

FRIENDS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
**Newsletter**



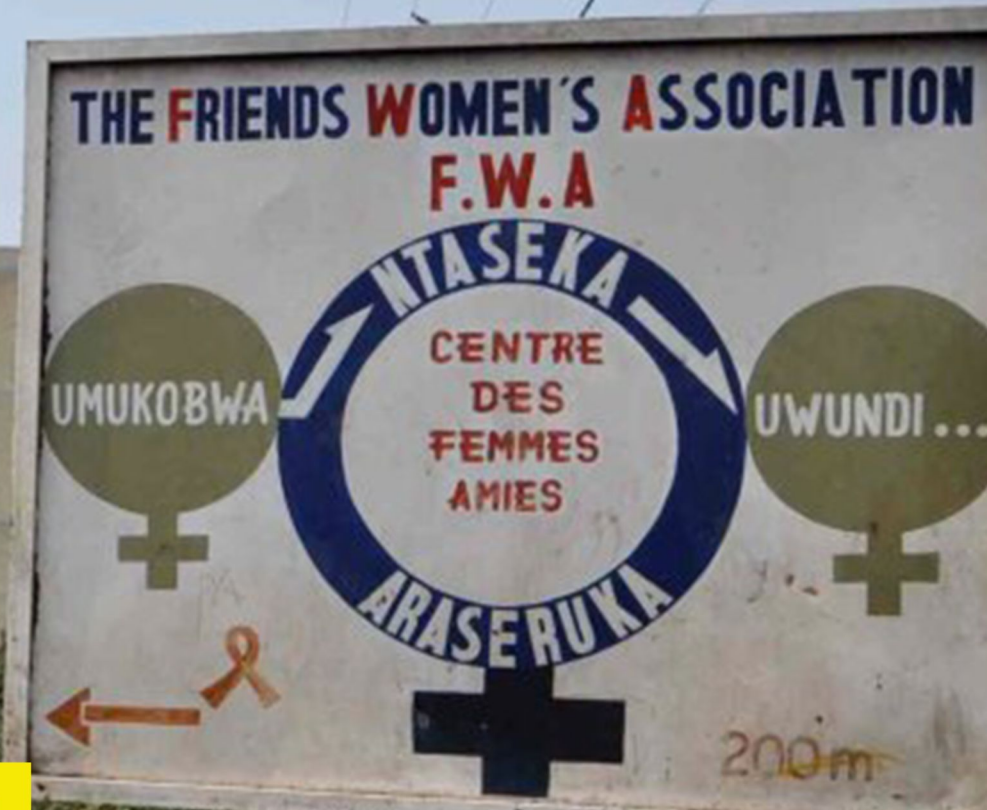
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[www.fwaburundi.com](http://www.fwaburundi.com)



# WELCOME



## FRIENDS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

We are an organization founded by and for Burundian women to address the unique needs of women in the conflict and post-conflict environment.





**Pastor Parfaite Ntahuba**  
**Coordinator**  
**Friends Women's Association**

## Dear Friends

We welcome you all to our newsletter. Each three month we will bring to you stories and updates on how the Kamenge community is evolving through the work of Friends Women's Association(FWA). FWA is a Women led organization founded in 2002 it was in a conflict and post conflict environment. Providing comprehensive, community-based health care to women and their families in slums like Kamenge is still a challenge. But we still believe that the whole well-being of our community is a priority. That is why our main concern is to treat both their bodily and psychological needs. Its a pleasure for me, on behalf of FWA's team to present to you this newsletter.

Thank you very much!







## ABOUT BURUNDI

Burundi is an African landlocked independent state which borders Rwanda, Tanzania, and DRC, thus forming part of the Central African region. The capital city is Bujumbura. In history Burundi has been devastated by many years of civil conflict and wars following its independence in 1962. Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. The number of people below the poverty line almost doubled from 35 percent in 1993 to 67 percent in 2006. According to the World Bank four-fifths of the population still subsists on less than US \$1.25 per day. The breakdown of economic, social, and cultural structures from the last, intensive 12-year civil conflict in Burundi led to a deterioration of women's condition. The worst example is Kamenge, a slum in the northern part of Bujumbura, the capital city, whose consequences are still visible today.



# **Our Vision**

**Peace, health and women autonomy  
in Burundi**

# **Our Mission**

**To provide comprehensive, community-based health care to women and their families. to promote women's leadership and autonomy, and to strengthen peace and social solidarity.**

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE?**

**We believe health is a human right. When this right is truly respected, there is hope for long-term sustainable peace in Burundi. We focus on the whole well-being of our communities.**

# OUR SERVICES

- Free or low cost medical tests to women and their families
- Primary and preventative care
- Laboratory testing
- HIV testing and counseling,
- Psychological counseling
- Home visits and Self-Help groups
- Trauma Healing Workshops and Gender-Based Violence Awareness

## More about Kamenge

During the war, Kamenge was on the frontlines of fierce violence. The legacy of the war in this community includes issues surrounding: widows and female-headed households, orphans and vulnerable children, displaced people and refugees, high rates of HIV infection, high rates of poverty. These include issues of food insecurity, lack of access to clean drinking water, lack of adequate health care, and persistent psychosocial trauma and sexual violence.



