



Guharanira uburenganzira
n'amahitamo ya buri wese

BECAUSE EVERYONE COUNTS

NEWSLETTER
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MESSAGE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE

IJAMBO RY'UMUYOBOZI WA UNFPA MU RWANDA

As the world has the prospect of reaching 8 billion people by the end of this year, Rwanda is projected to have a population size of 13 million people in 2022 according to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). This milestone is a moment for celebration.

As we celebrate, let us remember what this population growth implies. UNFPA together with our partners must and should continue to support the dedicated efforts of the Government and people of Rwanda through the 2022 5th Population and Housing Census ongoing under the theme: **"Be counted because you count"** as put in Kinyarwanda **"Ibaruze kuko uri uw'agaciro"**, to have the data to inform decisions and policies to build the Rwanda We Want and the Africa We Want.

The population dynamics bring opportunities to harness the demographic dividend as young people form 70% of the population.

In addition, it presents the prospect to leverage inclusive development leaving no one behind which is embedded in the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1).

The updated population data through the census will help to inform not only decisions and policies, but also strategic planning, effective implementation, monitoring of interventions and data disaggregation which is crucial in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At UNFPA, we advocate for measuring and anticipating demographic changes with its emerging opportunities and challenges in addressing maternal mortality, voluntary family planning and addressing gender based violence often which is below the waterline of visibility.

We commend the Government of Rwanda for its strong leadership and commitments made to support Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all and together with our partners, including donors, private sector and civil society organizations in achieving the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) programme of action.

Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah



BE COUNTED BECAUSE YOU COUNT

IBARUZE KUKO URI UW'AGACIRO



RWANDA CONDUCTS ITS 5TH POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

Achieving a demographic dividend requires that each country understand the size and distribution of its population, its current and projected age structure, and the pace of population growth in order to undertake inclusive planning and effective implementation of socio-economic and development initiatives.

With the support from UNFPA Rwanda and other partners including Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and UK Office for National Statistics through The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) launched the 5th Population and Housing census on 16 August 2022, to update data on core demographic, social, and economic indicators to inform the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national and international development plans and programs that the country has committed on, particularly the National Strategy for Transformation 1 (NST1), Vision 2050, SDGs.

According to NISR, the current projections show that Rwanda's population is estimated to continue growing for the rest of the century and may reach 21 million by 2050, and 30 million in 2076. Around 70% are youth with 27.6% between the ages of 16 and 30, which underlines the importance for Rwanda to continue to invest in harnessing the demographic dividend.

"In Rwanda, statistics show that this year (2022) Rwandans will reach around thirteen million, and twenty-one million in 2050." Said Dr. Yussuf Murangwa, Director General of National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda in his Statement on the World Population Day 2022.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) uses its comparative advantage through high level international technical specialists to support the Government of Rwanda through NISR to generate, analyze and use data on population dynamics to inform planning, policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring of interventions in development and humanitarian settings. Under the joint UN programme on data international experts are working in developing 18 thematic reports or monographs which are crucial in informing strategic decisions in achieving the Rwanda We Want.



"It is within the UNFPA mandate and mission, to support countries in using population data for policies and programs. UNFPA appreciates the work and progress done by NISR, in the preparation of the 5th Population and Housing Census 2022. We hope to see reliable and timely updated population data" Stated Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah, UNFPA Representative, on the World Population Day 2022

BECAUSE EVERYONE COUNTS KUKO BURI WESE ARI UW'AGACIRO



HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES AND ENSURING RIGHTS AND CHOICES FOR ALL

Rwanda's high population growth has put increased demand on food, education and health cost, infrastructure, and services, and the government has made efforts around family planning to decrease the fertility rate and slow the population growth but also it has invested in the demographic dividend.

On 11 July, UNFPA Rwanda joined the rest of the world to celebrate the 2022 World Population Day, which coincided with the preparations of the 5th Population and Housing Census conducted from 16 to 30 August 2022.

Under the theme: **"A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future. Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all"**, UNFPA Rwanda in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, joined the community in Nyamasheke to mark the celebration of World Population day in Nyamasheke District.

