“After spending most of Quarter 2 in Burundi, I’m inspired by the progress being made and eagerly anticipate the opening of the Kigutu Hospital and Women’s Health Pavilion in June of 2022.”

- Deogratias Niyizonkiza, Founder and CEO of Village Health Works
DEAR FRIENDS,

I trust this letter finds you and your families well. I have just returned from Burundi, where I spent most of the summer, and I couldn’t be happier with how the trip went.

I was able to meet with many senior government officials, including the new president of Burundi, as well as many diplomats representing their countries and, of course, numerous local community groups. I came back with my hopes for Burundi renewed and re-invigorated to continue the work we do together through VHW.

During our hours-long meeting with the president of Burundi, we gave him an update of our work and shared some challenges we are facing. He had visited VHW a number of times before becoming the president and knew quite well the many accomplishments we have been able to achieve throughout the years. His words of appreciation and encouragement were from the heart and very uplifting. After conversations with the United States Ambassador, the most senior representative of the World Bank, representatives from various United Nations agencies, and other diplomats, I feel that opportunities to work together to dramatically improve the lives of Burundians are now greater than before. I am hopeful that we will be able to continue these conversations and strengthen our relationship with both the government of Burundi and the private sector in order to work together towards truly sustainable development, lasting peace, and a better healthcare system in Burundi.

I have been able to visit Burundi five times since the beginning of this year. During each of these visits, I saw familiar challenges but was mostly impressed with the progress we have made despite a new, and changing, global context. In this report, you will find data that represents the real change we have made in the lives of the community we serve. This is made possible by your support, the hard work of our colleagues in Kigutu and, of course, the unmatched commitment of the local community.

It is always an uplifting experience whenever I meet and speak with our community members and listen to their stories: how VHW helped them overcome barriers, their accomplishments and plans to help others while continuing to work to improve their living conditions. With our five-year strategic plan completed, we are now focusing on the best ways to implement our collective ideas while creating the new partnerships that will allow us to make VHW’s vision a reality together.

The goals we have set for ourselves are ambitious, but they are certainly achievable. With a strong connection to our community and partners who share our vision, we can bring more positive change to our community—and to all of Burundi.

Turi kumwe—we are together.

Deogratias Niyizonkiza
Founder and CEO
THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE YEAR SAW AN INCREASE in patients from quarter one and an extremely busy quarter for our Community Health Workers (CHWs), whose outreach efforts included making sure that pregnant women are on track and checking up on newborn babies. As the dry season begins, our CHWs and clinical staff start to see an increase in malnutrition cases, an annual challenge in our area.

Our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Jean Baptiste Mbonyingingo, had a particularly difficult delivery in April that underscores the importance of finishing the Kigutu Hospital and Women’s Health Pavilion. Dr. Jean Baptiste said, “Recently a pregnant woman came to our clinic with her baby in breech presentation. Normally, we have to send them to a hospital where they have an operating room so they can do a C-section, but our patient was very far along and we knew she would likely give birth on the way. Fortunately, this past December I had the opportunity to travel to Zanzibar to further hone my skills. I was able to use a technique I learned while studying and practicing there to deliver this woman’s baby safely. Both mother and child are safe and healthy now. In this season of waiting for the hospital to be finished, we are using our time wisely to become the best doctors that we can possibly be.” While Dr. Jean Baptiste was relieved, he knew that he was also lucky. He further explained, “The baby was born premature and was small. If it had been a larger baby I don’t think we would have been successful. This is why we need surgical capacity, it is a matter of life or death.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Percentage or Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient consultations</td>
<td>10,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home visits by Community Health Workers</td>
<td>29,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant mothers screened for HIV, Hep B &amp; syphilis</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malnourished children on treatment</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV patients on ARV treatment</td>
<td>100% with 94% viral load suppression</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have five children and many responsibilities that I used to struggle with due to my schizophrenia. I would wander and find myself in dangerous situations, unable to figure out how I got there. Now I am on medication thanks to Village Health Works and the Community Health Worker that visits me monthly. I am stable and able to care for my husband, children, and home. With treatment, I feel dignified and do not have to feel the shame often associated with mental illness. My husband used to believe I was being poisoned or affected by witchcraft because there is so little education around mental illness in this area. Now he understands and is able to better support me as I manage this illness.”

Meet
Anastasia
MENTAL HEALTH PATIENT

I have five children and many responsibilities that I used to struggle with due to my schizophrenia. I would wander and find myself in dangerous situations, unable to figure out how I got there. Now I am on medication thanks to Village Health Works and the Community Health Worker that visits me monthly. I am stable and able to care for my husband, children, and home. With treatment, I feel dignified and do not have to feel the shame often associated with mental illness. My husband used to believe I was being poisoned or affected by witchcraft because there is so little education around mental illness in this area. Now he understands and is able to better support me as I manage this illness.”