# Testimonies



I have long suffered violence in my home. My husband was doing all kinds of violence that you could imagine; He had 4 women, even a 12-year-old child He didn't respect her, he raped me sexually, I worked alone in the fields and he robbed all the harvest; when I bought a goat to help me he sold it...etc.

I had no one to help me in this situation. I tried to flee to my parents and they told me that this is how a home is founded. The consequences of this violence weighed heavily on my life; his wives mistreated me and some of their children have become street children who come now rob us.

The change took place after the training organized by FWA. I did not believe it at first when I saw him helping me some household activities. I was very surprised. Now I can testify that everything has changed; we work together, he buys me clothes, we were able to build a house, we were able to buy a motorcycle...etc. And what makes me very happy it is that he can transport me on this motorcycle. He even supported me to come today here and testify".



Before coming here at NTASEKA center, I spent one whole month in the hospital. My weight had decreased from 82kg to 58kg. When I arrived home, I continued to be sick and weak. I had always flu and temperature. And my husband often asked me, "At the hospital, did they do all tests for you?" (Perhaps he already knew that we were already infected with HIV/AIDS, but he had never told it to me). One day, I asked one of my friends if she knew a nearby place where I could do voluntary test, and she told me about NTASEKA center. In that way, I came here. When they tested me, I was found HIV positive. That day, I cried a lot; I was discouraged, thinking about my five kids because I have to work hard for them to survive. I remember the day I was told that I am HIV positive: it was on Thursday. That day, I was so afraid that I thought that I would die before the following Monday. However, when I met with NTASEKA medical doctor, she encouraged me that I will continue to live. She quickly asked me to do the CD4 test. And the results showed that my CD4 were too low. That is why, I started the ARVs treatment. Now, after one year and a half, I am 79 kg weight. I am now selling oil at Kamenge market to support my family. I praise the Lord and thankful to FWA"



"I am 15 old, I had difficulties to live after the death of my parents and my aunt took me in her house. Then she sold me to a man of 45 years. The man gave money and beer to my aunt that I should be his wife.

One day they called me and gave me Fanta, after drinking I slept. When I woke up I found me in another house with the man who raped me. He said now you're my wife and you do not have to go because it's your aunt who agreed that you come here. And I did not have any choice if it is to stay in his house and to accept by force to be his wife because I have nowhere to go and also I wondered if I fell pregnant, I had anywhere to go.

After, he started to beat me day after day even now it's really hard for me to stoop. I feel very bad because of the blows he gave me. It has become unbearable for me and I decided to leave this man go although I don't have a safe place where to go. I say thank you for Fwa program because I met people who have the same problems like me and I understand how I can deal with trauma."





## KEY STATISTICS

### CONSULTATIONS

186 cases were consulted by our doctor. The nurse received 2482 patients including 1462 adults and 1020 children. On December 6-9, 2016 there was also a vaccination campaign for both children and pregnant women. The total achieved was 2187 children and 189 pregnant. The following are the details: 272 children between 6-11 months received Vitamin A preventing blindness. 337 children between 24-59 months received Vitamin A preventing blindness and a dose of 400mg of Albendazole preventing verminosis. 1578 children between 5-14 years received a dose of 400mg of Albendazole preventing verminosis  
189 pregnant women a dose of 400mg of albendazole and soaps

June 19-22, 2017 was a mother-child week. there was also a vaccination campaign for both children and pregnant women. The results were the following:

1448 children between 6-59 months received Vitamin A  
3578 children between 1-14 years received Albendazole  
192 pregnant women a dose of 400mg of albendazole and soaps  
From the above, a total of 5026 children and 192 pregnant women was achieved

### LABORATORY

From November 1st, 2016 to October 31st, 2017, apart from voluntary testing, there were a total of 1927 tests.

### FAMILY PLANNING

2190 women received contraceptives from FWA's nurse. 1746 received the contraceptive injection, 160 were given pills and 284 were given male condoms

### ARV SITE

At the end of October 2017, we had 190 patients under retro drugs followed at NTASEKA clinic, including 150 women and 40 men.