"On this day, we celebrate the achieved milestones in terms of social welfare including poverty reduction, the decrease of infant mortality as well as the increase of life expectancy. Let's join hands and fight for rights and choices for all, giving young people the basic knowledge for development. One of the key factors in achieving this is a population-based plan, which is why population census is important." Said Jules-Cesar Hakizimana, Chairman of Nyamasheke District Council

The celebration in Nyamasheke served as an opportunity to call on Rwandans in general and the Nyamasheke population in particular, to make sure they are enumerated during the 2022 census, but also a great occasion to celebrate the progress made over the last two decades, especially health outcomes including in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. In particular, the gains have been made in Family Planning and the use of modern contraception.

"As we celebrate world population day, we join the Nyamasheke community to mark the tremendous progress made. This is an outcome of planification. You can't plan without numbers. Numbers come from the Census. We urge you, to take part in this census, with no one left behind or counted twice, and to welcome enumerators in your residence and provide complete information." Said Kathy Kantengwa, UNFPA Assistant Representative while addressing the community in Nyamasheke



ENSURING YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO SRH INFORMATION AND SERVICES

GUHARANIRA KO URUBYIRUKO RUGEZWAHO AMAKURU NA SERIVISI KU BUZIMA BW'IMYOROROKERE



IMPROVE ACCESS TO SRH INFORMATION AND SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

On 11th August 2022, UNFPA and KOICA Rwanda inaugurated newly constructed Youth Corners in Nyabiheke and Mahama refugee camps, constructed through the international NGO, Alight with funding from KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency), under the “Health and Empowered Youth” project.

The two inaugurated Youth Corners will serve as safe spaces for young people where they will be provided with various services including antenatal care, family planning services and counseling for First Time Young Mothers. The Youth Corners consist of a counseling section where young people can receive counseling services in addition to Sexual and Reproductive services, a teenage girls room that helps young girls during their menstrual periods, and an empowerment training section where computer classes are provided.

Disability inclusion was taken into consideration during the construction of the different sections in the Youth Corners, to facilitate access to SRH services for persons with disabilities , in line with leaving no one behind.



On the occasion of the inauguration of the Youth Corners, Mr. Yoo Jee Hyun, KOICA Rwanda Deputy Country Director, stated **“KOICA commends the Government of Rwanda, UNFPA and Implementing Partners for enabling us to support young people in realizing their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. We will continue to be part of these remarkable efforts to empower young people in Rwanda.”**



During the same inauguration, Ms. Mercy Mungai, UNFPA Rwanda Deputy Representative, stated **“UNFPA is grateful to the People of Republic of Korea and the Embassy of Korea in Rwanda for their great support to make sure that Young people in Rwanda get the right Sexual Reproductive Health information, to enable them to make informed choices in life.”**

UNFPA Rwanda is implementing the **“Healthy & Empowered Youth”** project 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. The project aims at empowering adolescents and young people in Rwanda to realize their human rights to equality, sexual and reproductive health, and freedom from violence and discrimination.

EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES

GUHA INGIMBI N'ABANGAVU UBUSHOBOZI BWO KWIFATIRA IBYEMEZO



INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY: BUILDING THE RWANDA WE WANT

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world needs to leverage the full potential of all generations. Solidarity across generations is key to sustainable development and it is fundamental to an intergenerational society that values and demonstrates equity and reciprocity between generations.

On 12th August 2022, Rwanda joined the world to celebrate International Youth Day, under the theme **“Intergenerational Solidarity: Building the Rwanda We Want”**.

The celebrations focused on creating integration solidarity for Youth and served as an opportunity to call upon the youth to follow the footsteps of the elders and actively participate in sustaining what has been achieved and building even more.

The official commemoration was held in Ruhango district where UNFPA joined the Minister of Youth and Culture Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, UN agencies, government institutions, development partners and other stakeholders to interact with young people on emerging issues affecting adolescents and youth.

UNFPA seized the opportunity to conduct two sessions with adolescents and young people in Ruhango on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The sessions emphasized on how people of all ages can join hands to address Sexual and Reproductive Health and rights issues including teenage pregnancy, HIV and other STIs, hindering a healthy young generation.



“We appreciate how Young people from Ruhango District are playing a key role in addressing key issues affecting the wellbeing of Rwandan population including Human security issues. The Intergenerational solidarity is one of key governance principles in Rwanda, which are rooted from our values. I urge young people to avoid behaviors that are contributing factors to unwanted pregnancies, HIV prevalence and STIs among adolescents and young people.”
Said Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister of Youth and Culture.



