Violette Nahimana has worked in Karagara as a Community Health Worker for ten years. “Before becoming a Community Health Worker I was having one child every year. Once I started learning more about family planning I changed my life. In the last ten years I’ve only had two more children. It’s special for me to be an example for my community of Karanga.

“One of the great things about my work is that I get to see people get better or to see women become mothers. When I escort patients to the clinic, I feel so proud. Without Kigutu, without this clinic, a lot of people would have already lost their lives. I can really see a difference.”

—Violette Nahimana, Community Health Worker
Dear Friend,

THIS YEAR HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN among the most impactful and historic in recent memory, with the Covid-19 pandemic continuing its spread with each passing day.

Since March, this pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities of health systems in the most affluent of countries, and the dire need for improvement of those systems in poorer countries. It is clear that incremental improvements at the edges will not solve these fundamental problems. What will make a difference is strengthening health and education systems to improve capabilities for the long term, and that is exactly what Village Health Works is doing by building the Kigutu Hospital and Women’s Health Pavilion (WHP) and the Kigutu International Academy. The teaching hospital will build on the impacts highlighted in this report and help build a stronger health system that will eventually be able to deal with patients struck by Covid-19 — amongst many other things. KIA will play a critical role in transforming the lives of young people from across Burundi as well as provide innovative professional development to educators nationwide, providing greater opportunities in support of a more prosperous future.

As of July 21, 2020, Burundi had 322 confirmed Covid-19 cases and one death. All these cases were in Bujumbura (about 3 hours from our campus) but we have been preparing as best as we can for patients with possible infection. We have introduced measures to slow the spread, such as ensuring universal wearing of face masks produced by our sewing cooperative, and enforcing routine screening of every person entering campus. We have improved sanitation through rigorous hand washing and producing our own hand sanitizers. We have also improved our treatment capacity by putting up a tent to isolate suspected cases, increasing our capacity to deliver oxygen to patients as the first step towards a more developed oxygen delivery network, and ordering PPE supplies for our staff. However, we do not have ventilators, nor the capacity to use them, and we will simply be unable to help patients who cannot be treated with oxygen and require ventilation.

Despite these challenges, we are making progress. The WHP is nearly 75% complete with plans to start seeing patients in early 2021. KIA is moving forward with recruiting its first class and is scheduled to welcome the first students in the fall. VHW has seen its share of hardships in the past, but we believe that we must act with boldness and match the resilience that we see each day in our community.

As we are forced to deal with the current threat, we must not let this become a distraction from what is needed to make a lasting difference in the lives of our patients and communities. The real work remains to finish building the transformational projects that will allow us to expand our impact and our capacity to make system wide change that is sustained.

Dr. Tarek Meguid
VHW’s Chief Medical Officer
HEALTHCARE IS AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING THAT we do. Every day we reduce suffering, promote dignity, and advance hope through preventative and treatment strategies.

13,692 patient consultations
an 11% increase over Q1 2019

18,080 home visits by Community Health Workers
with 2,513 referrals

30.8 per 1,000 U5 mortality rate
compared to 78 per 1,000 in Burundi

100% malnourished children
currently on treatment, with 64.8% success rate

80.13% pregnant mothers
screened for HIV, hep B, & syphilis in their first antenatal care appointment

100% HIV patients
on ARV treatment, with 86.4% viral load supression
Our education program improves the quality of teaching and learning through critical support services to students, teacher training, and upgraded education infrastructure to help our young people reach their full potential.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrition</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13,420 nutritious meals</td>
<td>85% ACCESS passing rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>provided to students</td>
<td>versus 77% in Spring 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ACCESS is a program administered by the US State Department to improve English skills)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% global acute malnutrition rate</td>
<td>76% adolescent girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>versus 5% nationally in Burundi</td>
<td>with adequate sexual reproductive health knowledge and 494 total program participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meet Shemezimana Tania

“To be educated is very important and very useful for my future career. It’s going to help me get a job and be able to be a financially independent woman. I would like to become a lawyer in my future career so it is very important to study. My parent doesn’t have a lot of money, but at least they are trying to pay my school fees, because they know once I become successful in the future, I will take care of them like they did for me.”
WE HELP COMMUNITY MEMBERS develop the skills and tools to start small businesses. Cooperatives and on-campus agriculture generate income as well as provide nutritious food to patients, students, and communities.

