

# **FRIENDS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION 2021 NARRATIVE REPORT**



## Friends Women's Association 2021 Report

### COVID-19 AND NTASEKA CLINIC

Since the month January 2021, Friends Women's Association has continued to apply Covid-19 restrictions at Ntaseka Clinic for both the staff and the beneficiaries' protection. Through Life Net International, John Gould Family Foundation has provided to Ntaseka clinic 2000 disposable gloves, 1500 surgical masks, 700 KN 95 masks, 15 aprons, 15 face shield, 1 infrared thermometer, three UT 100 Hand pulse oximeters. These devices measure heart rate and oxygen saturation.

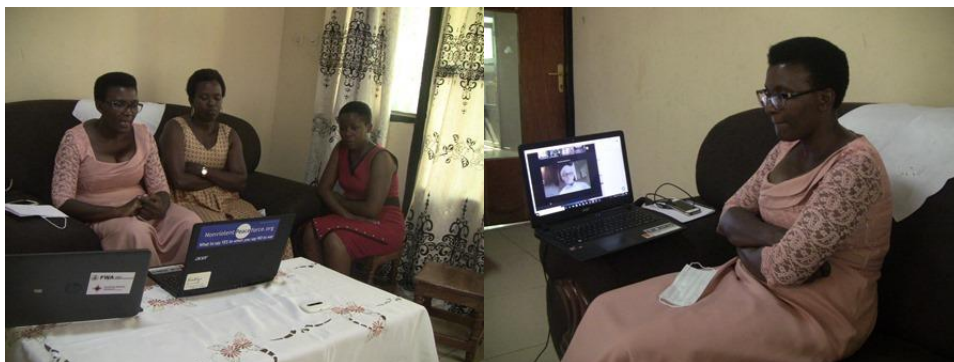




*Masks and gloves from the John Gould Family Foundation*

## **FUNDRAISING THROUGH ZOOM CALL**

On June 13, 2021 there was a zoom call on women economic empowerment as a key for gender-based violence (GBV) prevention. This event was organized by Stony Run Friends Meeting.

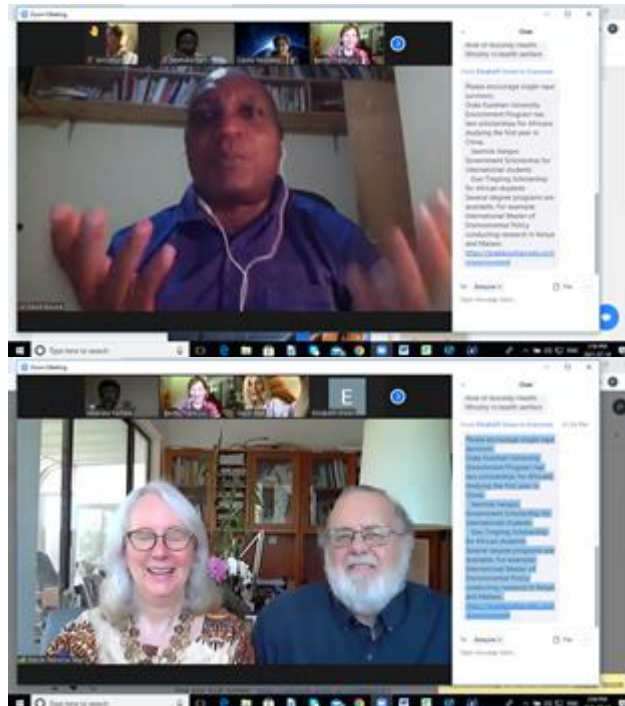


# Friends Women's Association Annual Report [2021]

On July 18, 2021, Santa Monica Friends Meeting organised a zoom call to have an update on the Friends Women's Association work on Burundi. The result was that we raised some funds for Ntaseka clinic maternity ward completion.







## CAPACITY BUILDING

Under the support of Segal Family Foundation, there was capacity building for three people from FWA on Sage Sari software. Participants were FWA accountants. A consultant, BUTOYI Esperance was hired to run ten-day training on the software



Again in the month of September, under the support of Segal Family Foundation, there was capacity building for two people from FWA on how to post monthly reports on FWA website.



On October 25-29, 2021, Ntaseka clinic was represented during a training held at Hotel des Plateaux in Ngozi province. This training was for health care providers on integrated disease surveillance and the third edition response. Participants were from Bujumbura Mairie Districts.



