

FRIENDS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION 2020 NARRATIVE REPORT



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COORDINATOR**

Friends Women's Association 2020 Report

COVID-19 AND NTASEKA CLINIC

On December 17, 2020, according to the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against HIV/AIDS, since March 31, 2020 a total of 76962 people have been tested for COVID-19, including 760 confirmed cases, 687 discharged, 71 active cases and two deaths. So, since July 2020, different organizations have supported Ntaseka clinic to prevent both its staff and patients from covid-19. They are the Red Cross Burundi, the African Great Lakes Initiatives (AGLI), the Friends World Consultation Committee (FWCC), the Global Giving Foundation, Gould Family Foundation through Life Net International Burundi and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Burundi. The good news is that we are still safe at Ntaseka clinic.



Medical products bought under the support of AGLI and Global Giving Foundation



Gudula is pouring bleach water (given by Red Cross Burundi) that both patients and staff use to wash their hands

In the month of July 2020, the Friends World Consultation Committee (FWCC) supported Ntaseka clinic to avail medical staff clothes when they are in service. The clothes were done in the month of August 2020. This is very important for covid-19 prevention. The total number of FWA staff who benefited from this uniform is 13: two medical doctors, three nurses, one lab technician, two health mediators, one social worker, two accountants and two support staff.



Gowns and pants for Ntaseka clinic staff are being sewn with a machine



FWCC has supported us to protect both ourselves and our families. Actually, when we arrive at the service, we take off our own clothes to put on the uniform from FWCC. After our working hours we wash our hands, take off the uniform, wash our hands again, then put on our own clothes and go home. This goes a long way in protecting us against covid-19, our families and friends included. A big thank you to FWCC! Said Augustin Harushimana, one of the medical staff at Ntaseka clinic.





Medical items from Gould Foundation for covid-19 prevention

Again through Life Net International Burundi, John Gould Family Foundation has supported Ntaseka clinic with 200 KN 95 masks and 500 surgical masks.



In the month September 2020, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Burundi supported Ntaseka Clinic with masks, disinfectant and two buckets with taps. We were much in need of two more buckets with taps in two different services; the support from AFSC has so far filled the gap. Because of their support, we currently have disinfectants in our stock and fabric masks.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Under the support of Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP), a delegation of five people from Quaker Peace Network (QPN) Burundi joined Mel Duncan (Cofounder of NP) for a field exposure and a three-day applied training from UCP experts in South Sudan from October 29th, 2019 to November 10th, 2019. The purpose was to learn how Unarmed Civilian Protection skills are used on the ground. The result was that we came up with a proposal for the 2020 elections monitoring.



On February 23-29, 2020 Horanimana Grace and Misago Gisele, two of FWA trauma healing facilitators attended HROC advanced training at HROC Musanze center in Rwanda.

Family Health International (FHI) has organized capacity building on target and index screening for Ntaseka clinic staff



In the month of April 2020, 8 SHGs (200 women) have benefited a training workshop organized by Savings and Credit Union microfinance. The objective of the workshop was capacity building on savings and credit and the awareness on having accounts in that microfinance.



On May 11-15, 2020, under the support of Segal Family Foundation (SFF), seven of FWA staff involved in the self-help (SHG) approach benefited a training for a better monitoring and evaluation of the SHGs. Facilitators were from BIRATURABA.



On June 26, 2020, Family Health International (FHI360) trained five people who will work as community relays. The aim of the training was to reach the three 95 according to the objective of FHI360:

- 95% of the population know their serological status,
- 95% of people living with HIV are on ARVs treatment,
- 95% of people on ARVs have undetectable viral load.

To reach these three 95s, community relays must work in close collaboration with Ntaseka clinic care team with regard to: screening of key populations, index screening, search for cases of abandonment and the lost of sight, the multi-monthly dispensing of ARVs in distribution points, the search for HIV positive people who need the viral load.

Regarding screening in the community, community relays learned how to use the orquick as an HIV screening tool (Autotest)



QUAKER PEACE NETWORK BURUNDI



The Quaker Peace Network (QPN) Burundi is a consortium of nine national and international peace-building organizations founded on a shared vision for a peaceful, reconciled and

prosperous Burundi. The Friends Women's Association (FWA) is one of its members. This year, under the support of the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, QPN Burundi member organizations implemented a project entitled "Contributing to Violence Prevention and Civilian Protection Before, During and After the 2020 elections" in five different provinces most affected by the 2015 crisis, including Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura, Bubanza, Cibitoke and Nyanza Lac. Therefore, under the support of Quaker Peace Network Burundi, FWA was able to organize one trauma healing workshop and one session on early warning and early response (EWER) in Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura province.

