

IMRO Rwanda

Quarterly Newsletter



In this newsletter you can expect:

HIV/TB Prevention Campaign

Community Outreach

International & National
Meetings Participation

International Days Celebration

Workshops and Trainings

Here's what has happened in the last quarter and what's to come!

Executive Director's Message:

As we conclude this quarter, IMRO Rwanda reflects on a period of strong progress in advancing community-based HIV and TB prevention, rights-based health services, and strategic advocacy. Across Nyanza, Rubavu, and Burera districts, we reached communities with integrated HIV testing, counseling, TB awareness, and prevention services, bringing care closer to the people through markets, health centers, and community events.

A key highlight this quarter was the power of community leadership, with former TB patients, Community Health Workers, and health facility teams working together to strengthen contact tracing, early detection, and stigma-free services. In parallel, healthcare providers were trained under the TUBITEHO Project to enhance inclusive, rights-based care for key and vulnerable populations.

IMRO Rwanda also continued to engage in national and global platforms, including SRHR coalition planning, the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva, and global commemorations such as World Cancer Day and International Women's Day—reinforcing our commitment to advocacy, equity, and human rights.

As we move forward, we remain focused on scaling community-centered interventions, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring equitable access to HIV and TB services for all. Together, we continue working toward healthier and more empowered communities in Rwanda.

Bringing Lifesaving Services Closer to Communities in Nyanza

On January 19th, 2026, IMRO Rwanda, with the support of RBC/SPIU through the Global Fund, conducted a comprehensive HIV and TB Prevention Campaign at Migina Centre in Nyanza District. The initiative aimed to bring essential health services directly to the community, ensuring that no one is left behind in the fight against HIV and tuberculosis.

From the early hours of the day, the center became a hub of activity. Community members—youth, parents, and local leaders alike—gathered in large numbers, demonstrating a strong commitment to protecting their health and that of their families. Free HIV testing and counseling services were provided, alongside access to vital prevention tools, creating an open and supportive environment for individuals to know their status and take informed steps forward.

The campaign went beyond service delivery. Through interactive health education sessions, participants gained practical knowledge about HIV prevention, TB screening, and available support services. These conversations empowered residents to make healthier choices, reinforcing the understanding that awareness is a powerful tool in building stronger, healthier communities.



The success of the campaign was made possible through strong collaboration. IMRO Rwanda extends its sincere appreciation to the leadership of Nyanza District, dedicated health workers, and local leaders whose efforts in mobilization ensured widespread community participation. Their partnership continues to play a vital role in advancing community health and strengthening the response to HIV and TB. As communities become more informed and engaged, the path toward ending AIDS and TB by 2030 becomes clearer. Initiatives like this remind us that when services are accessible and communities are empowered, real and lasting impact is achieved.



Taking the Fight to End HIV and TB to Burera Through Community Action

The journey to end HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis continues with renewed energy and commitment. On January 23rd, 2026, IMRO Rwanda, with the support of RBC/SPIU through the Global Fund, brought HIV and TB prevention services to Burera District during the vibrant Umurenge Kagame Cup—demonstrating the power of meeting communities where they are.

Amidst the excitement of the tournament, health promotion activities were seamlessly integrated into the event, transforming a space of unity and celebration into an opportunity for lifesaving action. Community members actively engaged in HIV sensitization sessions, accessed free condoms, and utilized voluntary testing and counseling services—turning awareness into practical steps to protect their health.

The response from the community was inspiring. People of all ages embraced the opportunity to learn, test, and take control of their well-being. The initiative highlighted how innovative platforms like sports events can effectively expand access to essential health services, especially for populations that may not otherwise seek them.

This success reflects the strength of collaboration. IMRO Rwanda extends sincere gratitude to the leadership of Burera District and the community for their active participation and support. Their involvement continues to play a crucial role in advancing the fight against HIV and TB.



The message remains clear: there is no need to wait. Knowing your status is the first step toward a healthier life. With testing services increasingly accessible across communities, individuals are encouraged to take informed action to protect themselves and their loved ones.

IMRO Rwanda also acknowledges the continued support of RBC/SPIU through the Global Fund in driving impactful HIV and TB prevention efforts across the country. Together, we move closer to achieving the goal of ending AIDS and TB by 2030.



Bringing HIV and TB Prevention Closer to the Community in Rubavu

Building on our continued commitment to ending HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, IMRO Rwanda conducted a community-based HIV and TB Prevention Campaign at Kabumba Market in Bugeshi Sector, Rubavu District. The initiative focused on bringing essential health information and services directly to where people live, work, and interact every day.

Set within the busy and vibrant environment of the market, the campaign created a convenient and accessible opportunity for community members to take charge of their health. Individuals accessed HIV testing and counseling services, received key prevention messages, and were referred for further care where needed—supporting early detection and timely linkage to treatment.

The campaign demonstrated the effectiveness of using everyday community spaces such as markets as platforms for health education and service delivery. By integrating health promotion into familiar environments, barriers to access are reduced, and more people are reached with lifesaving information and services.