**On-campus Agriculture**

- **5,183 kg** fresh produce farmed on campus
- **$5,186 USD** monetary value to offset feeding costs
- **931 inpatients** served nutritious meals

**Community Agriculture**

- **17,022 kg** agriculture farmed in the community
- **$11,742 USD** monetary value of income generation

VHW supports
24 cooperatives
with
337 farmers
trained by
18 model farmers

**Meet Nestor Nkeshimana**

VHW AGRONOMIST ASSISTANT

“Like many Burundians, I grew up on a farm but knew a diploma would be necessary for a good job. I worked hard and was able to graduate college in agriculture, coming to Village Health Works in early 2017.

I am almost never in the office, and when people are looking for me they know they can find me in the field. My favorite part of my job is growing different types of food for our patients and training farmers in the community. We have dairy cows, which provide milk for the patients, and a fish farm for variety.

Since Covid-19, we have stopped new trainings for the farmers we support in our community. At the beginning and end of the growing season they would come to learn skills such as how to compost, plant in a line, use fertilizer and even protect their soil. We also remind them what seasons to grow different crops, when to introduce new crops, and help them build vertical vegetable gardens for a better diet.

I miss training with the farmers in the community the most and who knows, this too will probably pass, and we will all be back on campus.”
VILLAGE HEALTH WORKS WAS FOUNDED WITH the aim of facilitating trust and empathy among the people in our catchment area and beyond.

Through our community’s shared commitment to our mission we have expanded our reach, improved infrastructure, and promoted reconciliation and peace.

2,144 volunteers mobilized to help in their community

2,480 community members trained in social & cultural issues

Meet

**Nishimwe Bella**

**MUTIMA PROGRAM**

The MUTIMA Program is designed to improve knowledge about sexual reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, leadership, as well as general topics to ensure that girls thrive and become successful in the Burundian context.

“The sanitary pads that the village gives us are very useful because in our menstruation period we use them and it really protects us. We learned all the techniques of cleanliness of these pads in the MUTIMA program. We receive two sanitary pads per student and when they are damaged, we throw them.”

Meet

**Gemma Bulos**

**WASH PROGRAM**

Water is a precious resource in any community. The VHW Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program has assisted local Kigutu Community members and leaders in their fight against water borne illnesses. The educational program, taught by renowned Professor and Entrepreneur, Gemma Bulos, teaches local leaders the importance of spreading the positive messages of properly treating the vital resource of Water. Gemma leads her own non-profit called Global Women’s Water Initiative and has been a consistent contributor to VHW since 2018, visiting on three separate occasions to lead the training programs. Her “train the trainers model,” emphasizes the importance of teaching local leaders the tools and messages to use when she is not physically present to go out into their communities.
Looking Ahead

THE OPENING OF...
The Kigutu International Academy (KIA)

The Kigutu International Academy (KIA) has made enormous strides during the first quarter of 2020. During this period, KIA hosted an inspection visit and received formal authorization to operate from the Ministry of Education. KIA has also hired a diverse and experienced teaching team, including the Head of School, Lead Teacher and three Teaching Fellows.

In addition, the KIA team conducted extensive outreach and awareness building activities across Burundi, reaching thousands of prospective students through social media and in-person school visits. Over two hundred applications have been submitted for KIA’s initial class of 30 students, which are currently being reviewed. The Admissions Team looks forward to announcing the admitted class in August, as we prepare to open our doors in the fourth quarter of the year!

THE OPENING OF...
The Kigutu Hospital & Women’s Health Pavilion

Since early November, the construction of the Women’s Health Pavilion has proceeded at an accelerated pace. Bare walls are making way for a coated interior, the wiring is disappearing from view, and work has begun on the roof. With every visit to the site, tangible progress welcomes you.

When December rushed into January, expectations cautiously readjusted, with many of the staff joking—not without an element of serious hope—that we’d be welcoming VHW’s first December Babies before the year would be over.

That was before Covid-19 happened. VHW too is affected. With fewer resources, we inevitably have to do more with less. As a result we are pushing back our opening, and now hope to welcome our first patients in early 2021.
Village Health Works is a 501(c)(3) organization based in Burundi and New York. All donations are tax-deductible.*

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