



RWANDA HEALTH INITIATIVE FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN

HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

RHIYW is non-governmental, non-profit organization working on the ground via public youth center(s), family planning posts and community outreach activities. ***RHIYW's goal is to ensure adolescents, young people and women live healthy lives*** by improving the accessibility of comprehensive sexual reproductive health services to youth and women through education and service provision. Its main office is located in the Northern Province, Musanze District, with a liaison office in Kigali. RHIYW was born out of the passion and involvement of young volunteers and Rwandan public health experts who had previously worked with the Bixby Center at the University of California, Berkeley and Venture Strategies innovations (VSI). In addition to its partnership with these organizations, RHIYW collaborates with Rwanda's Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth, Administrative District, public health facilities and other non-governmental organizations in all aspects of its work. In addition to a local team of public health experts, SRHR health providers, counselors, social economic development experts and youth volunteers, RHIYW's advisory committee is made up of global experts in the fields of SRHR, public health, and advocacy.

RHIYW's main activities are based at the Musanze Youth Center; this youth center is one of the most successful youth centers in Rwanda. It offers a wide range of youth friendly SRHR services, empowerment, skills and employability training, recreation services and community involvement. RHIYW provides the following free SRHR services at the youth center: modern family planning methods, screening and management of sexually transmitted infections (STI), HIV/AIDs testing and counseling, post-abortion care, basic gender-based violence (GBV) services and linkages with Isange One Stop Centers (IOSC), pregnancy tests, basic antenatal care and counseling, male circumcision, psychosocial and socio-economic support for vulnerable adolescents girls and young women, and technical vocational training. The center also delivers comprehensive sexual reproductive health education.

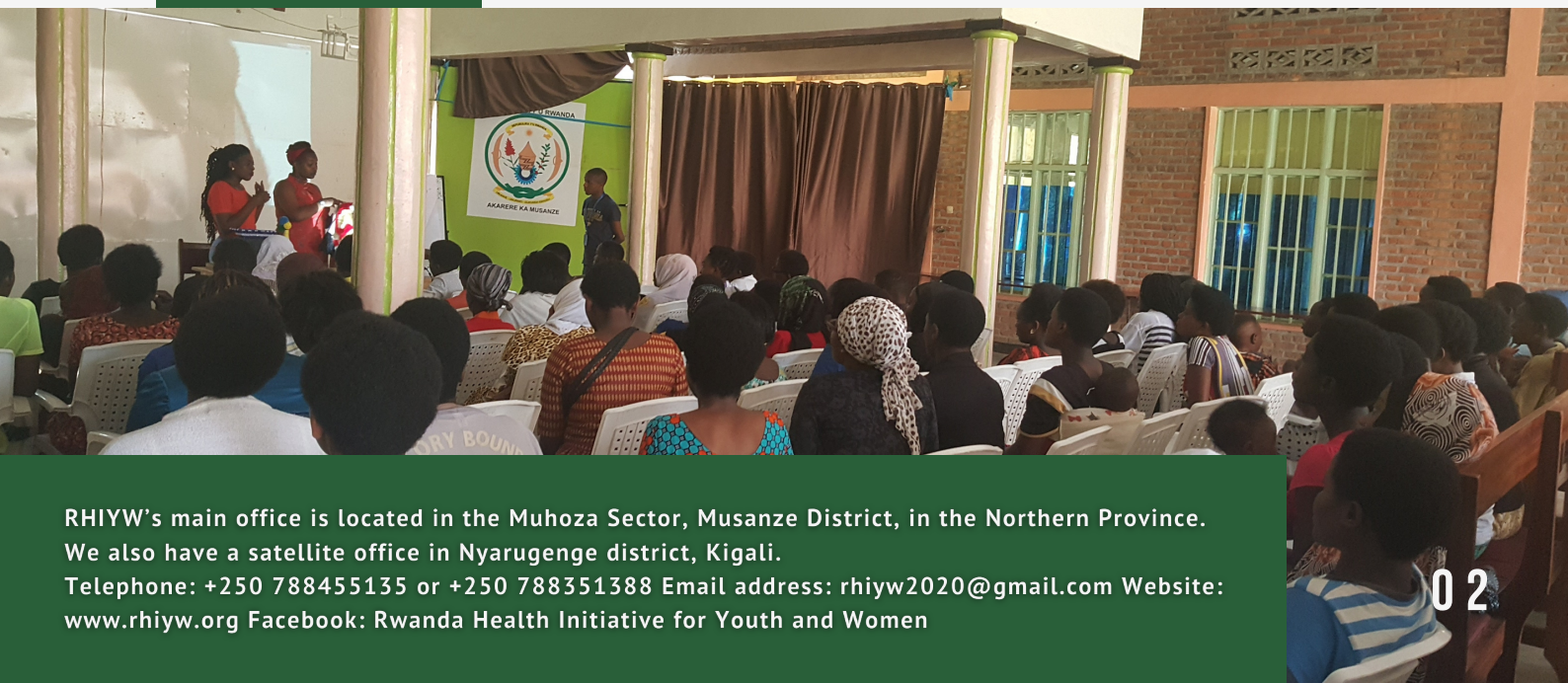
Between 2017 and 2021, the youth center received over 115,000 youth visits, approximately 25% of which were first time visits. 50 youth volunteers were trained and involved in the design and the implementation of SRHR programs. The center also organized community outreach activities in Musanze's rural areas which reached around 60,000 people (adult and youth through Family Planning (FP) education. 5,851 individuals also received modern family planning methods.

RHIYW'S MISSION, VALUES AND GOALS

RHIYW's mission is to enable adolescents, young people and women to lead interventions in sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR). We involve youth in every aspect of our programs and provide them with the knowledge and skills to take charge of their health.

RHIYW's values are gender equality, equity, accountability, partnership, transparency, sustainability, integrity, creativity/innovation and excellence.

RHIYW's goal is to ensure adolescents, young people and women live healthy lives and receive quality comprehensive sexual reproductive health and rights services. RHIYW aims to prevent unintended pregnancies and sexual violence among adolescents and young mothers, reduce maternal deaths and disabilities, and prevent STIs and HIV/AIDS among youth. RHIYW also aims to help young people and women make informed choices about their own lives. RHIYW is particularly committed to empowering adolescents' girls and young women in a holistic approach.



RHIYW'S PRIORITIES

- To deliver trusted, confidential, comprehensive sexual reproductive health education and services in youth centers including the provision of modern family planning methods, HIV/AIDs counseling and testing, treatment of STIs, and basic GBV services.
- To implement socio-economic strategies for vulnerable adolescents girls and young women.
- To build rural public health facilities' capacity to provide youth friendly SRHR services
- To strengthen the leadership capacity of young people in SRHR programs



RHIYW'S IMPACT

*Between 2017 and 2021, **115,227** individuals received free services at the Musanze Youth Center.*

These services included:

- **66,593** youth who received free internet services
- **45,174** youth who attended comprehensive sexuality education sessions
- **69,814** youth who participated recreational activities
- **8,998** individuals who received STI testing, counseling and treatment
- **345** individuals who received modern contraceptives
- **8,815** who received HIV tests and counselling
- **41** who received basic GBV care including counselling for legal abortion
- **74** who tested positive for pregnancy received basic ante-natal care (ANC) counselling
- **4,286** youth who recieved condoms
- Over **120** teen mothers who participated in the vocational trainings including hand crafts, savings groups and recreational activities.

During community outreach activities, **5,306** implants were inserted, **64** IUDs inserted, **113** women were given birth control pills, **326** DMPA users, **37** women were referred to district hospitals for tubal ligations, and **5** men for vasectomies.