AS WE NEAR THE END OF THE
construction of the Kigutu Hospital and Women's Health Pavilion, we are focusing on building out a highly motivated and passionate team that will help operationalize it.

Meet Dr. Teresa Gipson, MD, MPH, Director of Clinical Quality and Training. Teresa holds a Master's in Public Health from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at John Hopkins University and a MD from Georgetown University School of Medicine. Her professional experience spans the clinical, academic and administrative and she has worked across multiple continents, spending significant time in Malawi, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. Her extensive knowledge and dedication to building capacity and strengthening health systems across the globe will help us attract the talent that we need for a sustainable healthcare system.

“It is both amazing and daunting to know that the hospital will finally be open before the end of the year. As the Interim Chief Medical Officer and Director of Clinical Quality and Training, I have been charged with finalizing the hospital operations plan, preparing the existing team, and hiring additional staff who will be key to expanding the services we are able to provide.

“This quarter we focused on building on existing practices and procedures to create a formal set of standards and norms for the new services we will offer. As we move from a health center to a district hospital, a different set of skills will be required. As a first step, we have conducted a needs assessment to better understand what skills our current team has and where we need to invest in further training or finding additional talent.

“Meet Dr. Teresa Gipson

“Our clinical team also visited several hospitals throughout Burundi to get a better understanding of the range of services offered and build local partnerships. Our goal continues to be to build a hospital that not only helps rural Burundians but also contributes to strengthening the health care system in the entire country.

“While there are many challenges left, I feel that it is a privilege to be working towards turning the beautiful building on our campus into a functioning hospital that will save thousands of lives.”
DEAR FRIENDS,

I hope that this letter finds you and all your loved ones safe and healthy, and that you are anticipating greater possibilities and stronger connections in the year to come. The beginning of a new year is a natural time to reflect on the experiences we have shared over the previous 12 months, and the many hopes we seek to bring to life in the year to come.

I returned from a trip to Kigutu in December greatly energized by what I saw. Most striking of all was the detailed and careful planning that I saw underway then, and which will continue throughout this year. I am overjoyed to share that our primary focus has finally turned from building the physical structure of the Kigutu Hospital and Women’s Health Pavilion (WHP) to planning the changes it will bring. Through a comprehensive plan that includes training and education for our own staff as well as recruitment of specialists where necessary we will make sure that we will be able to create a new space for hope and healing on our campus. I was also able to participate in the initial planning for a process, now ongoing, that will fundamentally reevaluate all our programs — how they are currently operating, and how they are interconnected. Through better use of data, more defined goals, and greater collaboration we will ensure that our activities remain aligned with the needs of the community we serve, and that all our resources are put to their most effective use. At the same time, we continue our efforts to respond to the needs identified by our community through activities implemented alongside them. From the trees that we continue to plant in our community to the nutritional education and economic opportunities making new dreams possible and ongoing engagement to equip our community extension workers to address gender based violence, we continue to support our community as they face new challenges.

Indeed, during my trip I saw how unanticipated shocks can severely strain the capabilities that we have long worked to put in place. I shared in my last letter that Covid-19 had finally come to our campus, and you heard how we were learning and adapting to face threats that were suddenly no longer prospective, but very real. Those challenges intensified during the last part of the year as, like in so many other communities, cases of Covid-19 dramatically rose on campus during Quarter 4. I am incredibly proud of the ingenuity and adaptability of our colleagues in Kigutu, who worked together to make sure that our community care continued even as doctors themselves tested positive. As horrible as the direct effects have been, we have also continued to face the indirect impacts, exemplified by ongoing supply chain issues that have delayed everything from construction materials to the science lab equipment now in place at KIA. I continue to be incredibly impressed by the progress of the exceptional students at KIA, who are taking the first steps towards leadership through the election of their first Student Council.

Looking back at the last year I remember the many uncertainties and fears — but also the many supporters and friends who helped us overcome challenges both anticipated and unforeseen. In the last two years we have all learned how easily we can lose so much of what we had previously taken for granted — but also that we can do more than we thought possible through careful planning and the strength and resilience that comes when we work together.

Turi kumwe — we are together,

Deogratias Niyizonkiza
Founder and CEO
In Quarter 3 we saw our first surge of Covid-19 cases on campus. While cases have gone down dramatically since their peak, we are still seeing the need for staff to be agile and continue to make adaptations to keep everyone on campus safe. At one point in Quarter 4, three out of our six doctors were infected with Covid-19, which pushed everyone to work harder to continue meeting the needs of our community. We had to find innovative solutions to help those infected recover while preventing further spread. This meant moving our preschoolers to the ECOFO school so we could use the preschool building as a Covid-19 testing and isolation area. While extremely challenging, the staff and community have come together to help mitigate the risks that are continuously posed by the pandemic.

Meet Nisengwe Adonette

Nisengwe Adonette is a 12 year old from Makamba province. She had a relatively normal childhood until her father started suffering from a substance abuse addiction. He left the family, leaving Adonette’s mother, Alice, to raise and provide for her four children alone.

As a single mother without a source of income and a very small property, she worked for neighbors in order to put food on the table. Despite her best efforts, Adonette started to suffer from malnutrition. According to Alice, she was weak, her hair started to yellow and her feet became swollen. She took her to a local hospital and received some medication, but Adonette did not improve.

Their neighbor, who knew of the Kigutu clinic, advised her to come to Village Health Works.

