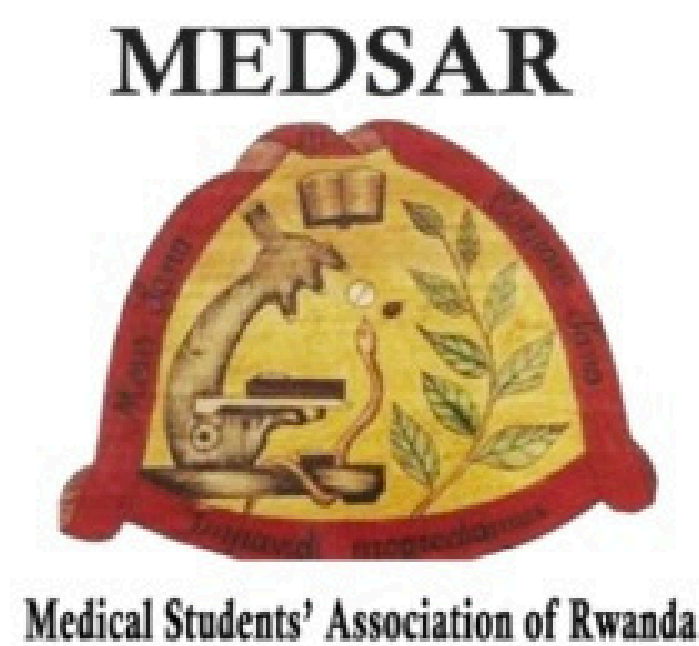




# D-Free Project: Combating Diarrheal Disease in Rwanda



# D-Free Project Baseline study report



## D-Free Project Piloting study report

On December 28, 2023, a team comprising four individuals (**Shyaka Emmanuel, Bizimana Emmanuel, Muhirwa Anastase, and Byiringiro Innocent**) dedicated to the implementation of the D-Free project undertook a journey to the Gisagara district in the Southern Province of Rwanda, using private transportation. The purpose of the visit was to engage with local leaders and assess the prospective project site.

The team commenced their journey from Kigali at 8:00 am, reaching the Gisagara district office by 12:00 pm. Upon arrival, it was noted that the Director of Health at the district level, Jackson Kalinijabo Karima, was involved in a community outreach program in the Gishubi sector. Subsequently, the team proceeded to this sector and held a productive meeting with the Director of Health and the Executive Secretary of Gishubi sector.

Having comprehensively understood the impact and necessity of the D-Free project, the local authorities endorsed the initiation of its implementation in the Gishubi sector. This decision was influenced by the higher prevalence of diarrhea cases in the area, coupled with various risk factors such as limited access to clean water and a higher population of children under the age of five.

To streamline the project's execution and identify the optimal village for intervention, the team visited the Gishubi Health Center. There, consultations were held with the Community Health Officer and the Community Health Worker (CHW) overseeing Kanyezi cell's CHWs. Following an assessment of the project's potential impact, it was recommended to commence the project in Gishya village, identified as having the highest prevalence of diarrhea disease.

Having concluded the site selection process, the team returned to Kigali with a well-defined plan for the project's implementation. Presently, ongoing communication is maintained with the community health workers in Gishya village, who serve as key collaborators in health promotion initiatives in Rwanda. Upon finalizing the educational materials and addressing all necessary requirements, the team will proceed with the implementation of the D-Free project in Gishya village.

