

Friends Women's Association

MARCH 2025 Report

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ACTIVITIES

Caring for HIV Positive People (CHIVPP)

In the month of March, medical follow-up and home visits were done for our HIV positive people.

Maternity Ward Building

Although Ntaseka maternity ward still needs some medical equipment; both the delivery and them, hospitalization services are currently functional.

Improving Women's Reproductive Health (IWRH)

FWA staff and FWA community health workers have continued to educate both men and women on the importance of family planning.

On March 27, 2025, Friends Women's Association (FWA) organized a sexual and reproductive health (SRH) awareness-raising activity for 100 women of reproductive age, members of self-help groups (SHGs) in Kamenge. This initiative is part of the Health System Strengthening (HSS) program aimed at improving access to care and promoting women's empowerment.

a. Activity Schedule

The activity began at 3:00 p.m. at the Ntaseka Health Center. It was led by two facilitators, a member of FWA's medical staff and a laboratory worker, assisted by FWA support staff.

b. The main activities included:

1. A question-and-answer session on prenatal care and postpartum family planning (FP) and FWA.
2. An interactive discussion on the importance of early prenatal consultation and the different FP methods.
3. An assessment of participants' knowledge of SRH.
4. Prize distribution to encourage participants' engagement.

c. Stories from Participants and Ntaseka clinic Providers

- Annick: *"Before this training, I didn't know that family planning methods were available free of charge at the Ntaseka clinic. Now, I am better informed and ready to talk about them with my husband."*

- Jeanne: *"I have already lost a baby due to a lack of prenatal care. Today, I better understand the importance of medical follow-up during pregnancy."*
- Augustin, FWA Midwife: *"Women are increasingly open to discussing SRH, but there is still work to be done to demystify certain beliefs and taboos."*
- Aline, FWA Laboratory Technician: *"This activity has built trust between the SHGs' members women and our team. We now need to follow up to see if they are applying the knowledge acquired."*

d. Challenges Encountered

1. Cultural Taboos: Some women expressed reluctance to openly discuss family planning due to cultural beliefs.
2. Lack of Male Partners: Few men participate in discussions about SRH, which complicates adherence to FP programs.

e. Recommendations

1. Intensify Awareness-Raising: Organize more frequent sessions in more remote areas.
2. Include Men: Implement specific activities to raise awareness among husbands about the importance of SRH.
3. Facilitate access to care: Develop strategies to make SRH services more accessible, particularly through mobile clinics.

f. Success Stories

1. Marie, a 29-year-old woman, was reluctant to use contraceptive methods due to widespread myths in her community. After the awareness-raising session, she decided to adopt a family planning method and also convinced other women in her support group to discuss it with healthcare professionals.
2. Chantal, a mother of three, understood the importance of prenatal care during the session. Pregnant with her fourth child, she booked a prenatal appointment the next day and shared her experience with other women in her neighborhood.

g. Conclusion

The awareness-raising activity was a success, with the active participation of 100 women. The collected stories show that this initiative had a positive impact, although some challenges remain. FWA is committed to continuing its efforts to improve SRH and women's empowerment in Burundi.

RAPE SURVIVORS' SUPPORT (RSS)

1. SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS)

ABOUT NEW SHG				
No	Name of SHG	Month of creation	Member Number	Created by
'				
SHG Total Number:		63		

2. HROC THREE-DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP (MARCH 19-21, 2025)





Story

My name is Gloriose. I was married when I was very young. My mother-in-law didn't understand why I was not giving birth to child. She was so mean to me. She did everything so that my husband sends me back to my parents. My husband used not to give me food. He was saying that it is not important to stay with a woman who cannot give birth to children. After two years, I gave birth to a girl-child. My husband was about to kill me saying that it is a curse to have a baby-girl. I left my home and stayed in my Pastor's family. Four months later, my husband came to take me again. Then I gave birth to two daughters in succession. My husband beat me to death until I was hospitalized. My husband wanted me to die in the hospital. After a few years, I gave birth to two boys, but nothing changed until my husband swore he would kill me one day. He even hid a knife under our mattress. I went to complain to the elders but without success. They have always been on my husband's side because of corruption. My mother abandoned me after my father's death to go and marry another man. So, she was never interested in my problems. That's why I have nowhere to go. For the moment, it is my three first daughters who protect me when my husband wants to beat me. Thank you very much for this workshop because I have just had an opportunity to share my pain.

THE WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT CENTER

The FWA has continued the construction of the Women's Socio Economic Empowerment Center (WSEEC). The aim of this project is to avail training rooms and a temporary safe shelter for gender-based violence survivors at the FWA headquarters. This project will cost \$200,000.

