



"Together as One for a Healthy Society"

# IMRO Rwanda Newsletter



## Here's what has happened in the last 3 months and what's to come!

This quarter reminded us once again that information, access, and dignity are pillars that save lives. Over the past three months, IMRO Rwanda has taken health education beyond clinics and into the everyday spaces where real life happens: markets, gatherings, and community hubs. Because our mission is not only to provide services, but to transform mindsets and shift norms. When a mother learns how to protect herself, when a youth understands correct condom use, when a healthcare provider confronts personal bias and chooses empathy that is when public health becomes human-centered health.

From HIV/TB prevention campaigns in busy markets, to value-driven VCAT capacity building for providers serving PWUDs, this quarter reaffirmed IMRO Rwanda's commitment to stand at the crossroads of public health, harm reduction, and human rights.

And as we move into the next quarter we are not slowing down. The next 3 months will deepen our visibility, strengthen Community-Led Monitoring, and continue to empower the very communities at the heart of our mission.

**"Community Health is a Human Right — Not a Privilege"**

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Opening Story

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Reaching Communities Where They Are: Turning Markets into Health Hubs

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VCAT Training

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International Health & Rights Days Observed

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Voices from the Field

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Closing Note & Acknowledgements

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## Reaching Communities Where They Are: Turning Markets into Health Hubs

31 July 2025 – Nyanza District (Kayanza Market)

The team launched an HIV/TB prevention awareness campaign at Gati Cell, Muyira Sector. Music performances, live education, free testing, condoms, demonstration sessions, and open Q&A turned a normal trading day into a collective movement of health empowerment. Local health providers, JADF representatives, and law enforcement stood with us showing that health cannot transform communities without full-system partnership.

10 August 2025 – Burera District (Cyanika Market)

With the support of the Vice Mayor for Social Affairs, JADF and Police representatives, IMRO Rwanda led another HIV/TB campaign reinforcing correct condom use, treatment access pathways and TB screening. These sessions showed that prevention cannot exist in silence it must be visible, normal, accessible and community-owned.



Media Link:

<https://x.com/ImroRwanda/status/1950911524509229385>

<https://x.com/ImroRwanda/status/1951079536545694144>

<https://x.com/ImroRwanda/status/1954324709849575665>



## VCAT Training for Healthcare Providers

In Rubavu District, IMRO Rwanda hosted a transformative 2-day Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) training for healthcare providers, aimed at improving care for Key Populations with a special focus on People Who Use Drugs (PWUDs).

Healthcare providers from various facilities came together to confront the realities of stigma and discrimination in health services. Through immersive Power-Walk exercises, participants were able to physically experience the barriers and social biases faced by PWUDs in accessing care. The exercise brought eye-opening reflections and sparked honest conversations about assumptions and prejudices that often go unnoticed in daily practice.

Role plays became another cornerstone of the training. Providers stepped into the shoes of their patients, experiencing firsthand the challenges, fears, and discrimination that marginalized populations face. These moments of empathy encouraged participants to rethink their approach, ensuring that dignity, respect, and patient-centered care become non-negotiable values in their work.

The discussions also emphasized the principles of harm reduction, equipping providers with practical strategies to support PWUDs safely and respectfully.

From safer injection guidance to treatment adherence counseling, the training bridged knowledge with compassion proving that healthcare is not only about clinical skills but also about human connection.

By the end of the two days, participants left with renewed commitment and practical tools to deliver stigma-free, rights-based services. One participant reflected, "I realized how small actions and words can either build trust or push patients away. Now I feel empowered to provide care that truly respects every person's dignity."

This VCAT training represents IMRO Rwanda's continued effort to shift attitudes, not just knowledge, ensuring that healthcare settings become safe spaces for everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances.



Media Link:

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<https://x.com/ImroRwanda/status/1958131573901156448>

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# International Days Marked — Advocating Health, Rights, and Dignity



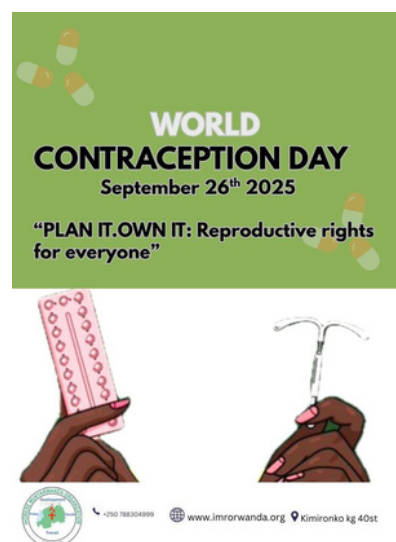
## World Hepatitis Day 2025

On 28 July 2025, IMRO Rwanda joined the global movement to raise awareness about hepatitis, under the theme “Hepatitis Won’t Wait”. Through community engagement and public messaging, we highlighted the importance of early testing, prevention, and treatment. Health education sessions emphasized that hepatitis is preventable and treatable, and that eliminating it requires collective action. This day was a reminder that timely knowledge and access to services can save lives, and that every individual has the right to know their status.