FWA was also represented to observe the May 2020 elections under the same support from QPN Burundi.



A NEW CAR FOR FWA ACTIVITIES COORDINATION

Although the 2020 year was very difficult and challenging because of covid-19, under the support of the African Great Lakes Initiative, FWA has finally a car for the coordination of

our activities. Many thanks to all who donated for this purpose particularly Santa Monica friends Meeting!



FWA REACTING AGAINST FLOOD IN BUTERE AND GATUMBA

In the month of February 2020, FWA was able to raise some funds through the Global Giving Foundation to support 11 families from Buterere whose houses collapsed due to the flood. So, the 11 families were given rice, beans, Burundian Fabric and women dignity kit as a sign of compassion. Actually, FWA slogan is “Umukobwa ntaseka uwundi araseruka”. This means that rather than ignore the misfortune of a young woman, support her in her difficult time; tomorrow it might be you who is in need”. This slogan has pushed us to react by supporting some of the flood victims.



Also, in the month of May 2020, seven families victims of flood in Gatumba were supported by FWA under the support of Global Giving Foundation. They were given rice, beans and Burundian Fabric.



FUNDRAISING THROUGH ZOOM CALL



On November 8, 2020 Stony Run Friends meeting organized a zoom call to listen to FWA national coordinator, FWA medical doctors, FWA midwife and one of Ntaseka Clinic beneficiaries (Cesarie). The purpose was to find ways to support Ntaseka clinic.

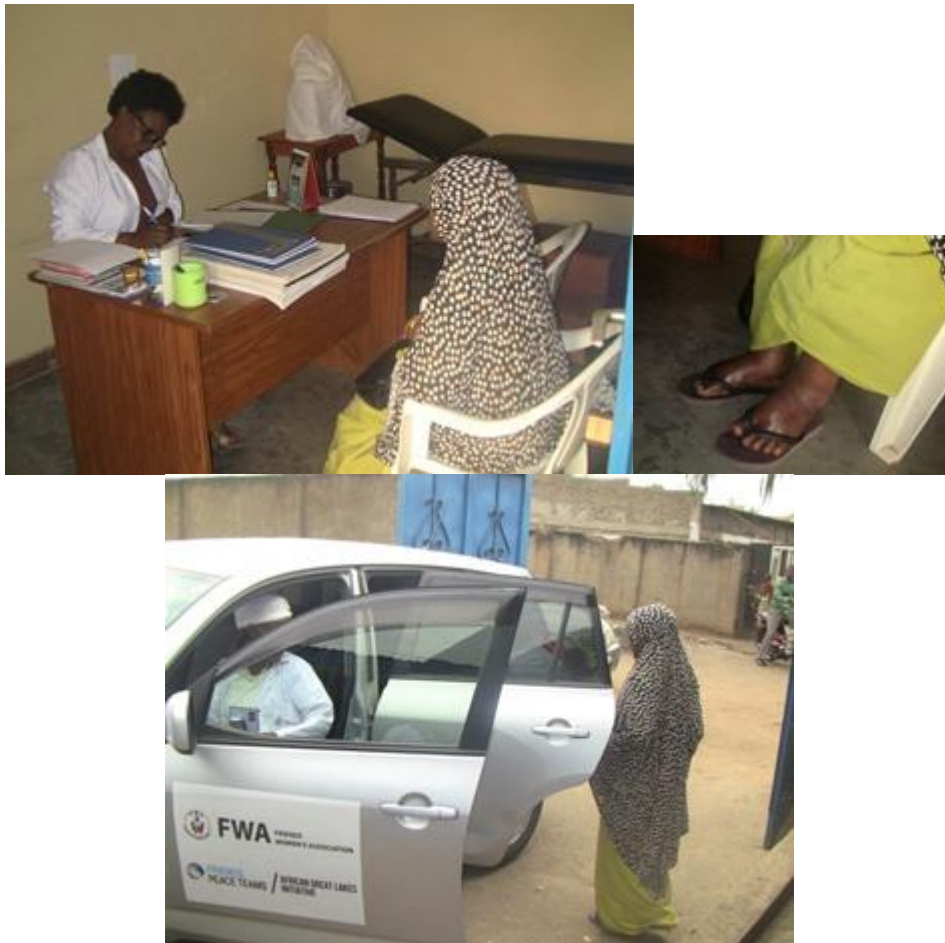
ACTIVITIES

Caring for HIV Positive People (CHIVPP)

During the period from November 1st, 2019 to October 31st, 2020, medical follow up and home visits were done for our HIV positive people. On June 27th, 2020, one discussion group was organized for pregnant and breastfeeding HIV positive women.