“My daughter was almost dead. She looked like a burn victim and had many ailments that I could not understand. I had to take a bus and motorcycle with her to get from my village to Kigutu. She was admitted at Kigutu in mid August and she spent three months as a patient in their care. When we first arrived, she was very weak and needed quick intervention. However, she continued to improve and grew stronger. While we stayed in Kigutu, we were taught how to prevent malnutrition and how to create a balanced and healthy diet. Cooking demonstrations were performed so that we could see exactly how and what to cook so that we can prevent such diseases. When I went back home with my daughter, my neighbors were amazed to see how much she had improved. Adonette has returned to school and is living a very normal life now, thanks to the doctors and nurses at Village Health Works.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patient consultations</td>
<td>8,859</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home visits by</td>
<td>17,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of pregnant mothers</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<td>Screened for HIV, hep B, &amp; syphilis in their first antenatal care appointment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malnourished children successfully cured</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV patients on ARV treatment</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>with 98% viral load suppression</td>
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Quarter 4 corresponded with the new semester and Christmas holiday season. We are extremely proud of the fantastic work that teachers and students continue to do in pursuit of knowledge and progress. Roshi Matewere, the Academic Dean of Kigutu International Academy (KIA), highlights the continued resilience and ingenuity of the students at our 9-12 boarding school: “The KIA students have continued to grow and excel even amid the adversity presented by Covid-19. In Quarter 4, we elected our first Student Council Representatives. We are so excited to have launched the first Student Council, a group of 12 students to help guide the school and advocate for their peers, all while pursuing our mission of cultivating ethical and innovative leaders.”

Meet Hatungimana Eric

Hatungimana Eric began his academic journey at a primary school in Bujumbura. After the attempted coup in 2015, Eric and his family moved to Mugara, a region very close to Kigutu. He completed high school in another neighboring colline and was very successful. During the 2016-2017 school year, Eric joined the English Access Microscholarship Program at Village Health Works. He was selected based on his financial background, academic achievements, and commitment to serving his community.

The Access program provided him with an incredible opportunity to continue exploring his passions, strengthening his leadership skills, and embracing new academic endeavors. After finishing his education in Burundi he won a scholarship from the government of Egypt and is now attending university there. Eric credits much of his success to the Access program and looks forward to continuing his academic career in Egypt.

11,468 nutritious meals given to students

2.0% Global Acute Malnutrition Rate in initial screening after returning to school

100% girls with adequate sexual reproductive health knowledge

371 boys and girls engaged in MUTIMA an adolescent health program

98% of students scored the minimum passing score (70%) under the ACCESS program
## Food Security & Economic Development

<table>
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<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>8,131 kg</td>
<td>fresh produce farmed on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,655 liters</td>
<td>milk produced on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>623</td>
<td>inpatients served nutritious meals</td>
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Bucumi Flobert is a Model Farmer living in Kirungu, a one hour walk from Kigutu. He explains that since the program’s beginning, he has learned a lot — from how to prepare the land, select the correct seeds, weed properly, harvest, and how to ultimately conserve what he produces. The Village Health Works demonstrations were hugely informative and made a big difference in Flobert’s farming. He has seen an increase in production and is enjoying newfound success. He used to struggle to make ends meet as he would only sell his harvest wholesale, which was very limiting. As a part of the pilot program where Model Farmers sell their produce to VHW to use at its campus and school, Flobert is able to generate even more income. VHW pays the farmers a fair price for their produce which has been extremely encouraging and has strengthened the resolve of many to improve their harvests. Flobert shared, "My monthly income has dramatically increased since I started selling to Village Health Works. The way that I feed my family has also changed as we learn more about how to best feed our family a nutritious and balanced diet. I have been able to hire two additional full-time staff members that help me with my farming. I am so grateful for this opportunity to help my family and also employ others to improve their lives as well."
Community Engagement

In Quarter 4 our Community Engagement team continued their work connecting with the members of our community where they live as well as celebrating traditional Burundian music, dance, and culture.

5,749 children participated in cultural and sports activities, supporting community cohesion, health and wellbeing, and the continuation of Burundian traditions

28,452 eucalyptus, calliandra, and greveria trees distributed to the community

329 community extension workers participated in training to prevent Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

Environmental protection continues to be a priority for the Community Engagement team as most of our community relies on the environment to feed their family and make a living. The Community Engagement team has been working to expand programming started in previous years focused on environment protection and preservation. We saw tremendous impact in the summer from these preparations with zero bush fires reported in the VHW catchment area. In November 2021, 28,452 eucalyptus, calliandra, and greveria trees were distributed to the community.

In November, the Twiyugurure program participated in 16 days of activism against gender based violence — an annual international campaign that begins on November 25th, the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, and ran until 10th December, Human Rights Day. This year, the campaign was organized by VHW for all our community extension workers: Community Health Workers (CHWs), Imboneza, Heads of Collines, Twiyugurure facilitators, and Model Farmers to increase their knowledge on gender based violence prevention. 329 people participated in this training. The knowledge learned allows these leaders to better respond to sexual and gender based violence in the community they serve. Equipped with a better understanding of how to handle these conflicts, they were better able to help families who reached out to ask for help in resolving conflicts in the home.
Join us for an update on the construction of the Kigutu Hospital and Women’s Health Pavilion (WHP).

On February 15th we hosted a video update on the progress of the Kigutu Hospital and Women’s Health Pavilion (WHP). Our Founder and CEO, Deogratias Niyizonkiza, is joined by Dr. Teresa Gipson, VHW’s interim Chief Medical Officer and Ron Coetzer, VHW’s Director of Capital Projects. The brief call provides an update on our progress as we move to complete the construction of the hospital this summer and begin operations in the fall.

You can watch the recording of the virtual tour here.