ENHANCING PARENT-ADOLESCENT COMMUNICATION

Effective parent-adolescent communication on sexual health issues is a factor that can influence adolescents towards adopting safer sexual behavior and therefore prevent teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

UNFPA encourages and supports increased levels of communication between parents and adolescents on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

To celebrate International Youth Day this year, UNFPA in collaboration with the National Youth Council and local supportive structures, brought together young and older generations (parents, youth leaders, community leaders, religious leaders, and district officials) in intergenerational dialogues to discuss the importance of Parent-Child Communication (PCC) and Parent-Adolescent Communication (PAC) on SRHR and Comprehensive Sexuality Education and how they can be enhanced in already existing community structures.

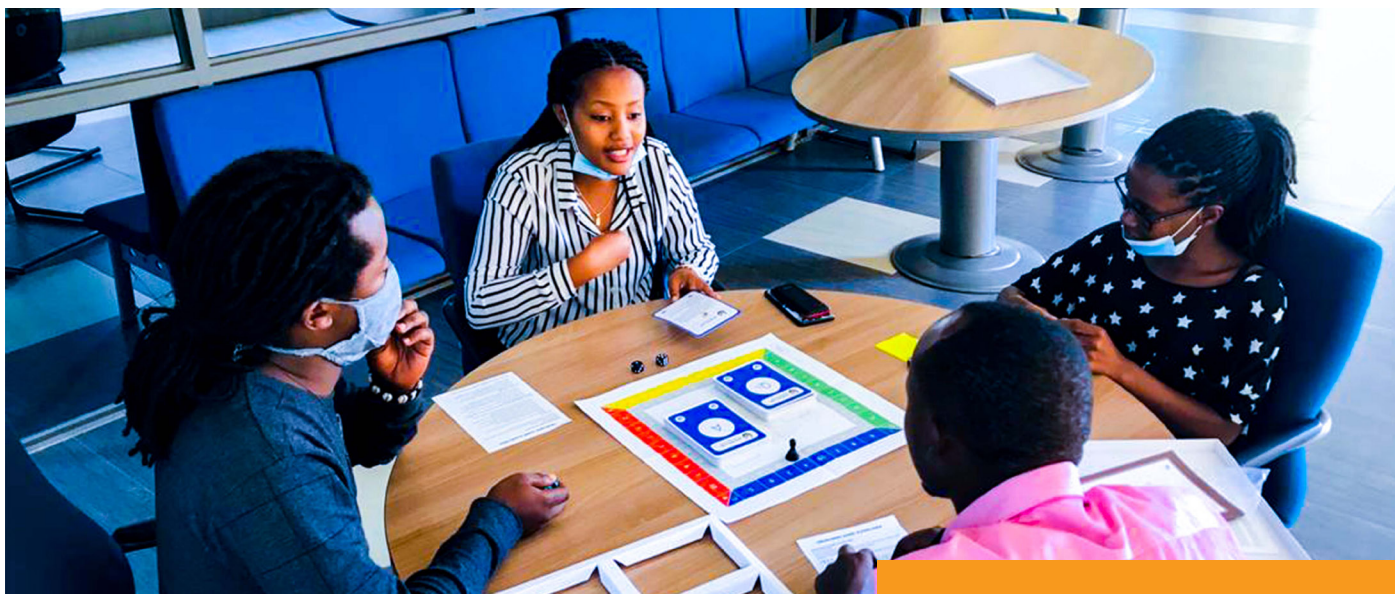
“When it comes to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, there is a big intergenerational gap: from different cultural norms, barriers to youth-friendly SRHR services, to a missing communication within different generations on SRHR. We must collaborate to foster successful and equitable intergenerational relations and partnerships to ensure Leaving no one behind”
As stated by Therese Karugwiza, Adolescent and Youth Unit Leader, UNFPA

Under the theme **“Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages”**, these intergenerational dialogues created spaces in which youth and adults, with a broad range of participants, discussed youth SRHR issues, and identified how to strengthen PCC/PAC within already existing community systems.



EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH YOUTH-LED INNOVATIONS

GUHA UBUSHOBOZI URUBYIRUKO BINYUZE MU GUHANGA UDUSHYA



URUKUNDO INITIATIVE RWANDA AMONG THE TOP 10 WINNERS OF THE UNFPA'S JOINT INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Urukundo Initiative, a Rwandan youth-led health organization emerged as one of the winners of the Joint Innovation Challenge of UNFPA, a competition that awards innovative solutions that advance the empowerment of women and girls worldwide.

The Urukundo initiative was announced as one of ten winners of the innovation challenge on 3rd August 2022, by Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA's Executive Director in New York.

This year's Innovative Challenge received 300 submissions from sixty one countries and five different regions globally. Twenty finalists pitched to an expert panel, out of which 10 winners were selected and signed nine-month contracts with UNFPA and each received an equity-free investment of USD 60,000.

The funding will allow the selected innovation ideas to move from the pilot stage to scale. UNFPA in partnership with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and International Trade Centre (ITC) and will further support the social enterprises with targeted mentorship, training opportunities, interactive workshops, and unique access to the UN network.



"In this 9-month-long project, we plan to invest more in raising awareness for our educational game, doing a lot of advertisement and learning both on our financial sales and marketing strategies to make sure that our urukundo life skills game is health sustaining both in Rwanda, in the region and in Africa." by Mick Ndayishimiye, CEO of Urukundo Initiative before adding: **We commend UNFPA Rwanda for its continuous support throughout the journey."**



Urukundo initiative is the producer of Urukundo Board Game & Information Package that avails adolescent sexual reproductive health information in a friendly, interactive, and evidence-based way. It can be played by up to 8 people at once at home/school/youth network for a period of more than 3 months. The package includes an Adolescents and Youth Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRH) booklet, 40 question cards & 40 answer cards, URUKUNDO Board, 2 dice & 40 diamond beads, Game guideline & facilitator guide.

DISABILITY INCLUSION KUGEZA SERIVISI ZOSE NO KU BAFITE UBUMUGA



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AT THE VERY CENTER OF EVERYTHING UNFPA DOES

UNFPA works to ensure persons with disabilities are leading efforts to make the world more inclusive and are championing equal rights and a life free from violence. Disability inclusion means making the work of UNFPA stronger by ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all.

To make the UNFPA programming process and implementation more inclusive and accessible to persons with all types of disabilities, UNFPA Rwanda country office organized training sessions for its staff and implementing partners to provide them with practical skills and knowledge around disability inclusion concepts and guiding programming principles .

The training sessions provided an opportunity to undertake a self-assessment on disability inclusiveness within the office to figure out the general picture of disability inclusiveness at the country office with focus on strengths and gaps. The assessment revealed where substantive progress has been made and where gaps remain.

Guided by the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), UNFPA is making an organization-wide commitment to promote meaningful, transformative, and sustainable inclusion of persons with disabilities across all its programmes and operations, and from Headquarters to the field.



"As everyone else, a person with disability has the same fundamental human rights such as the rights to life, education, information, decent work, voice in decision-making" Said Gervais Ntirenganya, UNFPA, AYSRH & Disability Specialist

"From this training, I learned Disability inclusive programming to ensure all phases of the programs/projects cycle include a disability dimension and that persons with disabilities are meaningfully and effectively participating in development processes and policies". Louange Twahirwa, Research Director HDI

KUGABANYA IMPFU Z'ABABYEYI BAPFA BABYARA

GUHARANIRA KO BURI WESE AHO AHEREREYE, AGEZWAGO SERIVISI Z'UBUZIMA BW'IMYOROROKERE



UNFPA works towards ensuring the availability of Family Planning commodities and life-saving medicines such that no woman dies while giving life.

Through the Last Mile Assurance (LMA) process, UNFPA provides assurance that its programme supplies are adequately managed and safeguarded by Implementing Partners across all levels of the supply chain, reaching the service delivery points in a timely and effective manner.

As part of the process, on-site verifications (spot checks) were undertaken in Karongi and Rwamagana Districts, with the help of a comprehensive spot check tool to provide evidence on whether UNFPA and other partner-donated program supplies were managed and safeguarded for intended purposes and were accessible to the beneficiaries.