FWA beneficiaries who suffer from illnesses above Ntaseka clinic capacities have been referred to bigger hospitals.



An Ntaseka clinic beneficiary referred to Gitega regional hospital



Back from Gitega regional hospital after one whole month

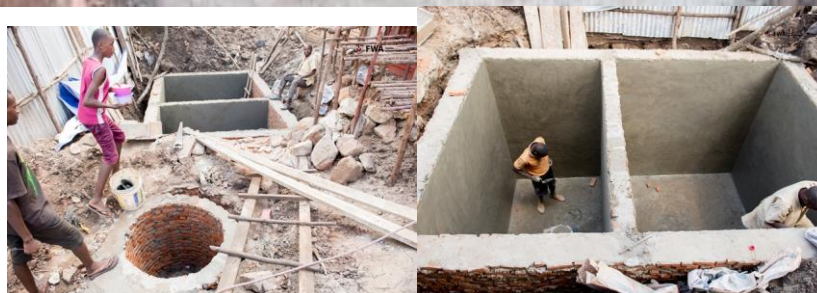
Maternity Ward Building

This is how our maternity ward looked like at the end of October 2019



From November 2019 to October 2020, we were able to complete the walls of our building, to put rafters and iron sheets, to manufacture metallic doors and windows and to build septic tanks





Septic tanks being built



All the steps above were done because of the support from the African Great lakes initiative, the Canadian Friends Service Committee, individuals from Canada, the Global Giving Foundation, the Quaker Service Norway and FWA members.

For the moment the next steps are the crepissage and broth of the walls as well as the control of the whole building.

Improving Women's Reproductive Health (IWRH)

FWA community health workers and FWA staff have organized 10 outreach sessions to educate both men and women on the importance of family planning. 3000 people were reached under the support of Segal family Foundation.



Rape Survivors' Support (RSS)

Under the support of the Global Giving Platform and the African Great Lakes Initiative, 13 trauma healing workshops were done for a total of 260 gender-based violence survivors.



Testimonies

"I am Tutsi and I got married by a Hutu soldier, everything was fine until 2015. The in-laws family told my husband that he got married in an evil ethnic group. He started to beat me and tell me that if I don't leave his house he will kill me. He tried many times to kill me; he even hired people to kill me because he was in the crisis period; he thought he can kill me without any follow up in justice. I spend 6 months without sleeping at night because armed men were spending the night around my house. He saw that I don't want to leave him and he revealed to me that he had children with my 3 little sisters; This really destroyed me because all my hope was in my family.

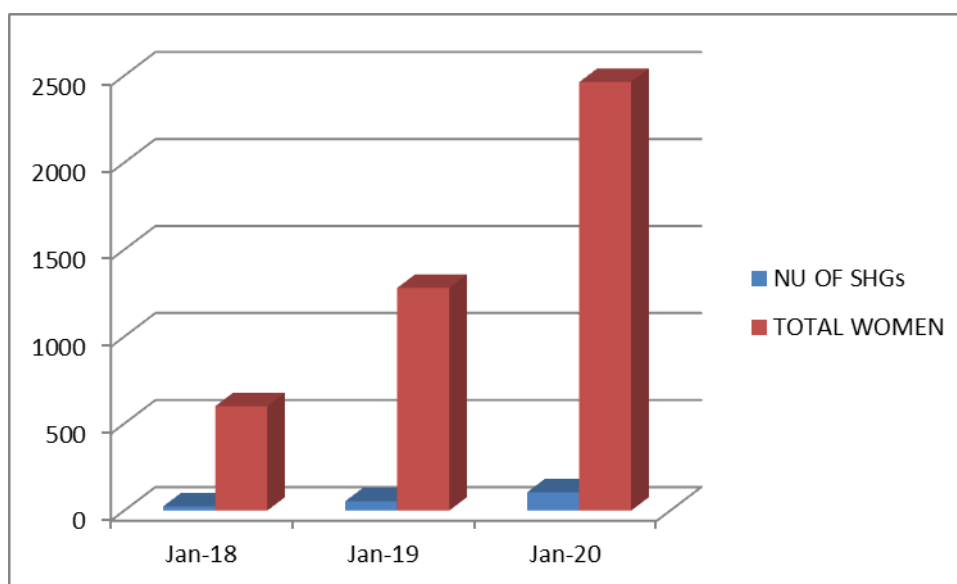
The last evil he did to me was to come and take my 3 children and everything I had in the house; I cried for help in the road like a crazy person no one dared to help me because he had a gun. To punish me very well he left the army so that I cannot call upon army justice. Now I live at a friend I don't know where my children are, I can't appeal to justice because I'm afraid that he could kill me I have a big wound in my heart."