## MEETINGS AND GUESTS

In the same month of September, there was a meeting for both FWA executive committee and FWA founder members.



On October 26, 2021, the FWA received special guests. They were the coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of the Friends Peace Teams (FPT), The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) clerk Africa Section and the Rwanda Evangelical Friends Church Legal Representative.



*A group photo at Ntaseka clinic maternity ward*

## ACTIVITIES

### **Caring for HIV Positive People (CHIVPP)**

During the period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, medical follow up and home visits were done for our HIV positive people. In the month of September, there was one meeting with FWA HIV positive beneficiaries.



### **Maternity Ward Building Progress**

From January 2021 to December 2021, we have made a very significant progress thanks to the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) and the Global Giving Foundation. Our heartfelt thanks to all of them!

### **JANUARY 2021**

In the month of January, with the support from the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), we started the concreting and plastering of Ntaseka clinic maternity ward walls.





## **FEBRUARY 2021**

In the month of February, with the support from the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), we continued the concreting and plastering of Ntaseka clinic maternity ward walls. The installation of electricity and plumbing work were done at the same time.



## **MARCH 2021**



In the month of March, with the support from the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), we started putting broth on the walls of Mtaseka clinic extension plus the control work.

## **APRIL 2021**

In the month of April, with the support from the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), we continued putting broth on the walls of Ntaseka clinic extension plus the control work.



## MAY 2021



In the month of May, with the support from the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), we completed putting broth on the walls of Ntaseka clinic extension plus the control work. Under the support of the Global Giving, we started painting our maternity ward. Tiles for the first floor were bought under the support of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI).





## **JUNE 2021**

In the month of June, with the support from the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), tiles were put on the first floor of the building.





## **JULY 2021**

In the month of July, with the support from the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), tiles were put on the first floor of the building.



## **AUGUST 2021**

In the month of August, with support from the Global Giving Foundation, we built creeping stairs connecting the first floor to the second floor.



## **SEPTEMBER 2021**

In the month of September, Quakers from both the United States and Canada had donated for the maternity ward completion.

## **OCTOBER 2021**

In the month of October, under the support of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of the FPT and the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), glasses were put on the doors and windows of the first floor. In addition, wooden doors were put inside the first floor. The ceiling of the second floor was put in place as well.





*Wooden doors inside the first floor*





*Ceiling of the second floor*

### **NOVEMBER 2021**

In the month of November, under the support of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of the FPT, tiles for the second floor were purchased.



*Tiles for the second floor were purchased*

### **DECEMBER 2021**

In the month of December, under the support of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of the FPT, tiles were implemented on the second floor.



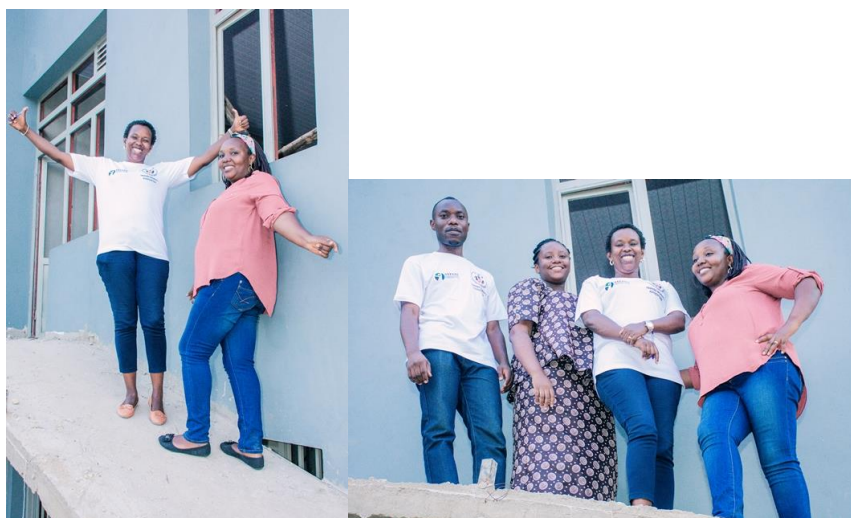


*Tiles are being implemented on the second floor*

**See below how the building looked like at the end of December 2020**



**At the end of December 2021**



*Some of the FWA staff rejoicing because of the new building*



## **Improving Women's Reproductive Health (IWRH)**

In partnership with ABUBEF (Alliance Burundaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial, the Burundian Alliance for the Family Welfare), FWA community health workers and FWA staff have organized 3 outreach sessions to educate both men and women on the importance of family planning. 1500 people were reached under the support of Segal family Foundation.









