



Innovative Approaches to Provide Comprehensive ASRH Information and HIV Services to Youth: Lessons from iAccelerator Project in Rwanda



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Issues

- In Rwanda, 5% of young women aged between 15-19 have begun childbearing and both young mothers and their children are more likely to experience associated side effects.
- Although youth are still lacking access to information, adequate knowledge, lack of SRH services in different areas and other related gaps.
- Rwanda labor force Survey report indicated that 20.3% of population are unemployed while National Strategy for Transformation (NSTI) aims at creating 1,500,000 decent jobs by 2024.

Description

- In 2016, Imbuto Foundation in partnership with UNFPA, the Ministry of Youth and KOICA initiated the Innovation Accelerator programme.
- iAccelerator aims to support young entrepreneurs with seed funding, training and entrepreneurship skills development, to generate innovative solutions responding to Sexual and Reproductive Health, Sexuality Education, Family Planning, Maternal Health and other population development related challenges.
- The main focus is to Increase Access and to Availing Quality Information and Services Regarding ASRH&HIV among the youth.
- **iAccelerator phases:**

Phase I

• Increasing Access to Quality Information and Services Regarding Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health among the youth.

Phase II

• Availing Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health information and services as a way of preventing teenage pregnancies.

Phase III

• Availing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Information & Services for Youths with Disabilities and
• Increasing Awareness and Knowledge of Mental Health Issues Experienced by Adolescents and Young Adults.

Lessons Learned

- 11 successful projects have been selected and empowered to generate solutions of the problems related to ASRH

Phase I (2017)

Tantine App

Umbrella

Tubiganire tv show

Girl District

Phase II (2019)

Keza Game App

Urukundo Game

Flavors of Family Planning

Phase III (2020)

Urujeni Project

Menya Wirinde

Ubumuntu

Mizero Care

- Applications were developed, ASRH info were disseminated via various platforms and income were generated based on items sold related to ASRH.

Tantine App

- Over 1M accessed SRHR info via their platforms, 5000 Tantine App active users, 1500 daily website visitors, Over 1000 Tantine Playing Cards sold.

Girl District

- Have empowered young girls from several districts on ASRH and leadership
- Have released comic books on their website (<https://girldistrict.com/>) engaging and educating girls on ASRH issues

Urukundo Game

- Sold over 100 kits (RWF 20,000 per kit)
- Formed successful partnerships with local and international NGOs that promote ASRH (USAID, MEDSAR, Save the Children, etc.)
- Has received attention and support from other organizations that empower social entrepreneurs (Inkomoko & Social Impact Incubator)

Next Steps

- iAccelerator provided a space to generate innovative, youth-led solutions, and proved that educated and financially empowered youth could generate solutions to their problems, however a very limited number of youth have an access to its services.
- In the future we plan to identify new solutions, to strengthen existing initiatives and to Increase the number of beneficiaries and focus more on Availing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Information Services for Youths with Disabilities; and
- Increasing Awareness and Knowledge of Mental Health Issues Experienced by Adolescents and Young Adults.
- **Key words:** ASRH, HIV, Youth Empowerment, Innovation accelerator.
- **For more information:** www.imbutofoundation.org