"When I married a man he loved me but he betrayed me afterwards. I had 12 goats when I was a girl and I took them to my husband's house when I got married. These goats were the basis of blessing in our house; my husband sold them and created a business that was really successful. When he became rich he started mistreating me; he cheated on me with other women, he used to come back home late midnight and forced me to wake up and to prepare for him something to eat; he forced me to kneel down and begged forgiveness while I did nothing wrong for him. He used to beat me Wednesday, Friday and Sunday (market day) he beat me in the head and until now I have problems in the head. When he beat me he naked me and I was afraid to cry out; one thing I was doing, it's to start fighting to look for the cloth to cover myself and then I scream. Even if I was pregnant he beat me on my womb. When it rained he beat me in the rain naked; it hurt so much. He often told me that he would kill me and two knives were always under the bed. One day I heard on the radio a man who cut off his wife's arms and I started to be afraid. I decided to leave him and come to Bujumbura to be a nanny. I had some money and I started a business and I was able to bring my two children. Now I'm living safely together with them".

At the end of October 2018, we had a total of 25 self-help groups. Then, on October 31st, 2019, we had a total of 54 self-help groups for a total of 1280 women. On October 31st, 2020, we had a total of 106 SHGs for a total of 2463 women.



The following histogram shows how the number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) increases every year.



On November 13, 2020, 40 women were graduated after six-month training on Street Business School (SBS).



Group photo



Cesarie is already doing sweet potatoes business after she received SBS training





Another group is growing rice to feed their families and to make money as well



A new group of young girls has initiated handmade baskets business

Action on Gender-Based Violence (AGBV)

Two trauma healing workshops for the most GBV grave cases were done at Kibimba and Kibogoye in Gitega province in the month of July 2020. Then, three GBV basic workshops were done in Nyabiraba, Bujumbura province in September 2020. Also, an exchange visit for GBV accompanists from Nyabiraba, Kibimba and Kibogoye was done on December 8, 2020 at Kibimba. Let us underline that two public events against GBV were done during the 16 days campaign of activism against GBV. The venues were Giheta and Nyabiraba communes.



GBV basic workshop in Nyabiraba



A three-day trauma healing workshop in Kibogoye

"My name is Jeanne I gave birth to two girls and I had problems when I gave birth to the 3rd girl; My husband came to see me at the hospital then he said to me "you are going to see me , because this is not a child". So, he went to Bujumbura and he refused to come back home: My baby girl was hospitalized until she died but he even refused to come on the funeral. After that, he came home with another woman and wanted me to leave our house so that his new wife could live there. He told me that he's going to kill me if I don't leave his house. Then he beat me to death. The FWA accompanist appealed the intervention of the local authority. They defended me and I was able to stay in my house.

Now he lives in Bujumbura with his wife, he comes in the harvest period and he comes in the evening to beat me and to steal all that I harvest. I thank those who have thought of me by inviting me to this workshop; it helped me a lot to heal myself emotionally. I was able to talk about my problems and you listened I feel relieved even at night slept in peace".

"My name is Augustine. I never had peace with my husband because I only gave birth to girls. I suffered in my marriage:

- *When he came back and found that I did not prepare something to eat he beat me and when he found the food he would throw it in the toilet*
- *He made us sleep out many times with my children.*
- *He raped me sexually and he forced me to do things that I cannot do during the sexual act (suck his sex) when I refused he beat me and put me out accusing me that I am a non-submissive woman*
- *He burnt our clothes many times*
- *He kicked me out of his room*

One day at the birth of my 5th daughter, he refused to give me something to eat; you can imagine the hunger of a woman who has just given birth! My children went to ask my neighbor for something to eat and he gave him flour, he found me at home and he told me to go out with the child and he threw the flour. He beat me until I feel I want to die. I took refuge in the house of my neighbor leaving my 3 days baby. I had no choice, I came back home because I had compassion for my children.

He continued to mistreat us until my children left the house and I too decided to leave the house and my family gave me a house. Even if I live in my house my husband comes to disturb me.

To be where I am now I benefit help from FWA's Accompanist who transferred me to the Humura center and who defended me when my husband mistreated me.

This workshop helped me so much I feel the courage to face life alone. Talking about my problems healed me and my heavy burdens have fallen”.