10 discussion groups on the importance of birth control were done: three for young girls, two for single mothers, one for sex workers, two for the Self-Help Groups' leaders and two for men.







## **Rape Survivors' Support (RSS)**

Under the support of the Global Giving Platform and the African Great Lakes Initiative, 10 trauma healing workshops for 200 GBV survivors and 6 follow up sessions were done for a total of 120 gender-based violence survivors.



*“When I was 14 years old, my father died in my hands. I went to live with my aunt, but her husband mistreated me so much that he wanted to rape me. Then, I got married too early to escape that kind of life. It was after that I found out that my husband had epilepsy. He beat me with big wires that we use for electrical installation. He was beating on my bodily parts that were invisible to everyone. I was living with this grief. Even my kids didn't know that their dad was beating me. One day, I asked my son who was studying in 10th grade to come home very early. When he arrived at home, he discovered his father with a machete on me wanting to slit me. He was surprised because he didn't think it could happen because I had always hidden my pain. It was my son who saved my life that day. Because of the difficult life, my daughter also*



*got married too early. She divorced after having two children. We live together today. In 2015 during the crisis, my husband left the house and he did not come back. We do not know whether he was swept away by epilepsy or the political crisis. No news from him so far. At the moment we are trying to survive with my children. With this training, I will avoid negative thoughts and collaborate with my children (whom I trust) to move forward."*

## Follow up sessions for GBV survivors



*"My name is Claire, this program has been very beneficial to me and family. My husband is alcoholic, every day he comes home drunk. I have suffered many forms of gender-based violence.*

*Before coming to this training I was a woman who stays at home every day, I was ashamed to go among the others because in the neighborhood everyone knew my situation and they were pointing finger at me calling me MARUSHWA {sorrow}; that made my pain worse because it was easy to support my husband but knowing that everyone knows my situation has become unbearable for me.*

*I thank FWA with all my heart because if FWA didn't exist I don't know where I would be now. FWA healed me; normal stress and traumatic stress were explained to us and I understood that if I do nothing in my life I will die sooner. I also understood in "the web of healing" that if I manage to be healed my children will also be spared from trauma.*

*At the end of the training I joined the savings group and I applied for a loan and started working. Until now I was able to save 37,000FBU for me it is like million because I had never had such amount of money without asking my husband or my family.*

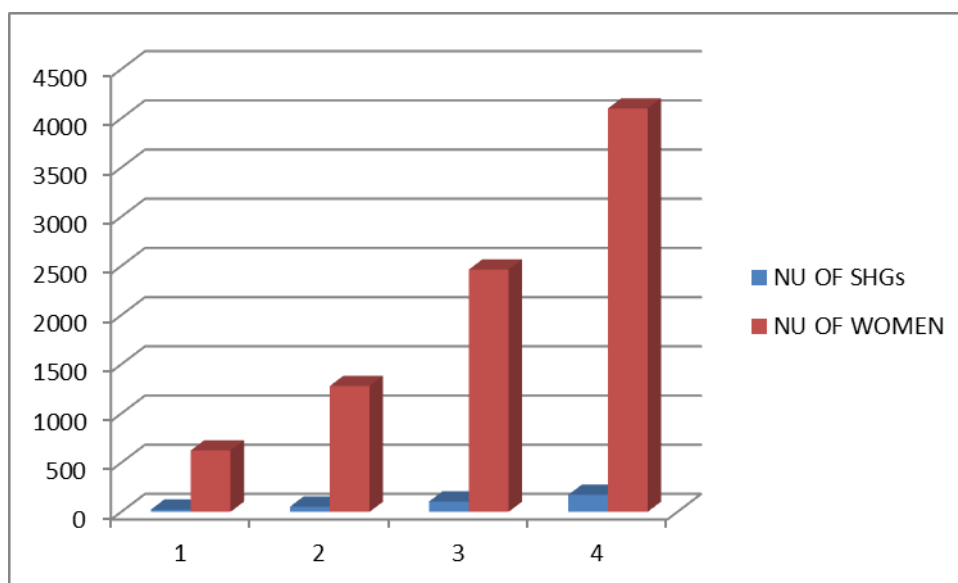
*This program has increased my self-esteem. I felt capable and saw that it is possible to take care of my children financially without begging money.*

