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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFRICA ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK (AFROHUN)

YEAR 2

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

RWANDA



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CONTENT

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SPECIAL THANKS

In particular, we would like to extend special thanks to AFROHUN (AFRICA ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK) and the member institutions as shown in the map below.



Current AFROHUN Network Reach

CAMEROON

1. Université des Montagnes
2. University of Buea
3. University of Ngaoundéré

DR CONGO

4. University of Kinshasa
5. University of Lubumbashi

ETHIOPIA

6. Jimma University
7. University of Addis Ababa
8. Mekelle University

KENYA

9. University of Nairobi
10. Moi University

RWANDA

11. University of Rwanda
12. University of Global Health Equity

SENEGAL

13. Université Cheikh Anta Diop

TANZANIA

14. Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences
15. Sokoine Univ. of Agriculture

UGANDA

16. Mbarara University of Science & Technology
17. Makerere University

CÔTE-D'IVOIRE

18. Félix Houphouët-Boigny

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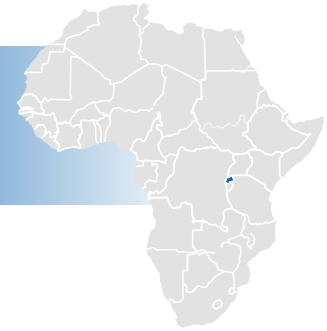
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Africa One Health University Network



COUNTRY CHAPTER



3

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS



2

STUDENT ONE HEALTH INNOVATION CLUBS



13,687

INDIVIDUALS REACHED VIA RCCE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COVID-19



46

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED RELATED TO COVID-19



80

INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN OHV-NG ACTIVITIES



11

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR YEAR 2



2

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED OR ON-GOING

HIGHLIGHTS

- ① Trained 46 students, faculty and district officials on COVID-19 public health prevention measures (February - March 2021; see AFR-59 and AFR-63 for more information).
- ① Conducted community outreach in 5 districts of Rwanda reaching more than 13,680 individuals with COVID-19 prevention messages (February - March 2021; see AFR-59 and AFR-63 for more information).
- ① Established a new Student One Health Innovation Club (March 2021; see AFR-60 for more information).

ACTIVITIES

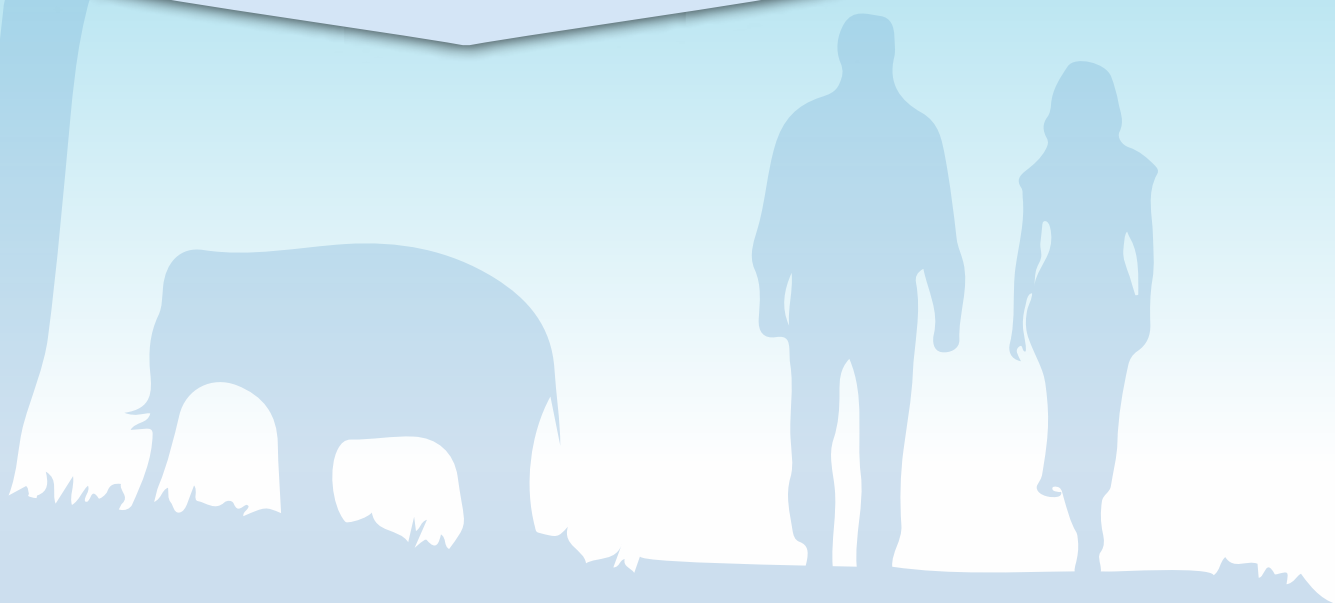
OBJECTIVE 1
TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT