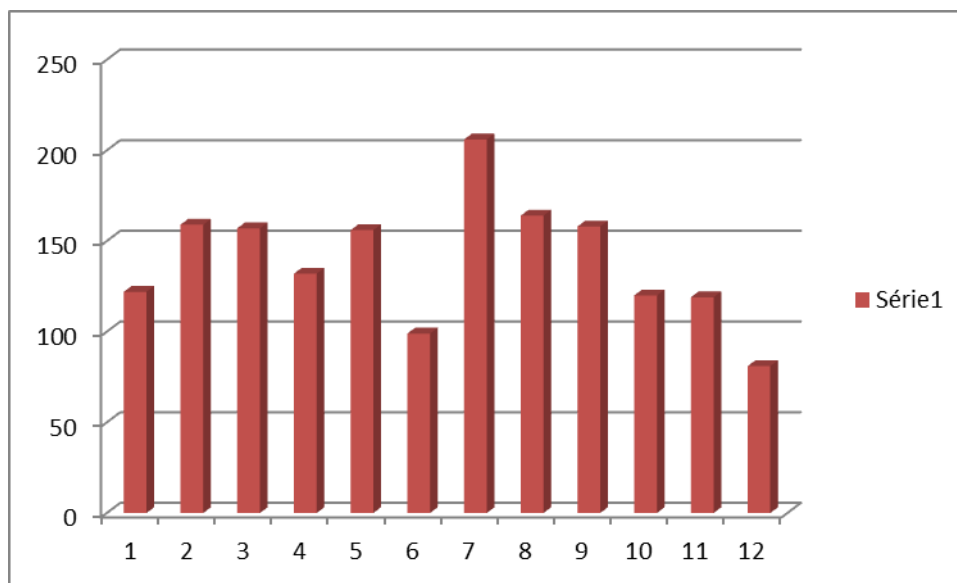




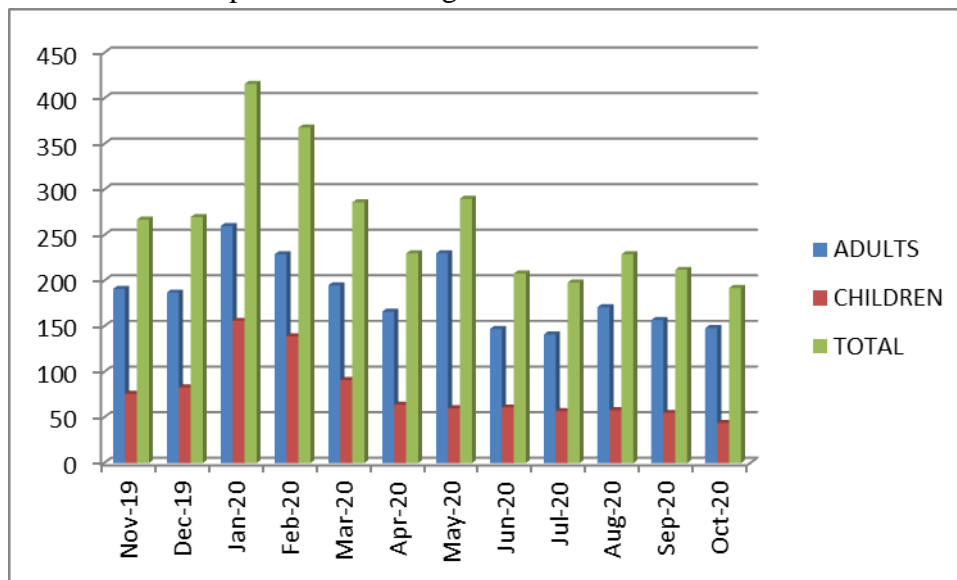
MEDICAL TEAM

CONSULTATIONS

FWA medical doctors did a total of 1673 cases.



The nurses received 3166 patients including 2222 adults and 944 children.



December 15-18, 2020 was a mother-child week. Ntaseka clinic was one of the vaccination centers as usual. We had a total of 2713 children and 30 pregnant women. Among the 2713, 86 children aged between 6 and 11 months were given Vitamin A, 1290 aged between 12

months and 59 months were given both Vitamin A and Albendazole, and 1337 aged between 5 years and 14 years were given Albendazole.