*At the start of the school year, I was able to buy everything I needed for my three children. I am the leader of my saving group. I was able to pay food for my family including my husband; I have stopped counting on my husband. I take him as he does not exist; this gave me peace in my heart. When I look at myself I'm proud and I have so many plans for the future".*



At the end of October 2018, we had a total of 25 self-help groups. Then, on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, we had a total of 54 self-help groups for a total of 1280 women. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, we had a total of 106 SHGs for a total of 2463 women. At the end of December 2021, we had a total of 142 SHGs in Kamenge, Bujumbura Mairie province for a total of 3363 women and 30 SHGs for 738 women in Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura province.

The following histogram shows how the number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) has increased from year one (2018) to year four (2021)



On November 12, 2021, 40 women were graduated after six-month training on Street Business School (SBS). This was the third promotion.





## **SOME SHGS HAVE INITIATED INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES TOGETHER**

### **a. The Growing Rice Project**

The rice was harvest two times: In February and in July.

*The first harvest in February*







*The second harvest of rice in July*





**b. The growing Potatoes Project**







## c. The Growing Corns Project



## d. Handmade Baskets by young girls



## Action on Gender-Based Violence (AGBV)

A three-day retreat was done in June 2021 for 20 GBV accompanists





An evaluation session was done in the month of October 2021



A public event was organized during the 16 days campaign of activism against gender-based violence (GBV) in Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura province







With the support of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, we have implemented the frames and roofs of 19 houses of first nations people houses. They are staying on Bubaji hill, Nyabiraba commune in Bujumbura province. As this project comes to prevent GBV, legal marriage was the main criteria to benefit from this donation.











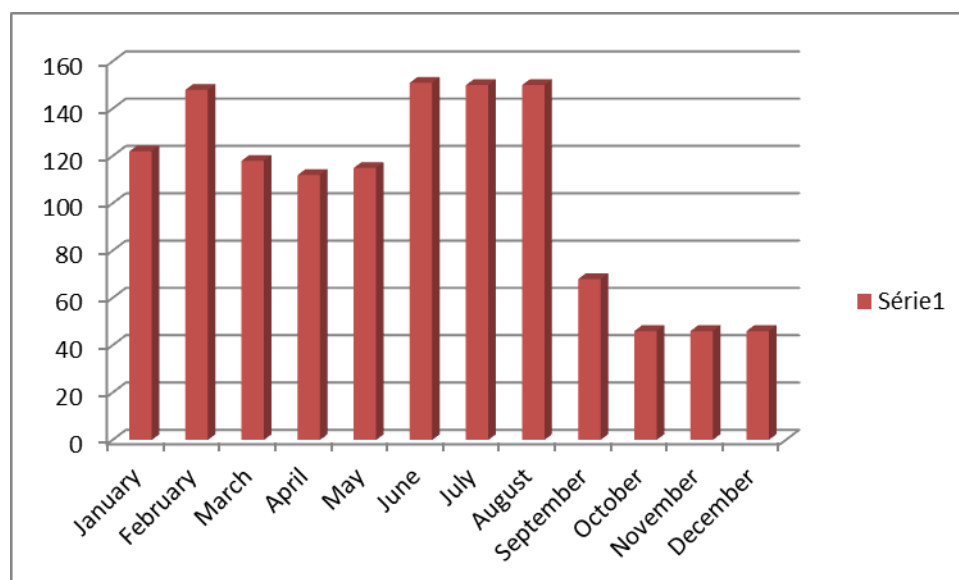


*My name is Nadine. I am from the indigenous people, I was told that in our ethnic group we do not study and I was discouraged when I attended school. When I was 10th grade, I was really discouraged until I gave up. During their home visits, FWA GBV accompanists found me and advised me to return to school. Today I continue my studies easily and I am part of the savings and loans group of FWA. We farm together even though we have small crop fields. We organize ourselves to also do the breeding in order to have manure. I warmly thank FWA who noticed the lack of residential houses in our village. We really lived in precarious conditions. FWA did everything to provide us with shelter. Today the indigenous people of Bubaji have beautiful houses. We express our sincere thanks to FWA for providing us with these houses. At the moment we are doing our development work in safety and peace because we have habitable houses. Thank you*