OBJECTIVE 2
ASSESSMENT AND TRACKING



OBJECTIVE 3
ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY



1

OBJECTIVE 1 TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT

Experiential Learning for Pre-service Students

Working with the COVID-19 National Task force, AFROHUN Rwanda trained 46 participants (36 students, 5 faculty and 5 district officials) on COVID-19 RCCE (RW activity 1.4.5). The students worked with local leaders and faculty to implement community outreach activities, which were conducted in five districts benefitting approximately 13,680 people mainly through in-person events. Persons reached included primary school children, patients at health facilities, market vendors and their customers, boda boda riders, shop keepers, community health workers, church goers, and farmers.



RW 2: Students sensitizing community members on COVID-19 prevention measures in Rwamagana, Rwanda. Photo source: AFROHUN Rwanda.

This photo illustrates that proper use of masks by community members is still a challenge.

After successfully sensitizing the university community on the value of SOHICs in building OH skills for pre-service students, the students with support of faculty established a SOHIC at University of Global Health Equity (RW activity 1.2.4). AFROHUN Rwanda received buy-in for establishment of the SOHIC at Rwanda Polytechnic (RP) following a meeting with the Principal and all heads of academic departments at the polytechnic. Next, AFROHUN Rwanda will sensitize the students when they return to school.



RW 3: AFROHUN Rwanda engaging RP faculty to start SOHIC.

Photo source: AFROHUN Rwanda

Personal protective equipment, distancing, and group size standards in this photo were consistent with local public health guidance and COVID-19 status in the specific country and time it was taken. This may not reflect best practices for all locations where COVID-19 is still spreading.

2

OBJECTIVE 2 ASSESSMENT AND TRACKING

One Health Alumni Tracking

Working with AFROHUN regional staff and the OHW-NG Global Team, we developed survey instruments for OH alumni tracking (RW activity 2.1.8). The instruments have been piloted in selected countries including Rwanda. The next steps will involve customization of the instruments to suit Rwanda's needs followed by rolling out the survey.

3

OBJECTIVE 3 ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Year 2 kick-off meeting

Before commencement of implementation of Year 2 (2020-2021) activities, a kick-off meeting was organized to assess the implementation of Year 1 (2019-2020) activities, identify challenges, and draw on lessons learned in order to improve implementation during Year 2 (2020-2021). This two-day online meeting was facilitated by the AFROHUN regional Secretariat staff and attended by Deans, Activity Leads, and the Country Manager and Country Administrator. Activity implementation schedules were developed and shared with participants for planning and coordination.



LESSONS LEARNED / BEST PRACTICES

INCREASING COMMUNITY RESPONSIVENESS THROUGH INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERS

AFROHUN Rwanda strengthened students' skills in outbreak response while contributing to the national COVID-19 response efforts. Having completed the theoretical training, students accompanied by local leaders and their mentors conducted a community outreach event to sensitize community members on COVID-19. Active involvement of local leaders in this exercise facilitated high cooperation and responsiveness from community members.



RW 4: A student sensitizing patients on COVID-19 prevention measures at Muyumbu Health Facility. Photo source: AFROHUN Rwanda.

Personal protective equipment, distancing, and group size standards in this photo were consistent with local public health guidance and COVID-19 status in the specific country and time it was taken. This may not reflect best practices for all locations where COVID-19 is still spreading.



NEXT STEPS

AFROHUN Rwanda shall continue supporting other institutions to establish SOHICs. So far, AFROHUN Rwanda has established a SOHIC at the University of Global Health Equity and has also made good progress in establishing a club at Rwanda Polytechnic. Rwanda Polytechnic has several branches known as Integrated Regional Polytechnic Centers (IRPCs) and our aim is to establish a SOHIC in each of the branches. SOHICs can play a critical role in developing a national One Health workforce. SOHICs provide innovative and critical opportunities for pre-service training and engagement and help build a cadre of future professionals for the animal and human health sectors.



ONE HEALTH CHAMPION



RW 5: Photo source AFROHUN Rwanda

“Today, health concerns are getting more and more complicated due to various factors including climate change favoring pathogen adaptation, food insecurity interconnected with changing human demographics and evolving animal production systems. Multidisciplinary collaboration increases awareness and opportunities to address health issues by re-focusing more on health management at the interface between ecosystem health, animal health, and human health. SOHICs have played and are continuing to play a critical role in this by raising awareness and solving One Health challenges, especially zoonotic diseases. This is shown by our contribution efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic in the community. More effort is still needed to widely introduce One Health lessons to younger generations busting them with One Health concepts and skills to prepare them for existing and emerging complex health problems.”