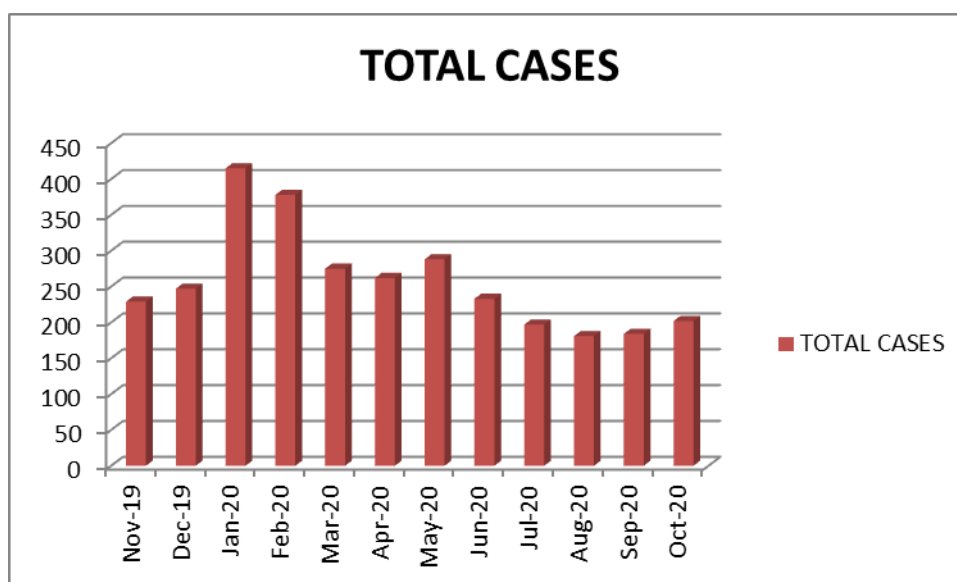
LABORATORY

In the period from November 1st, 2019 to October 31st, 2020, apart from HIV voluntary testing, there were a total of 3091 tests.

Test	Test completed	Positive	Negative
G.E. Malaria test	998	353	645
Quick malaria test	365	105	260
ECBU Urine test	163	133	30
Selles Stool test	211	298	13
Pregnancy	364	118	246
Sero-widal Typhoid fever	511	295	216
Glycémie Diabetes	158	66	92
RPR VDRL	177	8	169

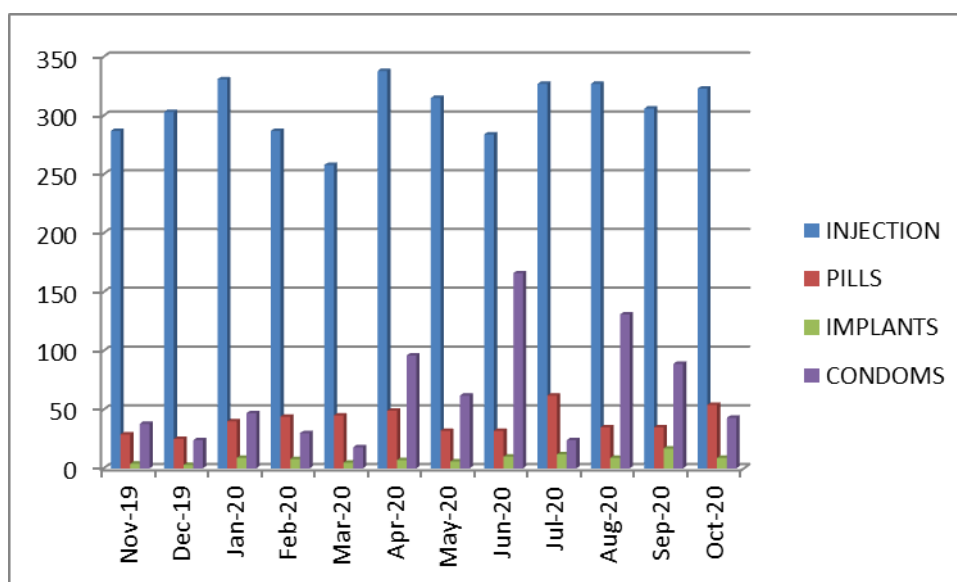
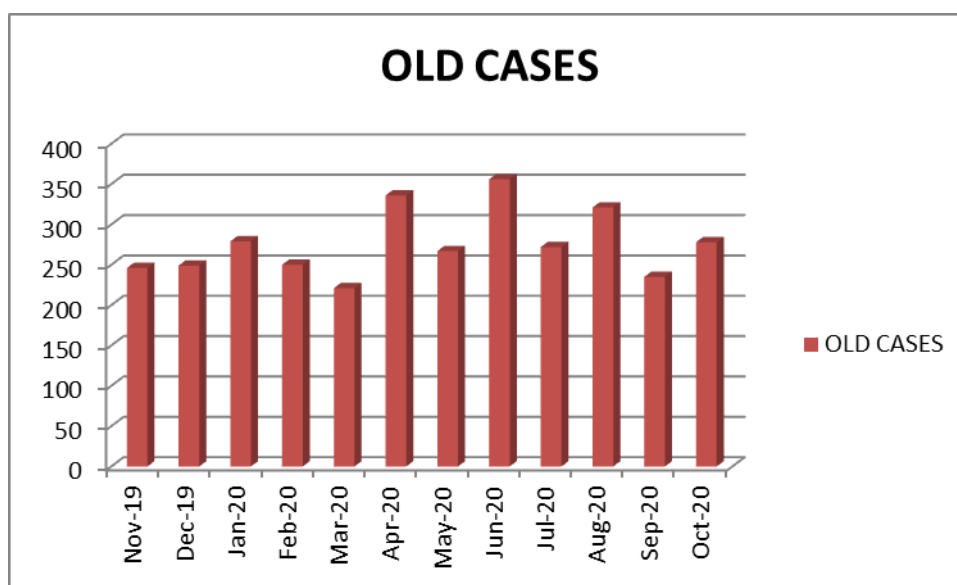
(Syphilis)			
Hepatitis B	17	4	13
Hepatitis C	7	1	6
Complete Blood Count	120	62	58
Total Tests: 3091			

