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**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS
TO DECREASE STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION AMONG
WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE BY ENDING UNSAFE
ABORTIONS IN RWANDA.**

Meeting with community stakeholders in Rusizi

I. Background.

Ihorere Munyarwanda Organization (IMRO) is a national Non-Governmental Organization that was founded in 1999 and legally operating in Rwanda. We were granted legal personality No 03/11 and have fulfilled all requirements for compliance with the new Law number 04/2012 of 17th February 2012 governing the Organization and Functioning of National Non Governmental Organizations/RGB-Rwandan Law.

IMRO is implementing interventions in the context of Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, Gender Equality, SRHR, Nutrition, GBV, HIV, Education, Environment , Peace Building ,Health Promotion, accountability, Advocacy and Networking in order to improve lives of beneficiaries at individual, family and, community levels for sustainable social economic development with Human Right based approach.

The project focus is awareness campaigns to increase knowledge of the community, law enforcement agencies and female sex workers by reducing stigma and discrimination among sex workers. Advocacy to reduce stigma and discrimination related to unsafe abortions among female sex workers. Capacity building will increase the knowledge and skills on sexual reproductive health. Litigate a constitutional case to provide precedence. Monitoring and Evaluation to overcome risks, transparency and accountability.

II.MAIN GOAL:

Empowering communities and engaging stakeholders to decrease stigma and discrimination among women of reproductive age by ending unsafe abortions in Rwanda” .

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING:

The main objectives of this meeting are the following:

- . To increase their knowledge to reduce stigma and discrimination among sex workers in Rusizi.

- Organize informational meeting with the Community Stakeholders to increase their knowledge on FSWs rights as individuals and how to advocate for their rights.

IV.ACTIVITY

Organize community meetings with community stakeholders to increase their knowledge in order to reduce the stigma and discrimination among female sex workers in (**RUSIZI**) and discuss issues related to reducing stigma and discrimination related to unsafe abortions among female sex workers in Rwanda.



Participants



Group Photo with all participants

V.EXPECTED RESULTS:

- 30 Stakeholders reached through meetings with representatives from the local law enforcement agencies, paralegal district, community policing, people from the social affairs department, health directors, GBV representatives of police, media and council women to increase their knowledge to reduce stigma and discrimination among sex workers in Rusizi.
- 30 Stakeholders reached and type of legislators, regulators, and other decision-makers increase awareness and engagement in SRHR.
- 30 Stakeholders reached discuss on the mechanisms of reducing stigma and discrimination related to unsafe abortions among sex workers in Rusizi.
- 30 Stakeholders reached discuss on new mechanisms or practices to strengthen SRHR service, product and education delivery.

VI. Participants

- 30 community stakeholders from Sectors of Rusizi District.

VII. Venue & Dates : Conference Hall of the District on 22nd September, 2017

VIII. Trainers/Presentations:

- 1. Presentation from Rusizi -District /Health Unity on Reproductive Health among Female Sex Workers.



HABARUGIRA during his presentation on unsafe abortion

The stakeholders were shown the main causes of unsafe abortion in rusizi such us:

- The financial difficulties in raising the kids while continuing with their education
- The fear of expulsion from school
- Parents will not find out because of fear they might disapprove her for bringing shame to the family
- The parents will refuse to continue paying her school fees
- Economics reasons for young adults/sex workers
- Rejection by parents/family members and even the author of the pregnancy.

Here is a table show the new HIV infection that tested positive in 2016

Period	Organisation unit	ANC HIV tested positive
2016	Bugarama (rusizi) CS	3
2016	Bweyeye CS	3
2016	Giheke CS	2
2016	Gihundwe CS	10
2016	Gikundamvura CS	2
2016	Islamic (Bugarama) CS	10
2016	Mashesha CS	1
2016	Mibilizi CS	5
2016	Mont Cyangugu CS	4
2016	Mushaka CS	2
2016	Nkanka CS	4
2016	Nkombo CS	4
2016	Nkungu CS	0
2016	Nyabitimbo CS	2
2016	Nyakabuye CS	2
2016	Nyakarenzo CS	0
2016	Rusizi CS	7
2016	Rwinzuki CS	2
TOTAL		63

This following table shows the number of girls that get pregnant under the age the age of 19 years old in Rusizi last year;

DELIVARIES UNDER 19 YEARS

Period	Organisation unit	Deliveries 16 to 19 years	Deliveries 15 years and under
2016	Bugarama (rusizi) CS	27	0
2016	Bweyeye CS	17	0
2016	Giheke CS	6	0
2016	Gihundwe CS	28	1
2016	Gihundwe DH	72	2
2016	Gikundamvura CS	9	0
2016	Islamic (Bugarama) CS	42	0
2016	Mashesha CS	28	0
2016	Mibilizi CS	11	0
2016	Mibilizi DH	73	4
2016	Mont Cyangugu CS	7	0
2016	Mushaka CS	26	0
2016	Nkanka CS	16	0
2016	Nkombo CS	7	0
2016	Nkungu CS	11	0
2016	Nyabitimbo CS	6	0
2016	Nyakabuye CS	2	0
2016	Nyakarenzo CS	8	0
2016	Rusizi CS	13	0
2016	Rwinzuki CS	8	0
TOTAL		417	7