At the heart of this initiative is a simple truth: prevention is most effective when it is accessible, timely, and centered on the community. Meeting people where they are not only strengthens health-seeking behavior but also ensures that no one is left behind in the fight against HIV and TB.

IMRO Rwanda extends its appreciation to local leaders and partners whose collaboration and continued support make community-centered health interventions possible. Together, these efforts are paving the way toward healthier communities and a future free from HIV and TB.





IMRO Rwanda is proud to have been represented at the international level as its Executive Director joined the Rwanda Civil Society Coalition delegation during Rwanda's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva.

The UPR, led by the United Nations Human Rights Council, is a critical platform that brings together governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to assess progress on human rights and identify areas for improvement. Participation in this global process reflects IMRO Rwanda's continued commitment to advancing human rights, equity, and inclusive development.

Through this engagement, the delegation shared valuable perspectives from civil society, highlighting community realities, challenges, and priorities. The platform also enabled constructive dialogue with international stakeholders, fostering accountability and strengthening Rwanda's efforts toward protecting and promoting the rights of all people.

IMRO Rwanda's presence at the UPR underscores the vital role of civil society organizations in shaping policies, amplifying community voices, and contributing to sustainable development. It also reaffirms the organization's dedication to ensuring that the needs of vulnerable and key populations remain central in national and global discussions.

As Rwanda continues its journey toward inclusive growth and human rights advancement, such global engagements provide an opportunity to reflect, learn, and strengthen collective action for a more equitable future.



STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR SRHR IN RWANDA



IMRO Rwanda was pleased to participate in a strategic reflection and planning workshop convened by the Rwanda SRHR Coalition, bringing together civil society organizations committed to advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) across the country.

The meeting provided an important platform to reflect on collective achievements, assess ongoing challenges, and identify strategic priorities for 2026. Through open dialogue and shared learning, participants explored ways to strengthen coordination, enhance advocacy efforts, and ensure a more unified and impactful civil society voice in promoting SRHR.

A key focus of the workshop was building the capacity of coalition members to effectively engage in policy processes and influence decision-making at national and community levels. By aligning efforts and strengthening collaboration, the coalition aims to drive more responsive, inclusive, and sustainable SRHR interventions.

IMRO Rwanda's participation in this engagement reflects its continued commitment to advancing human rights, improving access to SRHR services, and supporting evidence-based advocacy. Strengthening partnerships and collective action remains essential in addressing barriers and ensuring that all individuals—especially vulnerable and underserved populations—can access the information and services they need.

As the coalition moves forward with a shared vision for 2026, IMRO Rwanda remains dedicated to contributing to a stronger, more coordinated civil society movement that advances health, dignity, and rights for all.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AT THE HEART OF THE FIGHT TO END TB



Ending tuberculosis requires more than medical treatment—it demands strong community leadership, trust, and collaboration. Across Nyanza, Rubavu, and Burera districts, IMRO Rwanda continues to champion a community-led approach to TB prevention and care by bringing together those most affected and those on the frontlines of service delivery.

In Nyanza District, at Nyanza Health Center, former TB patients and Community Health Workers (CHWs) joined efforts to strengthen TB contact tracing at the village level. Through their lived experiences, TB survivors played a vital role in guiding discussions on improving early detection, strengthening referral systems, and promoting stigma-free services. Their voices brought practical insights that are essential in reaching those most at risk.

A similar spirit of collaboration was seen in Rubavu District, where coordination meetings were held both at the IMRO Office and Gisenyi Health Center.

Former TB patients and CHWs worked side by side to enhance village-level contact tracing and community follow-up systems. These engagements reinforced the critical role of lived experience in shaping responsive and effective TB interventions, ensuring that services remain accessible, inclusive, and people-centered.

In Burera District, the momentum continued as TB survivors, CHWs, and health facility leadership at Cyanika Health Center came together to strengthen coordination for TB contact tracing and follow-up. The dialogue emphasized the importance of collective action—demonstrating that when community members, health workers, and local leaders sit at the same table, meaningful progress is achieved.

Across all three districts, one message stood out clearly: TB survivors are not just beneficiaries of care—they are powerful agents of change. Their involvement helps break stigma, encourages early health-seeking behavior, and strengthens trust within communities.

These initiatives reaffirm that a successful TB response is one that is rooted in community ownership. By empowering communities, fostering collaboration, and elevating the voices of those with lived experience, IMRO Rwanda continues to contribute to a stronger, more inclusive pathway toward a TB-free Rwanda.



STRENGTHENING RIGHTS-BASED HEALTHCARE FOR KEY POPULATIONS IN RUBAVU



IMRO Rwanda successfully conducted a two-day capacity-building workshop for healthcare providers in Rubavu District under the TUBITEHO Project, aimed at strengthening rights-based approaches to service delivery for key and vulnerable populations.

The training brought together healthcare providers to reflect, learn, and enhance their ability to deliver inclusive, respectful, and non-discriminatory services.