The histogram below shows the total tests done per month in the laboratory service.



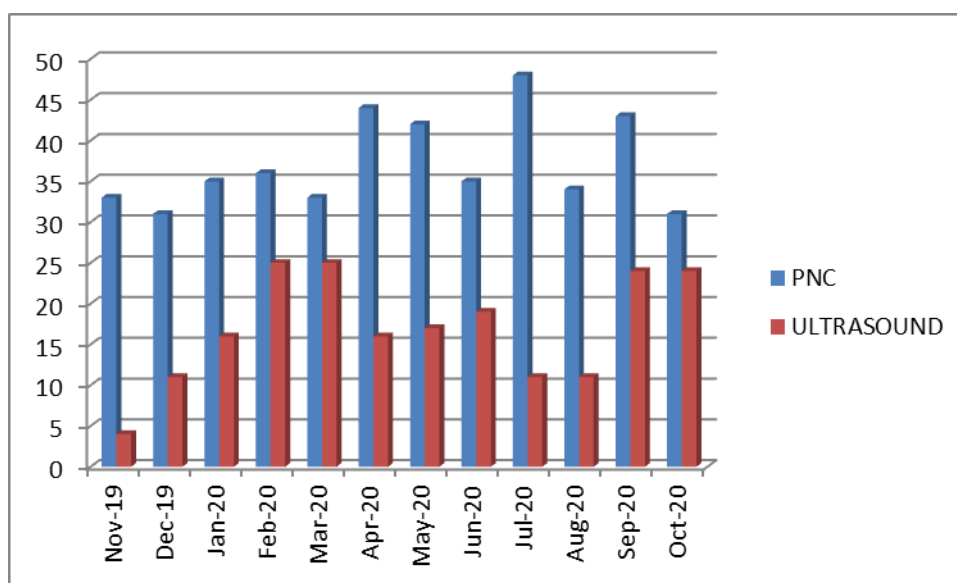
FAMILY PLANNING

During the period from November 1st, 2019 to October 31st, 2020, a total 5048 people received contraceptives from FWA's nurse, including 3310 old cases and 1738 new ones. 3686 received the contraceptive injection, 482 were given pills, 768 received male condoms, 99 received implants, 9 were given collar and 5 received IUD



PRENATAL CONSULTATION (PNC)

In the period from November 1st, 2019 to October 31st, 2020, 445 women came for prenatal consultation (PNC) and 203 women came for the ultrasound test.



ANTI-RETROVIRAL SITE

At the end of October 2020, we had 330 patients under retro drugs followed at NTASEKA clinic, including 267 women and 63 men.

PHARMACY

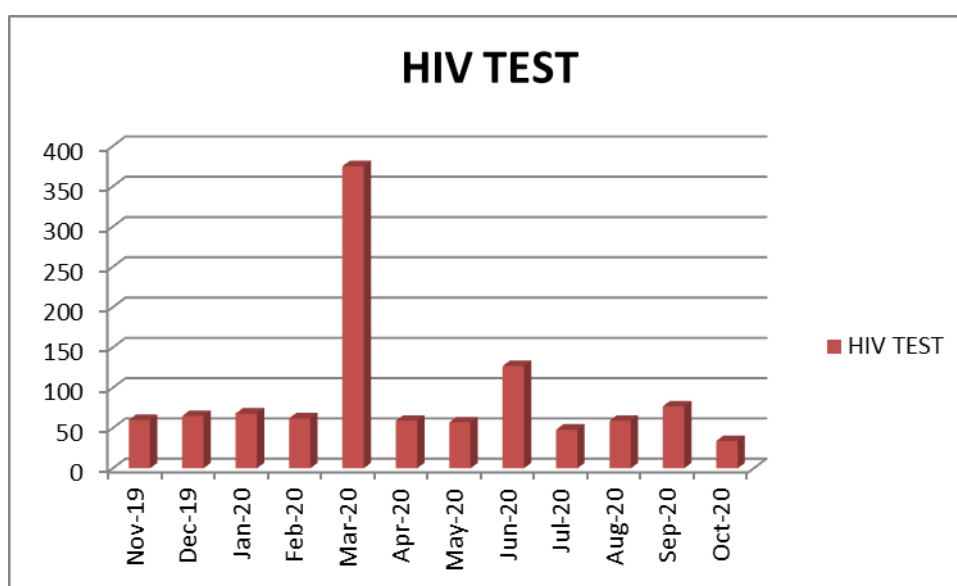
Regarding medications, FWA was able to purchase the minimum needed medicine.