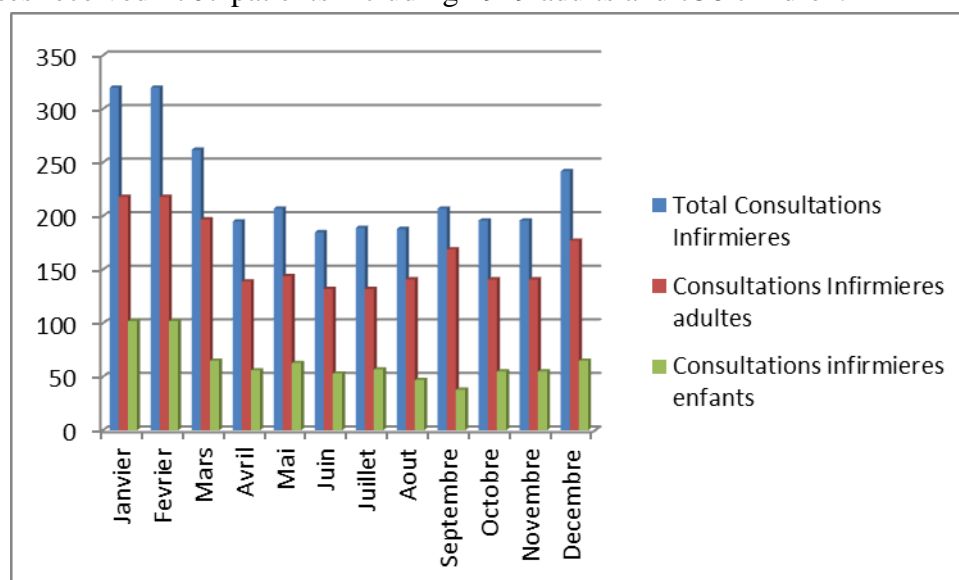
## MEDICAL TEAM

### CONSULTATIONS

FWA medical doctors did a total of 1272 cases.



The nurses received 2707 patients including 1949 adults and 758 children.



June 16-18, 2021 was a mother-child week. Ntaseka clinic was one of the vaccination centers as usual. We had a total of 758 children and 134 pregnant women. Among the 758 children, 65 children aged between 6 and 11 months were given Vitamin A, 129 aged between 12



months and 23 months were given both Vitamin A and Albendazole, 306 aged between 24 months and 59 months were given both Vitamin A and Albendazole and 258 aged between 5 years and 14 years were given Albendazole. 134 pregnant women were given Albendazole.



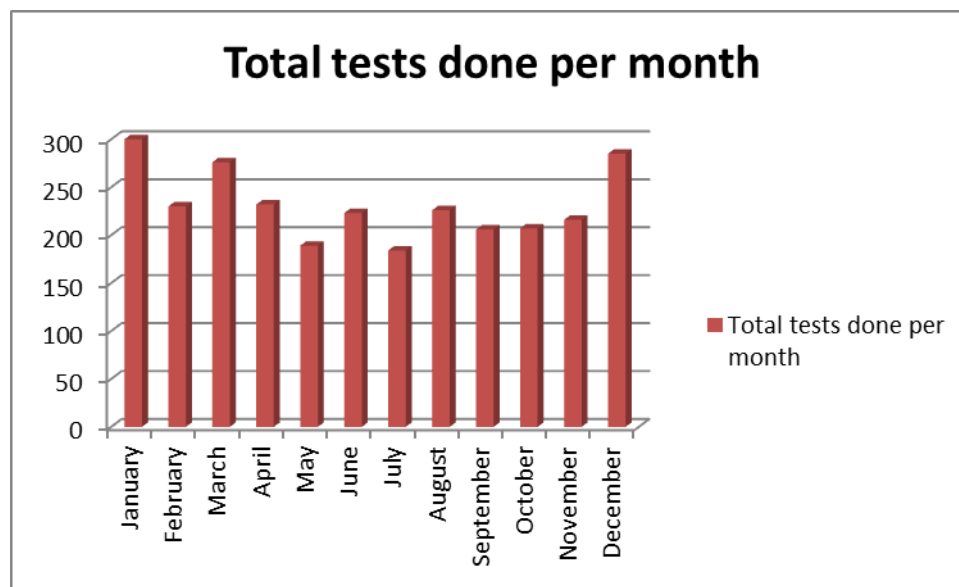
## **LABORATORY**

In the period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, apart from HIV voluntary testing, there were a total of 2785 tests.

