

MATERNAL CARE AND PROTECTION AGAINST COVID 19

UNFPA BURUNDI

*INFORMATION ON THE
ACHIEVEMENTS OF UNFPA
AND IT'S PARTNERS
IN BURUNDI*



ENSURING RIGHTS AND
CHOICES FOR ALL

Quarterly Newsletter April - June 2020

Delivering a world every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

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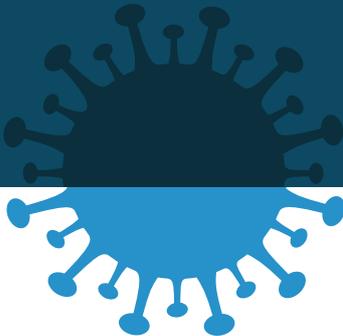
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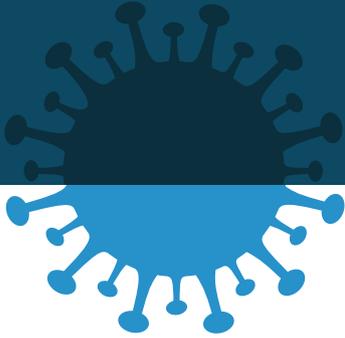


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1 EQUIPMENT DONATION TO MIDWIVES FOR BETTER QUALITY MATERNAL CARE AND PREVENTION OF COVID 19



On Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund granted ABUSAFE, the Burundian Association of State Midwives; a donation that consists of personal protective equip-

ment and Reproductive Health Kits. This grant contributes to improving the quality of reproductive and neonatal health services as well as to the prevention of Covid 19.

According to **Dr. Richmond Tiemoko**, UNFPA Resident Representative in Burundi, this is a way to celebrate midwives especially since the year 2020 has been internationally dedicated to them.

“

As 2020 is a year dedicated to midwives, we felt it was appropriate to celebrate them because every day they are active in the maternity wards. So it is important for us to support and celebrate them

For **Bernadette Nkanira**, ABUSAFE Representative, this gift comes at the right time:

“

This is a great gesture that encourages us to ensure the quality of our services. Our association organizes mentoring sessions through PNSR and supported by UNFPA. This takes place in the health facilities where they are taught all the precautions to take so that each pregnancy comes to term. they are trained as well on the minimum emergency measures, without forgetting the fight against sexual violence and the prevention of covid-19.

shared Mrs Bernadette Nkanira.





UNFPA staff showing the contents of the reproductive health kits and personal protective equipment of Covid 19.

For his part, the National Reproductive Health Program Director, **Dr. Ananie NDACAYISABA**, appreciated the grant which will be used in health facilities and appealed to pregnant women to always make their prenatal consultations in the nearest facilities for the monitoring of their pregnancy and for a healthy delivery. He also recalled the importance of family planning for the good health of women and the development of families.



After this handover to the midwives gathered within ABUSAFE, this association then proceeded to distribute this donation offered by UNFPA to the different targeted health structures: The Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic, and 2 health centers of the Mutimbuzi Commune in Bujumbura province, namely the health center of Rukaramu and the health center of Gatumba. The managers of these health facilities all shared their joy and satisfaction after receiving the donation indicating how much it will be very useful to them.



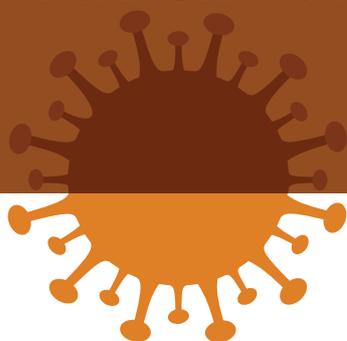
Dr Bonith Havyarimana, Director of the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic, shared his satisfaction. According to him, the aid will further contribute to strengthening the prevention of Covid 19 among staff and patients in the delivery room.

The same feeling is shared by **Dr. Jean Paul Ndayisaba**, Head of Isare District, especially that the 2 health centers supported are receiving more than expected more women in internally displaced following the floods that have destroyed everything in Gatumba.

For **Dr. Richmond Tiemoko**, UNFPA Resident Representative, the year 2020 dedicated to midwives unfortunately coincides with the period of the Covid-19 pandemic; but whether it is a pandemic or not, women continue to give birth, families continue to welcome newborns. This donation will certainly help to ensure the protection of the medical staff and in particular the midwives who are always on the front line alongside pregnant women.