A central component of the workshop was the Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) approach, which guided participants in examining personal beliefs and biases that may affect the quality of care. Through this process, providers developed greater empathy and commitment to offering stigma-free services—particularly for People Who Use Drugs (PWUD), with a strong emphasis on addressing the unique needs of women.

Participants also engaged in interactive sessions and practical discussions on harm reduction strategies, deepening their understanding of approaches that prioritize dignity, health, and human rights. Special focus was placed on Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) and its critical role in improving health outcomes, reducing risks, and supporting long-term recovery for individuals affected by substance use.

The workshop created a safe and engaging learning environment, encouraging open dialogue and experience sharing among participants. This collaborative approach not only strengthened technical knowledge but also reinforced the importance of compassionate, people-centered care in improving access to health services.

IMRO Rwanda remains committed to empowering healthcare providers with the skills and perspectives needed to serve all populations effectively. By promoting rights-based and inclusive healthcare practices, the organization continues to contribute to a more equitable health system where no one is left behind.





IMRO Rwanda joined the global community in commemorating World Cancer Day under the theme “United By Unique”, standing in solidarity with individuals, families, and communities affected by cancer. This day served as a powerful reminder that every person’s experience with cancer is different, yet the collective fight requires unity, compassion, and action.

Through this commemoration, IMRO Rwanda reaffirmed its commitment to raising awareness, promoting early detection, and advocating for equitable access to prevention, care, and treatment services. By amplifying voices and supporting survivors, the organization continues to contribute to efforts aimed at closing gaps in cancer care and reducing its impact on communities. In the same spirit of advocacy and inclusion, IMRO Rwanda also proudly marked International Women’s Day, celebrating the strength, resilience, and leadership of women and girls.

The day highlighted the importance of advancing gender equality and ensuring that women—especially those from vulnerable and underserved populations—have access to quality health services, information, and opportunities.

These two global observances underscore a shared message: health and human rights are interconnected. Whether addressing cancer or advancing women’s rights, meaningful progress depends on inclusive approaches that leave no one behind.

IMRO Rwanda remains committed to championing awareness, equity, and community-driven action—standing united for healthier, more empowered communities.



Stories & Collective of impact: Communities at the Center of Change

Across Rwanda, IMRO Rwanda's integrated interventions continue to demonstrate that sustainable health outcomes are achieved when communities are informed, empowered, and actively engaged. From HIV and TB prevention campaigns in Nyanza, Rubavu, and Burera, to community-led TB contact tracing initiatives, and capacity-building workshops for healthcare providers, each activity contributed to a shared goal—bringing lifesaving services closer to the people.

Hundreds of community members accessed HIV testing, counseling, and prevention services through outreach activities conducted in markets, sports events, and community centers. These platforms not only increased access to services but also strengthened awareness, encouraged early health-seeking behavior, and reduced stigma associated with HIV and TB.

The involvement of former TB patients and Community Health Workers (CHWs) significantly enhanced community trust and engagement. By integrating lived experiences into service delivery and coordination, IMRO Rwanda strengthened early detection, referrals, and follow-up systems—ensuring that TB responses are more responsive, inclusive, and effective at the grassroots level.

At the health system level, the training of healthcare providers under the TUBITEHO Project reinforced the importance of rights-based, non-discriminatory care. Through Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT), providers improved their ability to serve key and vulnerable populations with empathy and professionalism, particularly People Who Use Drugs (PWUD), including women. This shift contributes to more inclusive and accessible health services.

Beyond service delivery, IMRO Rwanda's engagement in national and global advocacy spaces—including participation in the Universal Periodic Review and collaboration within the SRHR coalition—amplified community voices and strengthened efforts to influence policies that promote health, human rights, and equity.

Commemorations of global events such as World Cancer Day and International Women's Day further reinforced IMRO Rwanda's commitment to awareness, inclusion, and collective action in addressing broader health and social challenges.

Together, these efforts highlight a powerful truth: when services are brought closer to communities, when voices of lived experience are valued, and when partnerships are strong, real and lasting impact is achieved.





Conclusion

IMRO Rwanda's work across communities, health systems, and advocacy platforms reflects a holistic and people-centered approach to health and human rights.

The progress made through these initiatives underscores the importance of collaboration, innovation, and community ownership in addressing HIV, TB, SRHR, and broader public health challenges.

As IMRO Rwanda moves forward, the focus remains on strengthening partnerships, expanding access to inclusive services, and empowering communities to take charge of their health and well-being. With continued support from partners and active community engagement, the vision of ending HIV and TB, advancing human rights, and building healthier, more resilient communities is within reach.

IMRO Rwanda joins the nation and the global community in the 32nd Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Kwibuka 32.

On this solemn occasion, we honor the lives lost, stand in solidarity with survivors, and reaffirm our shared responsibility to preserve memory and uphold truth. Remembering is not only an act of reflection—it is a commitment to ensuring that such tragedy never happens again.

As we stand together in remembrance, we draw strength from unity and renew our commitment to building a future rooted in peace, dignity, and humanity.

We remember. We unite. We renew.

Thank you for reading!

www.imrorwanda.org	KG 40 St	+250 788304999
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