Test	Test completed	Positive	Negative
G.E. Malaria test	803	186	616
Quick malaria test	376	94	282
ECBU Urine test	132	84	48
Selles Stool test	176	139	37
Pregnancy	391	113	278
Sero-widal Typhoid fever	344	160	184
Glycémie Diabetes	160	80	80
RPR VDRL (Syphilis)	146	3	143
Hepatitis B	29	1	28
Hepatitis C	11	0	11
Complete Blood Count	131	58	73
Viral Load	86	8	78

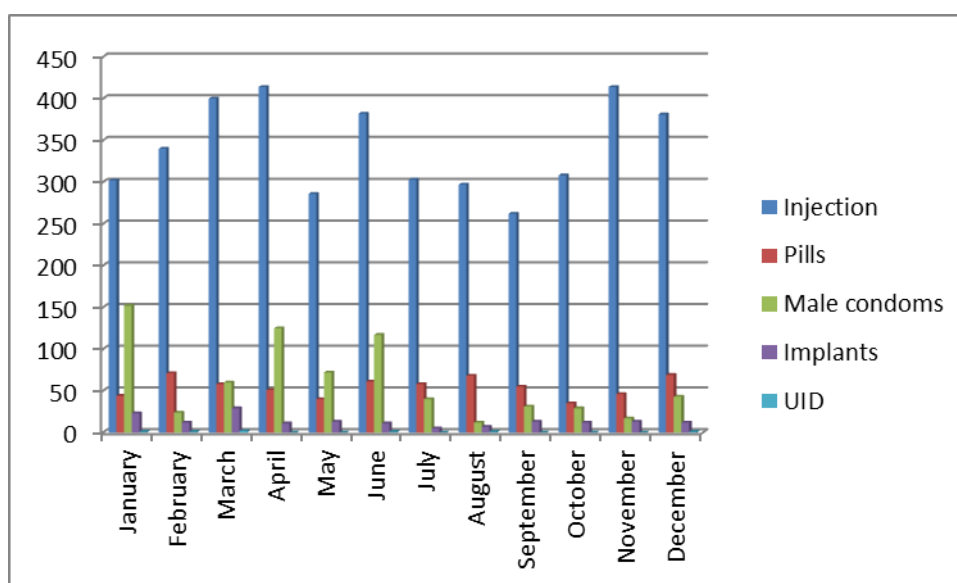
Total Tests: 2785			

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



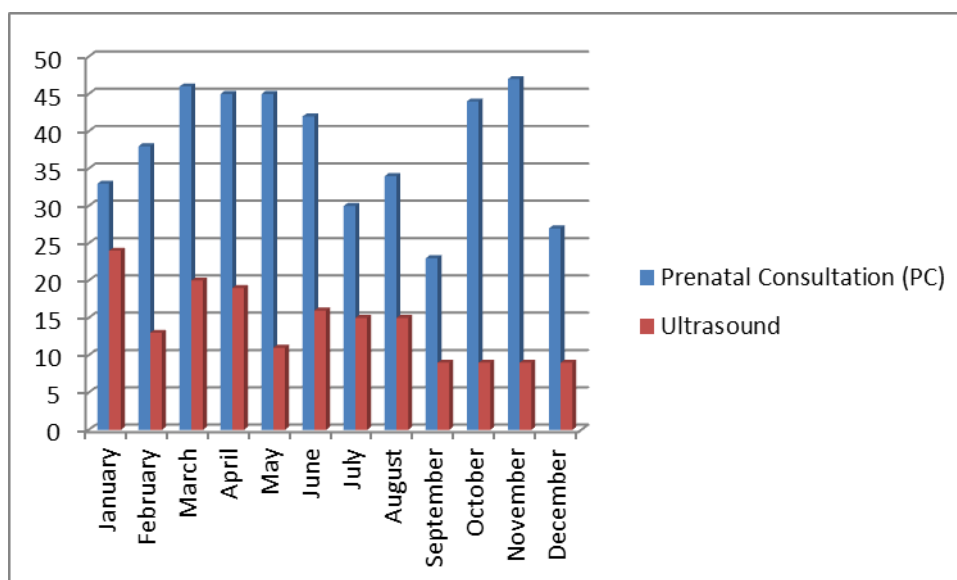
## ***FAMILY PLANNING***

During the period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, a total 5637 people received contraceptives from FWA's nurse, including 3366 old cases and 2271 new ones. 4089 received the injection, 656 were given pills, 722 received male condoms, 161 received implants, 2 were given collar and 7 received IUD



## ***PRENATAL CONSULTATION (PNC)***

In the period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, 454 women came for prenatal consultation (PNC) and 169 women came for the ultrasound test.