Meet
Anastasia
MENTAL HEALTH PATIENT

I have five children and many responsibilities that I used to struggle with due to my schizophrenia. I would wander and find myself in dangerous situations, unable to figure out how I got there. Now I am on medication thanks to Village Health Works and the Community Health Worker that visits me monthly. I am stable and able to care for my husband, children, and home. With treatment, I feel dignified and do not have to feel the shame often associated with mental illness. My husband used to believe I was being poisoned or affected by witchcraft because there is so little education around mental illness in this area. Now he understands and is able to better support me as I manage this illness.”

Meet
Anastasia
MENTAL HEALTH PATIENT

I have five children and many responsibilities that I used to struggle with due to my schizophrenia. I would wander and find myself in dangerous situations, unable to figure out how I got there. Now I am on medication thanks to Village Health Works and the Community Health Worker that visits me monthly. I am stable and able to care for my husband, children, and home. With treatment, I feel dignified and do not have to feel the shame often associated with mental illness. My husband used to believe I was being poisoned or affected by witchcraft because there is so little education around mental illness in this area. Now he understands and is able to better support me as I manage this illness.”
**Education**

**OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM EXPERIENCED A BUSY second quarter.** KIA and ECOFO students were focused on preparing for end of year exams. As students finished up their school year, we saw a decrease in malnutrition. The Global Acute Malnutrition rate in our catchment area decreased from 2.4% in Quarter 1 to 1.5% in Quarter 2. 9,370 nutritious meals were served at school but the efforts to serve students did not stop there.

“We recognize that we cannot be successful in educating our students if we do not take into account their situation at home. For this reason, we continue to do outreach in the community and follow up on students that are struggling. Over these past few months, we have visited three households where we suspected malnutrition to be an issue and nine households of students that had suddenly dropped out of school. While we are not always successful in our endeavors to solve these problems, we know that voicing our concerns and sharing resources and support with families can prevent a child from failing.”

—Athanase Niyongabo, Assistant Education Program Manager & Access Program Coordinator

---

**Meet Sympatique Sinzoyiheba**

Sympatique Sinzoyiheba is an 18 year old boy who was interested in the MUTIMA program. He explained that he noticed physical changes in his body as he was maturing but he was too embarrassed and shy to share his questions with his parents. He explained, “Some of these questions are hard to ask your parents. When I heard about MUTIMA, I was really interested in learning more about the changes I was experiencing. I also was happy to learn about the changes happening in womens’ bodies as I had never learned about that before. Better understanding sexual and reproductive health has been crucial to my growth.”

- **9,370** nutritious meals given to students
- **1.5%** Global Acute Malnutrition Rate compared to 5% nationally in Burundi
- **100%** girls with adequate sexual and reproductive health knowledge
- **449** boys and girls engaged in MUTIMA an adolescent health program

**Stats**

- **136** Secondary School students
- **336** ECOFO children
- **172** children enrolled in VHW’s on-site preschool
- **98%** of students scored the minimum passing score under the ACCESS program
- **32** students completed their first year as KIA’s inaugural class
WITH AN INFLUX OF PATIENTS IN OUR CLINIC THIS quarter the demand for healthy and locally sourced meals increased. We served over 800 meals to inpatients being treated on our campus. Our continuum of care relies on a robust agricultural system that can feed our staff, patients and students.

“We are still hard at work innovating our farming practices to try and ensure our food systems are sustainable and environmentally friendly. We have started these efforts by using the water from our fish ponds to help water our plants and crops during the dry season. We then encourage the farmers that we employ to share these practices with their communities. We have been working diligently with eight model farmers to improve their crop yield so that we can ultimately buy our food from them. We recognize that having the community involved in all aspects of our agriculture program is crucial to our success.”

—Don De Dieu Iradukunda, VHW Food Security Coordinator & Kigutu International Academy Operations Coordinator

Meet Stanley

Stanley Ndikumwenayo is a 41 year old man, living in Mutambara Peace Village. The Peace Village is an area developed by the Burundian government where former refugees and local indigents are settled. People living there have almost no land except their house. Stanley was repatriated from Tanzania in 2012. Life was difficult since he only had the land surrounding his house, which he did not think was enough to grow anything. Two of his four children had recurrent malnutrition. In 2020, he visited one of his neighbors, who was by then a model farmer with Village Health Works. Stanley was shocked by how his friend was farming and how green his kitchen gardens were. He decided to try the methods in his courtyard. Within 3 months, he was harvesting enough vegetables to feed his family.

“Today, I have enough to feed my family and sell to other families that are in need. The lack of land is not our biggest issue; our most pressing problem is a lack of knowledge. Now I know that I can grow many things on a small plot of land. Farming truly saved my life.”

8,188 kg
fresh produce farmed on campus

2,227 liters
milk produced on campus

801
inpatients served nutritious meals

$5,554 USD
total monetary value of all production on VHW agricultural site
Community Engagement

COVID-19 HAS CHANGED THE WAY WE INTERACT WITH our communities—even at the most local levels. We are overjoyed to begin gathering again outside to sing, dance, and play music together. Members of the Twiyugurure program have continued to meet, and recently celebrated 74 new graduates that have been trained to better communicate, parent and resolve conflict within their families and communities. We also recently had the opportunity to share our love of Burundian dance with a larger audience.