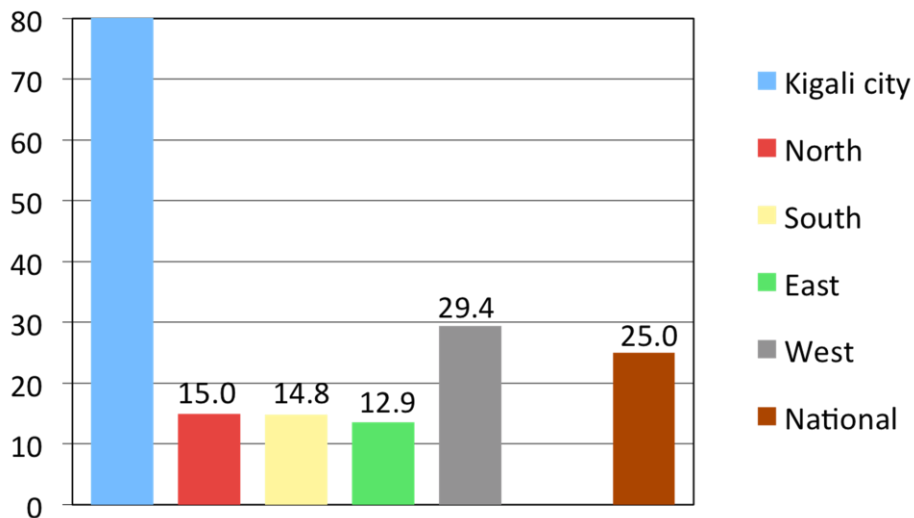
And the following table show the maternal death in Rusizi last year,

MATERNAL DEATH

Period	Organisation unit	Maternal deaths at HF
2016	Bugarama (rusizi) CS	0
2016	Bweyeye CS	0
2016	Giheke CS	0
2016	Gihundwe CS	0
2016	Gihundwe DH	2
2016	Gikundamvura CS	0
2016	Islamic (Bugarama) CS	0

2016	Mashesha CS	1
2016	Mibilizi CS	0
2016	Mibilizi DH	4
2016	Mont Cyangugu CS	0
2016	Mushaka CS	0
2016	Nkanka CS	0
2016	Nkombo CS	0
2016	Nkungu CS	0
2016	Nyabitimbo CS	1
2016	Nyakabuye CS	0
2016	Nyakarenzo CS	0
2016	Rusizi CS	0
2016	Rwinzuki CS	1
TOTAL		9

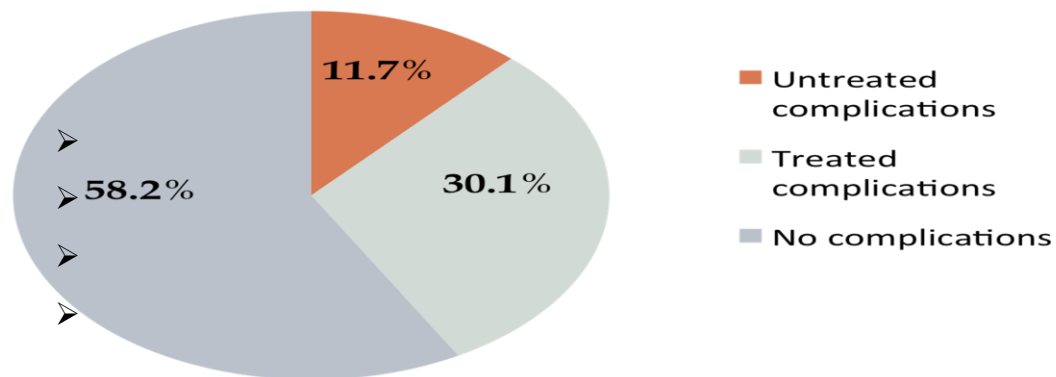
Abortion incidence varies widely across regions



Unsafe Abortion in Rwanda

1/3 of women with abortion complications do not receive care

Unsafe Abortion in Rwanda



abortion study SPH, 2009

Source: Basinga et al. Abortion incidence and postabortion care in Rwanda. *Studies in Family Planning* 2012; 43[1]: 11–20

- 2. Presentation From GLIHD on increasing awareness of SRHR as human rights empowering FSWs to claim their SRHR (e.g., reporting GBV cases, requesting services for the first time) and Increase capacity of FSWs from marginalized groups reached by the program become active in advocating for SRHR.



MUTONI Fidele presenting about INCREASING AWARENESS OF SRHR AS HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO EMPOWERING FEMALE SEX WORKERS TO CLAIM THEIR SRHR

The participants had a chance to understand about the PENAL CODE ON ABORTION

- In 2012 Rwanda adopted a new penal code
- The penal code criminalizes abortion (article 162)
- It criminalizes the act of causing a woman to abort with or without her consent (article 163)

But however, article 165 provides for exceptions under which a woman can be allowed to commit abortion without being criminally liable:

1° when a woman has become pregnant as a result of rape;

2° when a woman has been subjected to forced marriage'

3° when a woman has become pregnant due to incest in the second degree;

4° when the continuation of pregnancy seriously jeopardizes the health of the unborn baby or that of the pregnant woman.

XI. CONCLUSION (S)

We recommend that Stakeholders reached through meetings with representatives from the local law enforcement agencies, paralegal district, community policing, people from the social affairs department, health directors, GBV representatives of police, media and council women increase their knowledge to reduce stigma and discrimination among sex workers.

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Project Coordinator



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National Coordinator of IMRO / Kigali Office