2 FLOODING IN GATUMBA, UNFPA WORKS FOR THE DIGNITY OF DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS IN KINYINYA II SITE



Chantal Mukeshimana, is a 19-year-old married woman who is at full term in her first pregnancy. Like many internally displaced person she has lost everything and she is anxious about her delivery. But thanks to UNFPA Burundi, she is smiling again, and better still, she is hopeful:

“ *I have lost everything, and at any moment I can give birth. I was so anxious at the idea of giving birth when I had absolutely nothing left, not even the minimum to go and give birth. And here you are,*

she says, tears in her eyes.





I was anxious at the idea of giving birth with nothing left,"

says **Chantal Mukeshimana.**

Chantal Mukeshimana is one of the 189 women and girls of reproductive age displaced at the Kinyinya II site and assisted by UNFPA to meet their most basic needs to preserve their dignity.

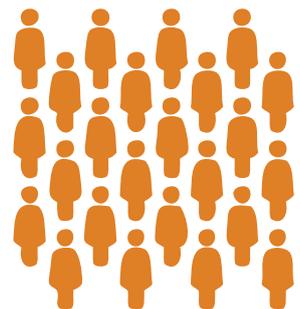
Dignity kits were offered to them on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, and this dignity kit distribution operation was carried out in partnership with Red Cross volunteers supported by the GBV sub-sector actors present on the site, including IOM, IRC, Social Action for Development (SAD) and the Community Association for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ACPDH).

The hills of Gatumba have indeed been victims of the strong rise of the Rusizi River in the last two months. The first episode occurred during the night of April 19-20, 2020, causing the first large wave of displaced persons, the most vulnerable of whom had to be settled in the Kinyinya II site.

There are about 185 households settled. The second wave was observed after the rise of water in the night of April 30th to May 1st, 2020.

This episode was the most serious and dashed all hopes of the population of Gatumba whose situation was already fragile and precarious.

189 WOMEN AND GIRLS



MOVED

As a result of this situation, more than 10,000 households found themselves on the move. The UNFPA assistance in collaboration with its partners could not have come at a better time. It does not meet all the needs, but it gives rise to another feeling, a feeling of new hope, as **Yvette Kwizera**, a 21-year-old mother, testifies:

“

With the destruction of our homes and the loss of everything we had, I can't describe the state of mind we are in. At times we feel suicidal, feeling overwhelmed by the fear of tomorrow and the conviction that we can't survive it. I looked at myself with my child and my husband and no longer believed in a better tomorrow,

shares Yvette with many emotions. She adds:

“

With this support from UNFPA and its partners, I feel my heart so happy. This gift is not going to meet all our needs, but at least it brings out more in me, I feel my heart being resurrected discovering that there are benefactors who are thinking about our well-being without knowing us. Thank you for thinking about our most intimate and elementary needs, God will repay you,

Yvette Kwizera finishes, with her one-year-old child on her back. For her part, Séraphine Nzeyimana, 17 years old, also says she is touched indeed. She says she is happy that during her menstruation she will not be covered with shame and that even the solar lamp she received will help her to be able to study at night without forgetting the loincloth and ointment that she will be able to share with her grandmother who is her guardian.

During the same dignity kit delivery session, a sensitization session was conducted on the prevention measures against COVID-19 and gender-based violence (GBV) but also on the GBV services available, conducted by the Red Cross and ACPDH.



10,000 HOUSEHOLDS FOUND THEMSELVES ON THE MOVE.

PREVENTION AGAINST COVID-19



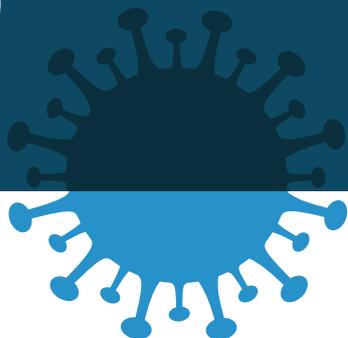
It should be noted that rapid needs assessments had been conducted by humanitarian actors who identified several needs including food, shelter, kitchen kits, charcoal, hygiene kits, access to hygiene devices, water and sanitation, access to health care and access to protection services. The risks of exposure to gender-based violence were identified during the focus groups.

Thus, UNFPA, along with other GBV stakeholders present in the displacement sites, ensure that women and girls have access to care services and the necessary information on available services. Tents are also being set up to establish safe spaces for women and girls. These spaces will serve as entry points to provide psychosocial care and case management services, including mobile listening and referral cells for GBV survivors.



Sensitization session to fight against Covid 19 and gender-based violence.

3 MIDWIVES, STRENGTHENED FOR A GOOD INTERVENTION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS



UNFPA, The United Nations Population Fund organized, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS and the Association of Midwives of Burundi (ABUSAFE), a capacity building workshop for 54

midwives working in EMOC (Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care) network maternity hospitals. This workshop held on 22 to 26 June 2020 focused on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in humanitarian situations and on the prevention of the Covid 19 pandemic.



