



RWANDA HEALTH INITIATIVE
FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN

HIV AND STI PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE: PROGRAM RESULTS (2019–2024)



Objective

To reduce the burden of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among adolescents and young people through education, prevention, testing, treatment, counseling, and referral services.

Background

Adolescents and young people remain disproportionately vulnerable to HIV infection and sexually transmitted infections due to limited access to accurate information, stigma, harmful social norms, and barriers to youth-friendly health services. Delayed diagnosis and treatment of HIV and STIs can result in adverse health outcomes, continued transmission, and increased vulnerability among high-risk populations. Expanding access to integrated, youth-friendly HIV and STI services is therefore critical to improving health outcomes and reducing new infections.

Key Interventions and Results (2019–2025)

Between 2019 and 2024, RHIYW implemented various HIV and STI prevention interventions through youth centers (notably the Musanze Youth Center), primary health facilities, community outreach activities, and targeted programs for vulnerable populations.

The program combined HIV awareness and prevention campaigns, counseling and testing services, STI screening and management, referral systems, and community education to promote healthy behaviors and increase service uptake.

Targeted interventions were also delivered to vulnerable groups, including sex workers, street-connected youth, and other at-risk populations, ensuring equitable access to prevention, testing, and treatment services.

Key Results:

- Over 14,000 adolescents and young people received HIV counseling and testing services through youth centers and outreach programs.
- More than 5,000 adolescents and young people diagnosed with STIs received counseling, treatment, and referrals for continued care.
- Hundreds of vulnerable young people were reached with tailored HIV prevention interventions, including risk-reduction education, counseling, and linkage to appropriate health services.
- HIV testing services were strengthened through integration into broader sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. More than 2000 Clients accessing other SRH services were offered HIV testing in 66 primary health facilities supported across 5 districts.

Impact

The program contributed to increased awareness of HIV status among adolescents and young people, enabling early identification and timely linkage to care for those requiring treatment. Improved access to STI screening, diagnosis, and treatment strengthened prevention efforts and reduced the risk of complications and onward transmission. Through integrated youth-friendly services, the program enhanced uptake of HIV and STI services while improving continuity of care and treatment adherence among vulnerable populations.

Lessons Learned

Integrating HIV testing and STI services within broader youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health programs increases service acceptance, reduces stigma, and improves uptake among young people. Combining community outreach, peer education, and targeted interventions for vulnerable populations with accessible testing and treatment services is an effective strategy for reaching underserved groups and strengthening HIV and STI prevention efforts.