Asifiwe Jean Bosco

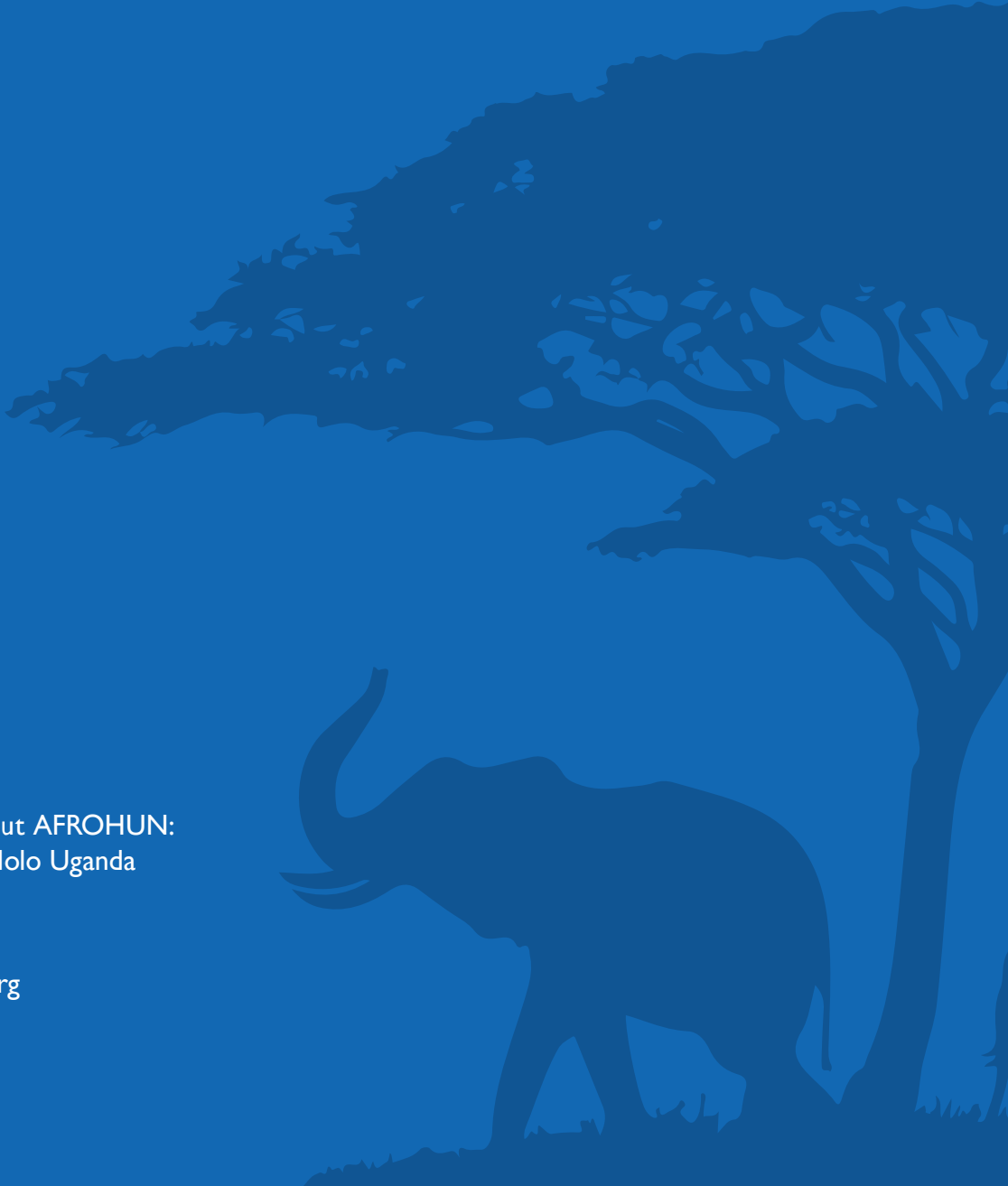
Student at UR and National SOHIC President

SUCCESS STORY



USING STUDENTS TO ADDRESS COVID-19 MISINFORMATION IN THE COMMUNITY CAN HELP ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISEASE

From the moment the COVID-19 pandemic began, communities were filled with fear and uncertainty for the future. These fears were exacerbated by speculation and rumor with social media conspiracy theories and misinformation rampant. For example, stories spread that the disease only targets the rich and the affluent, or that youth cannot contract the disease because they are strong and resistant. This misinformation had a negative effect on an already scared community that didn't know what information to believe or who to trust. Aware of the situation happening in the community, AFROHUN Rwanda students worked with local leaders and faculty to implement community outreach activities. Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities were conducted in five districts benefitting approximately 13,680 people. Persons reached included primary school children, patients at health facilities, market vendors and their customers, boda boda riders, shop keepers, community health workers, church goers, and farmers.



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