



SUCCESS STORY

District Sanitation Centers – Sensitizing the population on COVID-19 prevention



Photo: Rwamagana District Sanitation Center



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As Rwanda continues to strengthen efforts to mitigate the transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the USAID Isuku Iwacu Activity through District Sanitation Centers (DSCs) joined the cause by airing messages on prevention to promote behavior change among the population.

The messages were developed by the Ministry of Health through the Rwanda Health Communication Centre and shared with key partners to be broadcast through key media and other channels that reach as many people as possible.

As a partner, USAID Isuku Iwacu, which works in the eight districts of Rwamagana, Kayonza, Kicukiro, Nyarugenge, Ngoma, Ruhango, Nyanza, and Nyabihu shared the messages with seven of the eight operational DSCs. The centers have flat screen televisions and audio loudspeakers that serve as a key channel of communication. Through the DSCs, messages on COVID-19 are aired on a daily basis.

Ruhango DSC receives about 50 customers a day. The DSC operator, Principe Niyiringira says that in this time of the COVID-19 outbreak, most customers come to buy sanitizers, masks, handwashing soap, and handwashing stations among other products.

“Most of our customers love the messages we air. We replay these messages over and over again and this is because we always have new customers who need this sensitization. We can see first-hand that the population is aware of COVID-19, the prevention measures and what must be done once a case is suspected,” Niyiringira said.

Innocent Mbyirikira, the operator of Nyabihu DSC also attested that the centers serve as one stop centers for hygiene products in the district. The messages shared highlight the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what should be done to prevent transmission including regular handwashing practices, use of face masks, and social distancing measures, among others.