The preservation and celebration of traditional Burundian music, dance and culture is a large part of our community engagement team’s work. Both men and women participate in different activities that promote social cohesion, physical activity and instill pride in themselves and their communities. We recently had a national television station, RTNB, visit our campus to record VHW community members perform a beautiful dance called Umuhanga. This dance is only practiced and known within the Vyanda region where VHW’s campus is situated.”

“–Emile Kwizera, Community Engagement Program Manager

Agatha Niragira is a 45 years old mother living in Gitwe colline who recently graduated from our Twiyugurure sessions. Agatha’s first husband died in 2000 leaving her to care for their three children. She remarried and had four children with her new husband. While things might have seemed fine and content within the family, the children from Agatha’s previous marriage did not want to live with the second husband. Agatha was absolutely miserable trying to mend the chasm between her first three children and the new family she had created with her second husband. In 2020, Agatha enrolled in Twiyugurure and was happy to be part of a group that validated her experience and helped her figure out a productive way to move forward. She was eager to implement what she learned with her husband and children. Using these new skills, she held a family meeting where they were able to resolve issues and advise their children to stop fighting over the family’s small property and instead work to create more opportunities for the entire family. Agatha explained, “My family life was incredibly tumultuous before I enrolled in Twiyugurure sessions. I was even thinking about putting an end to my life because the situation was so dire. I was saddened by the passing of my beloved husband, and while the second husband came to wipe my tears, new issues arose once we had children of our own. Twiyugurure helped us face the past and find peace in our lives.”

Agatha

Meet

169 hours of community service provided

5,059 community members trained in social & cultural issues

84 Imbonezas (community leaders) were trained in best practices for water treatment to help ensure all community members are using clean and safe water

191 children participated in cultural and sports activities 33,038 times supporting community cohesion, health and wellbeing, and the continuation of Burundian traditions

79 Twiyugurure graduates

Village Health Works Impact Report • Quarter 2, 2021 • Page 6
Looking Ahead

New Staff

As a new member of our senior medical team, Dr. Teresa Gipson will bring a deep understanding of the important contributions made by every member of a team through experiences working in hospitals as a nurse (and in other roles) before becoming an MD. She will use that understanding, as well as more than 30 years of experience working with hospitals in the United States, Malawi, and South America, as she helps recruit the many clinical professionals and helps design the processes, roles, and responsibilities involved in running a successful hospital.

Mack Kigada will bring over 30 years of information technology experience, including healthcare solutions for large multi-state and international organizations, to VHW as our new Director of Information Services Group. With the increasing importance of data and IT in effective delivery of care he will put his expertise to work building an improved medical records system and improving technologies for CHWs.

Pauline Beck will be joining us as Director of Facilities Management and Design. An architect with 30 years of design experience, Pauline brings an eye for beautiful design and a commitment to using locally sourced materials.

Dr. Clement Chiwaula, our new Director of Community Health Services and Monitoring & Evaluation, will oversee an expansion of our capabilities in M&E to effectively track our expanded activities in order to demonstrate our impact—and provide information about future directions of work.

Duncan Mulwa, our new Chief Accountant, is taking the lead on working with our Kigutu finance staff to design and implement new processes that will help increase effectiveness and efficiency.

Katie Yeagley, our new Development and Communications Coordinator, will assist the fundraising team in helping better communicate our impact to our family of supporters and friends.

New Board Members

Dr. Léonce Ndikumana, a Burundian native, is Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is one of the world’s most respected researchers on the problem of capital flight from African countries and has been named a 2021 Andrew Carnegie Fellow by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in recognition of his work in this critical area.

Zaida Bastos served as Development Partnerships Program Director at PWRDF, the development arm of the Anglican Church of Canada until her retirement in 2020, and is a longtime friend of VHW through the ongoing partnership we have with PWRDF. Ms. Bastos also brings expertise in community development, gender equality and organizational development, including participatory monitoring and evaluation.

We’re Hiring!

If you’re interested in joining an innovative and creative team dedicated to helping others, please consider applying to one of our open positions. If you know someone who would be interested in these opportunities, please pass them along to us.

- Boarding School Supervisor, Burundi
- Head of Mission / Coordinateur General, Burundi
- Senior Biomedical Engineer, Burundi
- EMR Specialist, Burundi
- Senior Staff Anesthesiologist / Chief of Anesthesia, Burundi
- Senior Staff Internist / Chief of Medicine, Burundi
- Senior Staff Pediatrician / Chief of Pediatrics, Burundi
- Senior Staff Physician / Chief of Outpatient and Community Health Services, Burundi
- Volunteer Clinical Operations Officer, Burundi
- Volunteer Operations Officer, Burundi
- Warehouse Manager, Burundi
- Volunteer Supply Chain Analyst, New York City, USA

SEE CURRENT OPENINGS >
Many new staff members joined Deo on a recent tour of the WHP in a recent trip to Kigutu.