That midwives training aimed at strengthening their capacities on the new training manual divided into 05 modules in order to contribute to the reduction of maternal and neonatal excess mortality and morbidity, HIV/AIDS transmission and management of sexual violence cases and prevention of Covid 19.

Dr Richmond Tiémoko, UNFPA Resident Representative recalled through his speech that more than 75% of the populations affected by humanitarian crises and natural disasters are young people and women, including pregnant women.



“

Given their vulnerability, they must not only be monitored, but also assisted with all the urgency and care needed,

he said. In addition, women's reproductive health is a human rights issue that must be an integral part of the areas of intervention during crises; especially since recent figures show that among internally displaced persons, refugees, women as well as children are numerous and most at risk during times of pandemic, such as the current covid-19 pandemic.

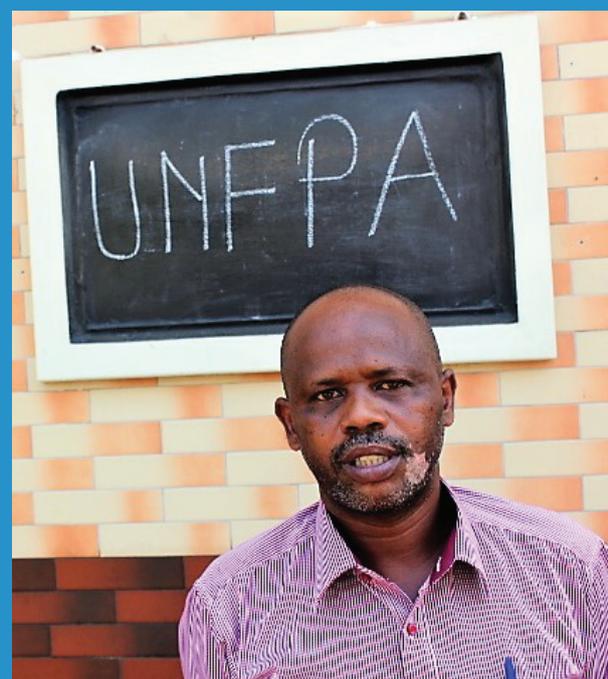
Dr. Chloé Ndayikunda, Director General of Health Services in the Ministry of Health, added that with the humanitarian consequences, climatic hazards in Burundi are increasingly alarming, particularly during the rainy season, with an increase in the vulnerability of displaced populations. These people need basic necessities and access to basic social and protection services to improve their living conditions. For her, the humanitarian response is problematic because of the lack of preparation of health care providers; hence the importance of this training dedicated to them.

As for the participants, they found this capacity building more than necessary. Dismas Manyoni, a midwife at the Fota district hospital in Mwaro province, said she learned several things that will be very beneficial to her.

“

I feel better equipped to work and act spontaneously in times of humanitarian emergencies. At the same time, I can do a much better job of Covid 19 prevention,

Mr Dismas Manyoni.



Dismas Manyoni sharing his testimony



I feel more aware that the emergency situation requires that we quickly leave our offices to go and assist our beneficiaries,

says **Francine Ndayikunda**

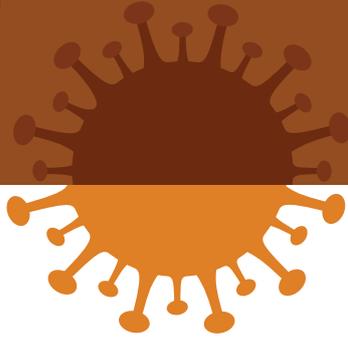
For her part, **Francine Ndayikunda**, who works at ABUBEF, says she has become aware that in humanitarian or emergency situations they can deploy to provide family planning services on site to their patients instead of waiting for them to come to them as usual.

“ I am going to relay to ABUBEF the information I received in this training, sharing with my colleagues the importance of equipping themselves accordingly so that if a humanitarian emergency surprises them, they will be able to go and assist these people in an emergency situation.

This training will contribute to improving the midwives' skills in integrating sexual and reproductive health and family planning in the different phases of the response to any emergency situation.

4

A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH, A BETTER SERVICES TO OFFER THEM.



