# Barriers to access youth friendly services in youth corners in 7 districts of Rwanda, 2020

FR Habarugira [1], V Zinnen[1], G Ndagijimana[2], F Staring[1], B Briot[1] - [1]*Enabel (Belgium Development Agency)*, [2]*HDP*

## Background

Rwanda DHS 2019-2020:

- 5% Teenage pregnancy
- 8% Adolescents 15-19, have unmet need for family planning

Youth corners (YC) were developed in health centers (HC) to offer reproductive health services for adolescent

BUT....Only 4% of adolescents visited YC the past 12 months

## Objectives of the study

Assess the quality of services offered to youths and the potential access barriers

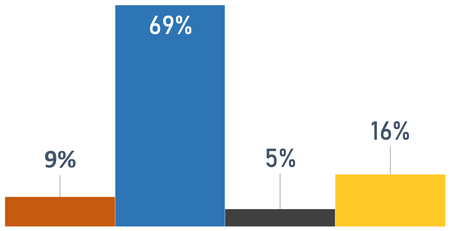
> *Despite efforts to avail youth friendly services, their utilisation by aolescents is still low*

## Methods

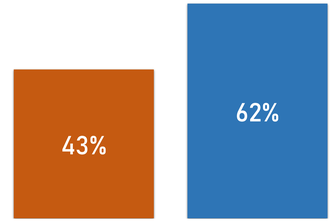
- **A cross-sectional quantitative and qualitative study in** seven Rwandan districts in 2020
- 129 health centers assessed against 65 WHO quality criteria adapted for Rwanda to estimate
  - % HC with good services
  - % of HC with acceptable services
  - % of HC with insufficient services
- Adolescents Focus group discussions and Key informants' interviews
  - Experience & expectations
  - Barriers and facilitating factors

## Results

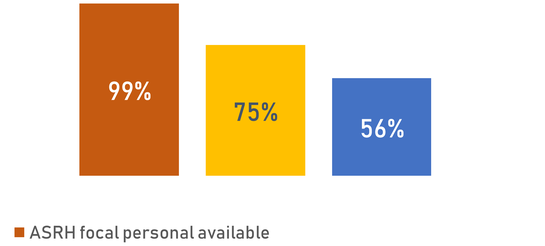
Quality of available reproductive health services for adolescent




Health education and proximity sessions for adolescents provided by health centers




Human resource providing services to adolescents



### Main barriers identified from interviews and FGD:

- Fear of being stigmatized or discriminated
- Long waiting time, lack of convenient time and of staff devoted to ASRH service
- Lack of youth-friendly services space with confidentiality offered at youth
- Parent culturally not open for discussions about reproductive health with adolescents
- Legal barriers to contraceptive access for the under 18 years

## Conclusion & Recommendations

- Investments are necessary to meet the required standards for all Youth Corners
- To increase utilization of Youth Corner:
  - Service and staff to be devoted exclusively to youths
  - Make it separate from other Health Center services
  - Adapt working hours and user fees
  - Advocacy for legal and parental issues

## Contact

francois-regis.habarugira@enabel.be

Belgium partner in development

Enabel

Rwanda Biomedical Centre
Healthy People, Wealthy Nation