## ***ANTI-RETROVIRAL SITE***

At the end of December 2021, we had 330 patients under retro drugs followed at NTASEKA clinic, including 267 women and 63 men.



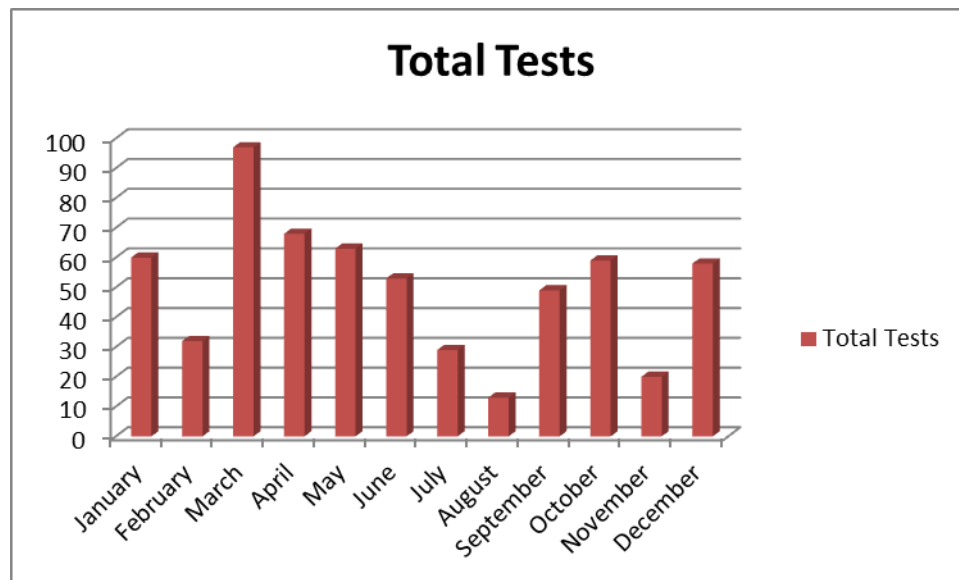
## ***PHARMACY***

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

## ***PSYCHOSOCIAL TEAM***

In the period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 a total of 601 people received pre and post HIV test counseling and were tested for HIV. Out of the total number, 74% were women and out of the 40 people detected HIV positive, 33 of them were women, with 6% of seropositivity.

Total Number of People Tested:	601
Total Number of Women Tested:	444
% of People Tested Who Are Women:	74%
Average Age:	28
Median Age:	28
Total HIV+ :	40
Total HIV- :	561
Number of Women HIV+ :	33
Total % Seropositivity:	6%
% of Women Tested Who Are HIV+:	6%



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.

## INTERNATIONAL DAYS CELEBRATED AT FWA

- On March 12, 2021, as women-led organization which works for women, the FWA joined the world to celebrate the international women's day.





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





*A peaceful walk to attract more people to SBS and to enjoy the graduation day*



*Dancing of joy after graduation*



- The 16 days campaign of activism against GBV (November 25-December 10): One public event against GBV was organized





## **FWA 2022 PRIORITIES**

1. Maternity ward equipment and recruitment of additional staff, including one medical doctor, two nurses, one psychologist and one lab technician
2. Advocacy to join the free care program for children under five, pregnant women and childbirth
3. Caring for HIV positive beneficiaries by empowering FWA medical staff, providing free medical care, listening to them one by one or through group discussions and meetings, supporting them by referring them to bigger hospitals
4. Strengthening our women socio-economic empowerment program through trauma healing workshops, GBV workshops, conference debates on women's rights, creating and evaluating FWA self-Help Groups, capacity building of the SHGs' leaders on different topics, including leadership and conflict management, training 40 women to graduate the Street Business School fourth 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, follow up and empowerment of Ntaseka clinic Community health workers
6. Networking with the local administration, Quaker meetings and organizations, other national and international organizations involved in health care and women's socio-economic empowerment



