

AHID TAKES ACTIONS TO PROMOTE UPDATE OF HEALTH SERVICES IN KIREHE DISTRICT REPORT



Introduction: With the support from AAHEAD.ORG the non profit organization AHID partnered with Kirehe district to implement the program for health promotion through provision of community health insurance and awareness raising on utilization for health services. The main objective of this program is to increase the uptake of health services by community members in the Kirehe district and nationally.

Community Dialogue: On September 9, at the occasion of a community gathering named Inteko y'abaturage, AHID and local health officers from Kirehe District conducted a community dialogue that brought together around 700 people from the Mahama sector. The event took place in the cell of Munini. Led by local authorities and AHID technical staff, the dialogue reflected key prevention messages and raised awareness of community members for the utilization of family planning, sexual and reproductive health services, HIV and GBV prevention. Health professionals engaged directly with residents to promote better health outcomes. This one-day community mobilization emphasized particularly on Family planning



(kuboneza urubyaro), prevention of HIV and ending stigma associated with AIDS.



About HIV: In his remarks, the program coordinator at AHID Mr Rushema mentioned that AHID is a local Non –governmental organization created in 2003. AHID aims at promoting health services and economic development related initiatives. In that framework AHID is committed to contribute to the attainment of national targets in health especially response to HIV and AIDS including support to reach overall country development goals. AHID’s goal is practical empowerment – beyond supporting health awareness. AHID aims at addressing the major factors making women, girls and key populations vulnerable to HIV infection. Talking about the HIV and AIDS epidemic, Mr. Moise reiterated that

AHID in partnership with Kirehe district organized this dialogue session to raise awareness on HIV and AIDS and the prevention of gender based violence. As it was mentioned by the UN Secretary General in this message at the World AIDS Day 2024: “The number of people with access to life-saving medicines has doubled over the past five years, now topping 18 million. With the right investments, the world can get on the fast-track to achieve our target of 30 million people on treatment by 2030¹

HIV Prevalence in Rwanda: Data of 2024 shows that HIV remains a significant public health challenge in Rwanda, though the country has made substantial progress, including achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets by meeting the 95% awareness, 95% on treatment, and 95% virally suppressed goals. While overall HIV prevalence among adults 15-49 is around 2.7%–3.1%, women continue to have a higher prevalence than men. Rwanda is also integrating HIV prevention with other emerging infectious diseases and sexual and reproductive health services through awareness campaigns held in communities and public health initiatives. The leadership of AHID takes this opportunity to thank Kirehe district for the great partnership we are having to increase uptake of health services through community health insurance, advance prevention of new HIV infections, gender based violence and mitigate stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS. We are also grateful to the support from AHEAD² and Nazarene church in Bangor state of Maine in the USA that contributed to Community based Health insurance provided to the community members in Kirehe District.

Recommendations: The in charge of Health in Kirehe District in his message appreciated the support from AHID through the provision of Mutuelle de sante to community members. We are grateful to such concrete contributions to the improvement of quality of life of our community members.



Participants demonstrated active participation by asking questions. This indicates a greater need for regular dialogue on such topics by covering all sectors. AHID was commended for professionalism and quality of services. Mutuelle de sante for 200 people was paid for by AHID and there is a plan to pay an additional 150 people in near future.

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/secretary-generals-message-world-aids-day>

² AAHEAD.ORG