

RWANDA HEALTH INITIATIVE FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN (RHIYW)

SUMMARY REPORT



WHO WE ARE

RHIYW is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to advancing the health and well-being of adolescents, youth, women, and other vulnerable populations across Rwanda. Through advocacy, education, service delivery, and digital innovation, we deliver inclusive, rights-based, and culturally sensitive health services.

Goals

To enhance the health and well-being of adolescents, youth, women and other vulnerable populations through accessible high-quality healthcare, education, support, empowerment and advocacy.

Vision

A Rwanda where every adolescent, youth, and woman has access to comprehensive, high-quality healthcare, education, empowerment, advocacy and support, leading to improved health and well-being.

Mission

To strengthen institutions and systems that promote the health and well-being of adolescents, youth, and women by equipping them with essential knowledge, resources, and support

CORE VALUES

- Gender Equality & Equity
- Empowerment & Inclusivity
- Accountability & Transparency
- Sustainability & Integrity
- Collaboration & Partnership
- Cultural Sensitivity & Age Appropriateness
- Creativity, Innovation & Excellence
- Compassion & Respect



KEY FOCAL AREAS

- Research on Health
- Health System Strengthening
- Health Innovation & Digital Transformation
- Community-Based Health Services
- Clinical Guidelines & Best Practices
- Outreach and Mobile Clinics
- Health Supplies Purchase & Distribution
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including:
 - STI/HIV prevention and care
 - antenatal, perinatal, and postnatal care
 - comprehensive abortion care.
- Gynecological and Maternal health
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention & Response
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being, youth Substance Abuse Prevention
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response
- Community Engagement & Capacity Building
- Youth/women Empowerment & Leadership
- Health Policy and Advocacy
- Health Commodities and Infrastructure
- Communicable & Non-Communicable disease prevention and care
- Nutrition & Food Security

APPROACH

- Strengthening institutional and workforce capacity
- Community engagement and peer-led interventions
- Digital health solutions and telemedicine
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
- Evidence-based programming and research
- Focus on underserved, vulnerable, and marginalized groups
- Rights-based, culturally sensitive, and client-centered models
- Strategic partnerships with public and private sectors
- Advocacy and Policy Engagement
- Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles
- Research, Monitoring, and Evidence-Based Practice





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2019 – 2025)

1. SRH Education and Service Access

- **150,000+** youth reached with comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) education
- **14,000+** individuals received HIV testing and counseling services
- **16,000+** youth accessed modern contraceptives
- **5,000+** sexually transmitted infections (STIs) diagnosed and treated among youth
- **5,000+** survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) supported.

2. Institutional Capacity-Building

- **4,500+** healthcare providers trained
- **16,000+** community health workers trained on sexual and reproductive health and maternal health
- **76 health facilities** and 1 youth centers equipped with sexual and reproductive health commodities

3. Digital Health & Innovation

- **Telemedicine programs** in SRH; implemented in 5 districts across 67 facilities
- Co-developed **SRH mobile apps**
- **176 providers** trained on use of the new MOH telehealth tool (telemedicine in SRH).

4. Maternal Health & Family Planning

- **70,000+** reached with family planning education
- **120** nurses and midwives trained in the use of basic ultrasound for antenatal care
- **50,000+** pregnant women examined using ultrasound technology by mid-level healthcare providers
- **14,000+** rural women received maternal services
- **20,000+** women from rural communities received modern family planning methods

5. Youth Empowerment & Life Skills

- **120,000+** youth engaged in digital and recreational activities
- **70,000+** trained in life skills, and digital literacy
- **2000 +** hard to reach vulnerable populations reached, including street children, sex workers, and disabled youth

6. Non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and care services

- **5,000+** high-risk individuals (old men and women) reached with, screening for high blood pressure and diabetes and referral for those who are positive.

7. Hepatitis C & B prevention and care

- **3,000+** high-risk individuals tested for Hepatitis B and C during outreach programs, with vaccination provided to those who tested negative for Hepatitis B and referrals given to those who tested positive.

8. Research & Advocacy

- Conducted **5+** research studies to inform policy
- Actively engaged in national technical working groups on adolescent health, safe motherhood, comprehensive abortion care, gender-based violence, community health, digital health, and sexual and reproductive health.

9. Partnerships and Policy Influence

- Developed Formal partnerships in **7 districts** for sustainable implementation
- Contributed to the development more than 10 national health care services delivery guidelines and 3 strategic plan in health and training manual for health care providers.



Partnerships and Collaboration

RHIYW collaborates with a range of national and international stakeholders to advance its mission.

Key partners include:

- Rwanda Ministry of Health / Rwanda Biomedical Center
- Ministry of Youth and Arts
- Professional associations of gynecologists, medical doctors, nurses, and midwives
- Health student associations and academic institutions
- Administrative districts and public youth centers
- National and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Development partners and donor agencies
- Private health institutions
- Community structures, including local leaders, faith-based groups, and grass-roots organizations

CONCLUSION

RHIYW is creating transformative and sustainable change by ensuring adolescents, youth, women and other vulnerable populations get the knowledge, resources, and access to live healthy and empowered lives. We remain committed to building resilient communities and systems that leave no one behind.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

- Operational across seven districts in Rwanda
- Headquarters: Kicukiro District, Kigali
- Satellite Office: Musanze District, Northern Province

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 RHIYW (Rwanda Health Initiative for Youth and Women)

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