among others. These reports play a crucial role for UNFPA by providing the necessary evidence to monitor progress against the three Transformative Results.



**30** District Profiles were generated and distributed, offering district-specific evidence to support evidence-based planning and decision-making at the decentralized level. These profiles are indispensable for monitoring progress relative to the district development plan, which in turn contributes to national development frameworks.



**42** participants, including parliamentary legal drafting advisory specialists, committee clerks, planners, and advisors to the Deputy Speakers, were trained on integrating the SDGs, Vision 2063 for the African Union, and Vision 2050 for Rwanda into government policies and strategies. This training equips them to assist MPs in fulfilling their roles in voting laws, oversight, and representation.

### Data-Driven Monitoring for Improved Maternal and Child Health Outcomes in Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda (GOR) through the Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Statistics and their partners rolled out the dissemination of the Sixth Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey 2019-20 (RDHS-VI, 2019-20) and the second NCDs STEP 2021 Survey between 6-10 March 2023, in a bid to enhance data use and promote data-driven decision-making at the district level.

The surveys provided data to monitor the Rwanda population and the health situation in Rwanda. Specifically, the RDHS data source collects information on a broad range of demographic, health, and social issues such as household characteristics, maternal and child health, breastfeeding practices, early childhood mortality, maternal mortality, nutritional status of women and young children, fertility levels, marriage, fertility preferences, awareness and use of family planning methods, sexual activity, awareness and behaviour regarding AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

Every 5 years, the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) produces a DHS report with support from various partners. The UN through the joint program on data led by UNFPA supports NISR to gather quality disaggregated data to enable monitoring of the progress of SDGs including health programs and policies in the country.



Western Province and Districts Officials during a dissemination event for DHS organised by NISR in partnership with UNFPA. ©UNFPA Rwanda 2023





## INNOVATIVE FINANCING

Through the Strategic Investment Facility (SIF) - a concerted move by UNFPA to support programme countries shift from a development funding model to a financing model, UNFPA Rwanda rolled out the following innovative financing mechanisms aimed at catalyzing and leveraging additional domestic government, financial Institutions and private sector resources:

1

**Innovative Financing for Health Posts in Rwanda:** Since July 2023, UNFPA in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and the One UN in Rwanda, UNFPA has been leading the Joint Programme titled “A Thousand Health Posts in the Land of a Thousand Hills.” which aims at innovative financing for Sustainable Universal Health Coverage. Through this joint programme, the following key results have been registered:



- By the end of 2023, the implementation of Innovative health sector investment Model for health posts (SIF) increased stakeholder awareness about health posts and incentivized more commitment from both 12 public and private sector stakeholders in terms of technical and financial obligations.
- In addition to **USD 612,522** catalyzed in 2022, an additional **USD 5,315,335** was catalyzed in 2023 leading to a cumulative total of **5,927,857** (74% of the targeted amount to be leveraged by 2025) as summarized below.
- UNFPA led the development of a business case which examined the bankability and sustainability of health posts. The business case was validated and presents different scenarios for sustainably financing health posts including a blend of grants and debt.
- UNFPA in partnership with UNCDF launched a credit guarantee facility to de-risk lending to nurse entrepreneurs. A call for expression of interest attracted 9 financial institutions out of which 1 was selected for partnership.



- **31+** Health posts have been upgraded and provided catalytic start up grants of which 12 have so far broken even and can sustain business operations with their own internal resources.
- **309** descent jobs created (nurses, midwives, laboratory technicians and digital health officers)
- **10,312** new users of Family Planning modern methods.
- **182,420** children treated, **2036** live births.

2

**Youth Empowerment Accelerator for Health (YEAH)** UNFPA successfully rolled out the SIF-Funded YEAH project with mapping of **100** youth groups in Rusizi and Nyanza districts. This initiative focus on integrating SRHR into youth economic empowerment initiatives to increase access to SRHR information/services and improve the quality of life for the youth.





## UNFPA RWANDA AT THE 2023 WOMEN DELIVER CONFERENCE



*Moving from commitment to action, a journey to gender equality*

Rwanda hosted the sixth Women deliver conference from 17 to 20 July 2023. Women deliver is the largest global convening that catalyze conversations with stakeholders from around the world, breaking barriers, addressing challenges, and identifying opportunities to advance gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), to improve the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women, in all their intersecting identities. The five-day conference saw passionate discussions on supporting women and girls with funding and resources to challenge harmful norms and advocate for institutional and legislative reforms.

### Opening WD2023 - A Panel discussion reflecting on the status of gender equality

At the Opening, Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director joined a panel composed of Heads of State, H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of Ethiopia, H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and H.E. Katalin Novák, President of Hungary as well as Shabana Basij-Rasikh, Founder of School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA) to assess the status of gender equality with the aim of sharing recommendations and actions to be operationalized to ensure acceleration.

Dr. Kanem stressed the importance of never losing track of the reason why gender equality is essential to development, reminding us of the 10 year old girl who counts on us to be given the chance of fulfilling her potential.

“

I am excited to be here, because women deliver on their promises - on strategy and peace. UNFPA supports women-led local organizations that speak the language, the midwife that knows what to do; and this is the leadership that we want. The change you are speaking of is seeded at the local level in the respect of women's dignity and I think that is what we have to join hands on.

**Dr. NATALIA KANEM**  
**UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**





## Launch of AfriYAN Rwanda Youth Empowerment Hub

Supported by the Ministry of Youth of the Republic of Rwanda, UNFPA and KOICA, the African Youth and Adolescent Network on Population and Development (AfriYAN) launched its Youth Empowerment Hub, an incubator for young leaders and innovators from member youth-led organizations, other youth platforms and networks.

The Hub is established to create young champions and nurture their talents to become the catalysts of the development of Rwanda and Africa at large. Through the hub, youth-led organizations gain access to a range of support and resources, capacity building, technology and innovation, socio-economic empowerment and a sustainable network that enables them to create and develop their own materials related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).



## A Journey of Empowerment: Members of Parliament of the United Kingdom witnessed UNFPA's support to women in Mahama Camp

Ahead of their participation in #WomenDeliver2023, the delegation from UK Parliament visited the camp to witness the remarkable integration of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services, paving the path towards women's empowerment and gender equality in a humanitarian setting. During their visit, the UK Parliamentarians had the privilege of meeting with a group of First Time Young Mothers - inspiring women who are defying odds and nurturing their potential in the face of adversity.

These young mothers are supported under "Healthy & Empowered Youth" project, a UNFPA supported project with funds from the aid agency of the Republic of Korea, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), to empower adolescents and youth in Rwanda to realize their human right to equality, sexual and reproductive health, and freedom from violence.



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# PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

The work we do with our donors and partners goes a long way to completing the unfinished agenda on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

We appreciate your collaboration and commitment to UNFPA Rwanda's work in 2023



From the People of Japan



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Rwanda

 [rwanda.unfpa.org](http://rwanda.unfpa.org)

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