In March and early April 2025, before continuing the construction upwards, under the support of AGLI of the FPT, we began to fit out three offices on the ground floor for our multi-story building.

We have so far mobilized \$56,600 including \$21,600 from The African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams, \$10,000 from the CFSC and \$25,000 from the Segal Family Foundation (SFF).



ACTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (AGBV)

In the month of March, there was support of small projects initiated by Gender-based violence survivors. This comes from the project "Connecting the Global to the Local: Strengthening Women's Leadership for the Localization of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women, Peace and Security".

In partnership with the American Friends Service Committee, Small projects initiated by gender-based violence survivors from Bujumbura, Bubanza, Gitega, Makamba, Cibitoke and Rumonge were supported under the support of United Nations Peace Building Fund.

Under The support of Faith to Action Network, FWA organized a three-day workshop on « Faithful home » approach for 10 married couples where the wives are GBV most grave cases. The dates were March 20 to 22, 2025 at Naimani hotel in Gitega province.

NTAWUHORAHIRIWE Désiré and NTIRAMPEBA Spes Caritas have been married for 25 years. They have five children. They previously lived in Tanzania as refugees, and it didn't cause any problems in their lives. It all started when they returned to their homeland, specifically to Ruhororo Ngozi. *Désiré testified: "The themes of communication and economic responsibility touched me deeply. I didn't share information about my money with my wife. My wife took care of all the household chores. This caused a lot of disagreements between us. Now I understand, we will make decisions together."*

As for Spes, she thanks and blesses FWA for having invited them together with her husband. She testified: *"I was deeply hurt by my husband. He left the family, leaving his wife and children behind, supposedly going in search of food, and disappeared for a long time. I'm having a hard time living." Returning empty-handed, a child among others, I found myself unable to support a family of seven alone. I made the decision to secretly leave Ngozi with my children to settle in Gitega. I had a difficult time with my children. It was in November 2024 that he joined me. Over the course of our time together, we all talked, and I forgave him. We will begin our life as a couple as before in Tanzania.*



NTAWUHORAHIRIWE Désiré and his wife NTIRAMPEBA Spes Caritas

MEDICAL TEAM

CONSULTATIONS

Our medical doctor consulted with 88 cases, including 24 adults (3 men and 26 women), 8 children (2 boys and 5 girls), 12 HIV positive people and 44 pregnant women for ultrasound. The nurse received 242 patients including 172 adults and 70 children.

LABORATORY

In the month of March, apart from HIV voluntary testing, there were a total of 356 tests.

Test	Test completed	Positive	Negative
G.E. Malaria test	71	28	43
Quick malaria test	33	8	25
ECBU Urine test	23	19	4
Selles Stool test	17	15	2
Pregnancy	36	8	28
Sero-widal Typhoid fever	58	9	49
Glycémie Diabetes	16	6	10
RPR VDRL (Syphilis)	20	0	20
Complete Blood Count	62	23	39
Hepatitis B	11	0	11
Hepatitis C	09	0	09
Viral Load	0	0	0
Total Tests: 356			

FAMILY PLANNING

633 People received contraceptives from FWA's nurse, including 455 old cases and 178 new ones. 410 received the contraceptive injection, 37 received pills, 150 received male condoms at Ntaseka clinic, 4 received UID and 32 received implants

PRENATAL CONSULTATION (PNC)

In March, 55 women came for prenatal consultation (PNC), including 18 who came for PNC 1, 16 for PNC 2, 16 for PNC 5 and 5 for PNC 4.

44 pregnant women came for the ultrasound test.

ANTI-RETROVIRAL SITE

At the end of March, 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 month of March, 58 people were tested for HIV and received pre and post HIV test counselling. All the 3 people detected HIV positive were women with 5% of seropositivity

Total Number of People Tested:	58
Total Number of Women Tested:	48
% of People Tested Who Are Women:	83%
Average Age:	33
Median Age:	30,5
Total HIV+ :	3
Total HIV- :	55
Number of Women HIV+ :	3
Total % Seropositivity:	5%
% of Women Tested Who Are HIV+:	6%

Some photos links :

RSS: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1P_HoUuusPS79kykKONJ_8RudSxryj5sc?usp=sharing

BUILDING

: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1T4zETxwPUSpKj3qQYdbFOyYrMYtwjJ9U?usp=sharing>

Retreat VBG:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Llj9t7k7jJRH1UqLnieay3onZNtgRhiM?usp=sharing>

IWRH:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HZ2Py5HEIThxSXBERkJHrHLiW6hcdnC?usp=sharing>