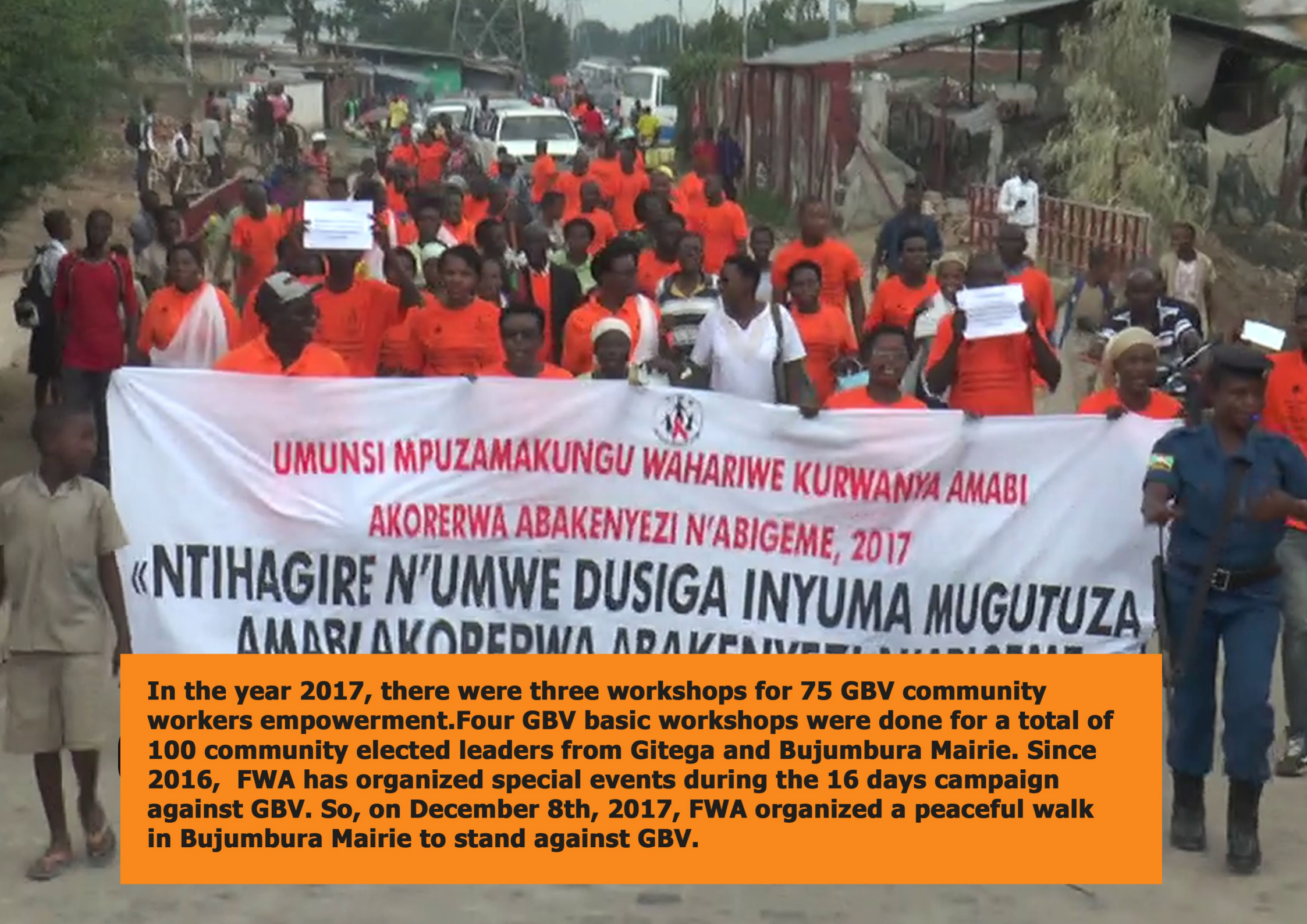
### PSYCHOSOCIAL TEAM

In 2017 fiscal year, 2100 people received pre and post HIV test counseling and were tested for HIV; 58% of them were women and 108 of the 142 people detected HIV positive were women with 7% of seropositivity.

**2100 HIV tests**  
**7213 children**  
**in a vaccination campaign**  
**2190 women**  
**received contraceptives from FWA**

Our most common patient is not only living with HIV, but in poor, urban settings struggling to cover basic living expenses. HIV positive individuals live in a state of vulnerability at the margins of society where they are exiled and stigmatized. Frequently, they do not have the opportunities necessary to learn new skills and to provide for themselves and their families.





UMUNSI MPUZAMAKUNGU WAHARIWE KURWANYA AMABI  
AKORERWA ABAKENYEZI N'ABIGEME, 2017

«NTIHAGIRE N'UMWE DUSIGA INYUMA MUGUTUZA  
AMARI AKOPERWA ABAKENYEZI N'ABIGEME»

**In the year 2017, there were three workshops for 75 GBV community workers empowerment. Four GBV basic workshops were done for a total of 100 community elected leaders from Gitega and Bujumbura Mairie. Since 2016, FWA has organized special events during the 16 days campaign against GBV. So, on December 8th, 2017, FWA organized a peaceful walk in Bujumbura Mairie to stand against GBV.**



# Rape Survivors' Support (RSS)



**Active listening**



**Small groups during the workshop**

**Six trauma healing workshops, free medical care and home visits were done for GBV survivors. Five self-help groups are now functioning. This is a way to empower women economically**