PSYCHOSOCIAL TEAM

In the period from November 1st, 2019 to October 31st, 2020 a total of 1091 people received pre and post HIV test counseling and were tested for HIV. Out of the total number, 50% were women and out of the 56 people detected HIV positive, 41 of them were women, with 7% of seropositivity.

Total Number of People Tested:	1091
Total Number of Women Tested:	548
% of People Tested Who Are Women:	50%
Average Age:	28
Median Age:	27
Total HIV+ :	56

Total HIV- :	1035
Number of Women HIV+ :	41
Total % Seropositivity:	5%
% of Women Tested Who Are HIV+:	7%



The low number of people tested is explained by the fact that we have done target and index screening. This means that only people suspected to be HIV positive were screened. For instance if someone was found HIV positive, Ntaseka clinic had to make sure his or her sexual partners and children are also tested. If we compare to the 2019 results, there has been some positive change. The table below shows HIV statistics at Ntaseka clinic in the period from November 1st, 2018 to October 31st, 2019.

Total Number of People Tested:	1370
Total Number of Women Tested:	808
% of People Tested Who Are Women:	59%
Average Age:	27
Median Age:	26
Total HIV+ :	85

Total HIV- :	1285
Number of Women HIV+ :	70
Total % Seropositivity:	6%
% of Women Tested Who Are HIV+:	9%

INTERNATIONAL DAYS CELEBRATED AT FWA

The FWA has joined the world to celebrate:

- The international day for women (March 8): More than 1000 women members of the FWA SHGs came together to rejoice together on this special international day.





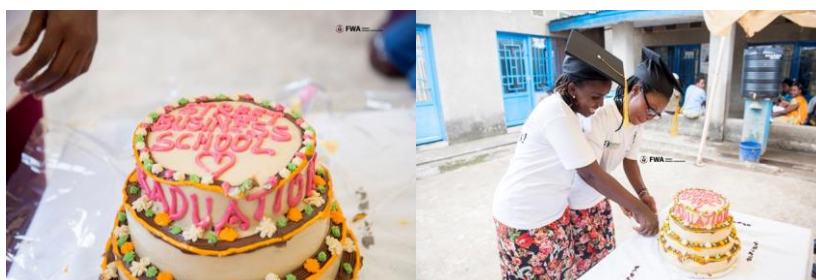
- The international day for Rural women (October 15): On this special day, FWA visited fields where we are growing rice and ate together some of the harvested rice.



- The international day for saving (October 31): FWA took advantage of this international day to graduate the SBS second promotion



Singing, laughing and dancing on the graduation day



A cake was shared at the end of the graduation as a sign of unity among graduates to coach each other

- The 16 days campaign of activism against GBV (November 25-December 10): Public events against GBV were organized



- The international day against HIV/AIDS (December 1st): 80 beneficiaries were present, FWA founder, the local administration, and some of the FWA partners, including the Ministry of Public Health and fight against HIV/AIDS through the Northern Bujumbura Sanitary District, the Red Cross Burundi, Family Health International (FHI360), Harvest Initiatives and IPROSARUDE.



Kamenge Chief zone and FWA founder(Cassilde)



Cassilde and her husband Ferdinand

FWA 2021 PRIORITIES

1. Completing our building project to avail our maternity ward and hospitalization service by December 1, 2021
2. Elaborating FWA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan
3. Caring for HIV positive beneficiaries by empowering FWA medical staff, providing free medical care, listening to them through group discussions and meetings, supporting them by referring them to bigger hospitals just in case
4. Strengthening our women socio-economic empowerment program through trauma healing workshops, GBV workshops, creating and evaluating FWA self-Help Groups, training 40 women to graduate the Street Business School third promotion and encouraging women and young girls to initiate income generating activities
5. Improving Women's reproductive health through group discussions (men, young girls and members of FWA SHGs included), outreach sessions to educate both men and women on birth control. The goal is to achieve 450 people per month who attend Ntaseka clinic for contraceptives methods.
6. Networking with the local administration and other organizations involved in health care and women's socio-economic empowerment