According to Wandera, the set targets will be attained through the ongoing campaigns at community level that mainly focus on behavior change and promoting access to sanitation and hygiene facilities in rural areas. This will be achieved through collaboration and partnerships with different partners and stakeholders involved in sanitation and hygiene promotion activities in Rwanda. “We are working with the Rwanda Ministry of Health, UNICEF –Rwanda, and district Authorities to be able to ensure that our campaigns create a positive impact within the community,” he said. “Promoting sanitation and hygiene is a continuous process that does not belong to a single partner, it is a participative and inclusive process,” he clarified.

To ensure successful implementation, SFH has put up ‘change agents at household level to carry out behavioral change, it has also trained people within the communities to support communities to foster the implementation of sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

Promotion of sanitation is among Rwanda’s key priorities towards becoming a middle income economy, according to Dr. Zuberi Muvunyi, the Director General of Clinical...
Services at the Rwanda Ministry of Health, the government has increased its efforts to promote and increase awareness on sanitation and hygiene especially hand washing and improved latrines. “Sanitation and hygiene is crucial to having a healthy nation, when we emphasize hygiene, there are so many diseases related to poor sanitation and hygiene that we will prevent,” he said adding that the Government has recorded drastic reduction in waterborne, poor hygiene related diseases in the past 2 years.

According to Rwanda Ministry of Health, 4.4% of households are equipped to enable the practice of hand washing with soap with 12% of households having a place for hand washing while only 37% are equipped with both water and soap, implying that 4.4% have a hand washing facility with soap and water. On the use of improved latrines, 86% of households across the country with only 66% using a toilet that is not shared.

Partners like UNICEF –Rwanda that support SFH Rwanda in the implementation of sanitation and hygiene interventions at community level believe that sanitation and hygiene play an important role in the development and growth of a nation, according to Cindy Kusher the Chief Water Sanitation and Hygiene at UNICEF-Rwanda, sanitation and hygiene are fundamental towards Rwanda’s growth as it contributes towards addressing some of the barriers to development such as stunting among children, and disease burden among others, adding that through partnership with SFH-Rwanda, they have been able to reach people at household level to promote positive behaviors around use of improved latrines and hand washing.

“We have really seen an impact of our work with SFH-Rwanda of we talk in sanitation and hygiene of changing behavior at community level,” she added.

Augustine Ndayizeye who was trained by SFH says that the training has helped him support communities through construction of improved latrines. While David Sibomana, a trader from Bugarama sector has ventured into distribution and availing of into selling latrine and hand washing facilities at community level, thus supporting their communities.