

## **Donors Commit to Continue Supporting RHU to Ensure Young People Thrive**

From Japan, they visited Uganda. They interacted with the management of Reproductive Health Uganda in Kampala. Off they drove for more than 300km to midwestern Uganda to Fort Portal. They assessed the interventions they are funding through RHU. They interacted with Kabarole district local government leaders and beneficiaries of their support. They were excited to witness the impact of their support to the communities. They were touched and inspired by the stories from the beneficiaries.

Satisfied with what they heard and observed, they had no doubt RHU was a credible partner to continue working with. The Japanese Organisation for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) and SARAYA- a Japanese manufacturing and sales of health and hygiene products and services company have committed to walking with RHU towards the future.

The eight people delegation, including, Hirotsugu Daishima, SARAYA's Director, Ai Tominaga, JOICFP's ambassador among others was headed by Michiyo Ono the JOICFP's Deputy Executive Director.

"We pledge to continue working and supporting RHU to ensure that Ugandan youth continue to receive these services," Michiyo Ono the Deputy Executive Director of JOICFP stated, expressing admiration of the work being done by RHU to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services, especially by young people.

"We are pleased to witness the tangible results of our partnership with RHU in improving the lives of Ugandans," added Ai Tominaga the JOICFP ambassador, who was thrilled by "the dedication and resilience of the beneficiaries that inspires us to continue supporting RHU's important work."

While in Fort Portal, Annet Kabahenda, the Assistant City Health Officer, commended the donors for their efforts in preventing and treating ovarian cancer, HIV prevention, and providing skills training to teenage mothers in the district.

"Testing for cervical cancer and HIV have been made easy, simplified, and accessible. Your support has made early diagnosis easy," said Kabahenda.

During their visit to Kabarole, the delegation met with teenage mothers who have benefited from RHU's livelihood skills program.

"I am the sole provider for my children since all their fathers left. The money I make from beads, though not enough, enables me to buy medicine and clothes for my children," shared 19-year-old Topista Kahunde, one of the beneficiaries of the programme.

Touched by Topista's story, the visiting mission decided to buy construction materials to help her build a shelter for her children.

"This is the best thing that has happened to me. I will divert the money I was saving for iron sheets into my business. This will help me produce more products for my customers," expressed Topista with gratitude.

For his part, Jackson Chekweko, the Executive Director of RHU appreciated the two organisations for the long-standing partnership impacting the lives of Ugandans, especially, the young people.

"Through support from organisations like JOICFP and SARAYA, RHU is able to serve vulnerable communities in hard-to-reach areas," he said.

In conclusion, the JOICFP's ambassador, Ai Tominaga emphasised her commitment to mobilising the Japanese people to donate to the cause.

"My job is to continue showing the people of Japan the need to continue donating to support the people of Uganda," she declared.