"This exercise provides the opportunity for UNFPA and partners to identify issues at all levels of the supply chain, at an early stage and coordinate mitigation actions"said Marie Claire Iryanyawera ,Family Planning Programme Analyst

UNFPA and partners were able to complete visits to 27 facilities in a week-long spot check process, where they successfully followed all five verification procedures including traceability of deliveries, traceability of IP distribution, inventory management, inventory controls, and fraud risk. Most importantly, they ensured capacity building for the service providers in the facilities on Electronics Logistics Management Information Systems (eLMIS), as well as other supply chain processes.



"This visit is a wake-up call. As seen, our health center is located far from town and the roads are damaged, which requires us to improve our commodity management and quality service provision, especially considering the limitations that the population in the catchment area face due to limited access to health facilities. We pledge to, here on, apply recommendations provided from this visit and act in a timely manner to ensure that clients' needs are adequately met." Said Jacques Bayiro, Karora Health Centre Manager

ENDING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

KUVANAHO INZITIZI MU GUHABWA SERIVISI ZO KUBONEZA URUBYARO



EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS TO BETTER PLAN THEIR PREGNANCIES

World Contraception Day is celebrated every year on September 26th. The Government of Rwanda prioritizes the interventions that promote universal and equitable access to FP services as Rwanda is among countries who made FP 2030 commitments, a vision to achieve universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health, including Family Planning, by 2030.

The celebration of World Contraception Day is part of the effort made by the Government of Rwanda to improve awareness on the available methods mix of Family Planning, to address the unmet needs for FP of women particularly of youth and adolescents; and to accelerate the demand and growth uptake in use of Family Planning services as there is a growing need to educate and empower women and girls about planning their pregnancies using the method of contraception they deem most suitable for them.

As part of the World Contraception Day celebration this year, UNFPA in partnership with Helath Development Initiative, USAID/Ingobyi Activity, Society for Family Health and Clinton Health Access Initiative, organized a Family Planning outreach campaign from 19th to 23rd September in Rusizi District.

The campaign was designed to reach community members with information on family planning to explain the benefits of family planning use, as well as encourage community members to always consult nearby health facilities for future services.

During the campaign, healthcare providers from various facilities in Rusizi District provided counseling and services to District communities.

" While the target number of clients we intended to provide services to was 1000, the family planning services reached more than 2000 clients" Marie Claire Iryanyawera , Family Planning Programme Analyst

Adding " Adolescents and youth were equipped with all Family Planning information and services, without discrimination of age and Rusizi communities increased their knowledge on the importance of family planning."



REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY

KUGABANYA IMPFU Z'ABABYEYI



NO WOMAN SHOULD DIE WHILE GIVING LIFE

The Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Health, is making concerted efforts to scale-up high impact maternal and neonatal interventions that have the potential to significantly decrease maternal, newborn and child mortality.

On 30th September, The Ministry of Health/ Rwanda Biomedical Center in collaboration with UNFPA and other partners launched the **“No woman should die while giving life”** campaign, also launching comprehensive guidelines on routine antenatal care (ANC) for pregnant women and adolescent girls.

Under the theme : **“No woman should die while giving life: Every pregnancy should be planned with contraception use and followed through 8 antenatal care contacts for a positive pregnancy experience”** , the launch event , that also celebrated the World Contraception day, served as an opportunity to inform health care providers who are responsible for providing ANC at all levels of the health care provision, about the use of these guidelines as part of their efforts to contribute to improved maternal and neonatal outcomes in Rwanda.

The launched guidelines present a robust agenda that responds to identified areas of ANC that are critical to saving lives, improving health care utilization and quality of care. By focusing on timing and content of ANC, strategies and interventions for scaling up known effective practices in ANC are recommended with the goal of enhancing the quality of ANC services to improve maternal, fetal and newborn outcomes related to ANC in Rwanda.



“Antenatal care can save lives. This is an opportunity to communicate with and support women at a critical time of their lives. As part of increasing contraception uptake, we expanded contraception services to the lowest community level to increase accessibility and use for young people and people with disability.”

Said Zachee Iyakaremye, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health.



“When Antenatal Care services are offered and utilized, women are able to enjoy positive pregnancies leading to safe births, healthy babies and happy families. With the expansion from four to eight visits we are hoping that more pregnant women will use the services as some of the services are brought closer to the women because some visits will be performed by the nearest community health workers.” stated Therese Karugwiza, UNFPA at the launch of the campaign



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**UNFPA, the United Nations
Sexual Reproductive Health
and Rights Agency.**

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

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