## International Overdose Awareness Day 2025

On 31 August 2025, we commemorated lives lost to overdose and stood in solidarity with People Who Use Drugs (PWUDs) and their families. IMRO Rwanda used this day to promote harm reduction, dignity, and stigma-free healthcare, stressing that every life is valuable. Through workshops, discussions, and public outreach, we reinforced strategies to reduce overdose risks and empower communities to support those affected by drug use challenges.



## World Contraception Day 2025

On 26 September 2025, IMRO Rwanda marked World Contraception Day with the theme “Plan It. Own It.”, emphasizing that reproductive rights are fundamental to health and wellbeing. Education sessions focused on empowering adolescent girls and young women to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. Through advocacy and awareness campaigns, we highlighted new health laws that enable young people to access contraception safely and confidently, ensuring they can shape their futures with autonomy and knowledge.

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## VOICES FROM THE FIELD



**Community Health Mobilizer, Nyanza District**

"When you teach someone how to use a condom correctly, you are not just preventing infection you are giving them power."



**Director of Health, Rubavu District**

"The role play opened my eyes. I realized how harmful assumptions are. We need to serve without judgement."



**Vice Mayor Social Affairs, Burera District**

"Seeing the community come together to learn about HIV and TB prevention reminded me that knowledge truly saves lives. When people are empowered with information, they protect themselves and their loved ones."



**Healthcare Provider, Rubavu District**

"Before this training, I didn't fully understand the challenges PWUDs face. Walking in their shoes made me realize how simple changes in attitude can make healthcare safer and more welcoming."



**Law Enforcement Officer, Burera District**

"Watching people openly ask questions about HIV and TB and receive free testing was inspiring. It shows that when you meet communities where they are, you create trust and real impact."

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## Closing Note

As IMRO Rwanda continues its mission, we remain steadfast in our commitment to evidence-driven interventions, community empowerment, and the unwavering defense of human dignity especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Every campaign, every training, and every outreach session reinforces our belief that healthcare and rights are inseparable, and that lasting change begins when communities are informed, supported, and respected.

Looking ahead, the next quarter promises even greater impact. IMRO Rwanda will deepen the scale-up of Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) initiatives, ensuring that the voices of those most affected are central to program design and policy advocacy. We will strengthen partnerships with government institutions, local authorities, and civil society organizations to build more sustainable, inclusive health systems.

At the same time, our harm reduction advocacy will expand, addressing stigma, improving access to services, and promoting dignity-centered care for People Who Use Drugs (PWUDs) and other Key Populations.

Together with our partners and communities, we will continue to turn knowledge into action, compassion into care, and rights into reality because every life matters, and every individual deserves access to health, protection, and opportunity.

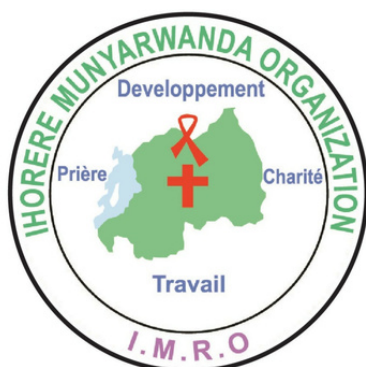
*Thank you for reading!*

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**IMRO RWANDA EXTENDS ITS HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS, AND COLLABORATORS FOR YOUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION. YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS VITAL IN TURNING VISION INTO ACTION, AND TOGETHER, WE ARE CREATING LASTING, POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.**

- AmplifyChange
- Expertise France
- FXB
- GLIHD
- Global Fund
- HDI
- Médecins du Monde (MDM)
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Justice
- Rubavu District
- Kayonza District
- Rwanda Civil Society Platform
- Nyarugenge District
- SFR
- UNAIDS
- UNDP
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- LAF
- GASABO DISTRICT
- BUGESERA DISTRICT
- Nyanza District
- Burera District
- MEDICAL DOCTORS FOR CHOICE
- RBC
- CCM
- RNGOF on HIV & HP



*"Together as One for a Healthy Society"*

<b>IMRO RWANDA</b>	<b>+250 788304999</b>
<b><a href="http://www.imrorwanda.org">www.imrorwanda.org</a></b>	<b>KG 40 St Gasabo / Kimironko</b>

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