I learned to better understand adolescents and young people and their needs by welcoming them without judging them,

says **Claudine Nzeyimana**, a nurse at the youth-friendly health center in Mutakura, north of Bujumbura. She is one of 90 providers working in 6 youth-friendly health centers whose capacities have been strengthened by UNFPA in partnership with the National Reproductive Health Program (PNRS), and through the joint Menyumenyeshe program. This takes place within the framework of a comprehensive, community-based and broadly inclusive approach. The 90 nurses trained from April 21 to 24, 2020, were from youth friendly health centers in Bujumbura (Mutakura and Kamenge), Ngozi (Buye and Gashikanwa) and Ruyigi (Rusengo and Gisuru).

These health center providers, attendants, nurses, day and night guards, pharmacy vendors, health care aides, and other staff at the youth-friendly health centers have learned to receive the adolescent and youth like any other patient who wants a non-judgmental service. They benefited from capacity building on the entire package of sexual health services, including communication and organization of services in the already equipped youth-friendly spaces.

At the same time, they understood that they will have to massively involve young people by working closely with a young volunteer from the community.

Claudine Nzeyimana continued to express her satisfaction:

I can't thank UNFPA enough for the training received, medicine changes overnight and we always need an update. A way to better communicate with adolescents and young people was shared with us in order to gain their trust. And to achieve this, our youth-friendly health centers must be friendly and attractive spaces for both girls and boys

Christophe Niyibizi said he now feels comfortable and well equipped to guide adolescents and young people to the services they need by answering their questions correctly. He is now well prepared to talk with them in confidence and without judgment.

He took the opportunity to appeal to all parents to encourage their children to frequent youth-friendly health centers to fight against rumors, sexually transmitted diseases and to get the correct information about their sexual reproductive health.



Christophe Niyibizi
took the opportunity to
appeal to all parents to
encourage their
children to frequent
youth-friendly health centers

5 CREATING DEMAND FOR FAMILY PLANNING, A PRIORITY IN RUMONGE



From June 15 to 19, 2020, 25 health promotion technicians from Rumonge province had a capacity building on creating demand for Family Planning in Rumonge province. During this capacity building organized by UNFPA

in collaboration with the Ministry of Health through its provincial health office in Rumonge, it was a question of seeing with the health promotion technicians, the state of the demand for Family Planning in the different health structures from which they came.

After exchanging results and experiences from the different health facilities, the health promotion technicians had to discuss the different contraceptive methods, how they are used, their different side effects and how to treat them. In addition, they were reinforced on communication around family planning including different ways to address the rumors.



According to trainer Justin Mutabazi, who is a supervisor at the provincial health office in Rumonge, this capacity building has been very beneficial.

He says that not all health promotion technicians were previously involved in family planning promotion in the same way, and some were even less equipped.



PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING

“

"These health promotion technicians were trained to be able to sensitize the population to create more demand for reproductive health and family planning services. In spite of cultural or religious barriers, I hope that after this capacity building and with the involvement of those trained, there will be more results,"

he says.



Justin Mutabazi, trainer and supervisor at the provincial health office in Rumonge.

Alexandre Nduwayo is one of the trained health promotion technicians. He says he gained a lot during the week:

“

I gained a lot of knowledge on how to effectively sensitize couples on the importance of family planning. But even better, I thought I only had to sensitize those who come to us in the health facilities. But during this training, we were informed that we also have to reach out to these families in the community

Alexandre Nduwayo added they learned that many women are not supported by their husbands and cannot enjoy their right to reproductive health. From this, he said he has understood and learned that there is also a need to sensitize men and community leaders.

As for Marie Rose Nakeza, she was very pleased with the capacity building, especially since she is new to the position. She has a better understanding of the role she has to play in her day-to-day work. This training workshop could not have come at a better time for her.

“

It's been almost 2 months since I took this position, I have gained enormously. After this training, I became aware that I need to talk about the importance of family planning to all those women who come to the other services such as vaccination, nutrition, prenatal consultation. I understood the importance of integrating family planning into other services. I am better equipped than I was, and I will not even hesitate to talk about it to whoever we consult and even in the community



Marie Rose Nakeza, sharing her testimony



PROMOTION
DE LA SANTE

During this training, these health promotion technicians had the opportunity to develop together a roadmap of actions to be taken to create demand for family planning they will evaluate quarterly according to the supervisor **Justin Mutabazi**. An opportunity to assess whether the commitments made during this capacity building are being realized.

Prevention of Covid 19 was also included in the training. Indeed, these 25 health promotion technicians exchanged on the preventive measures recommended by the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS. They also discussed strategies to avoid the spread of this pandemic during the continuity of reproductive health services in order to protect themselves and their patients.

In addition to these 25 health promotion technicians, 25 community health workers were also trained in the same subject during the week of June 8-12, 2020. The two groups will work together as peers with the objective of creating more demand for family planning in the province of Rumonge.



25 TECHNICIANS

of health promotion

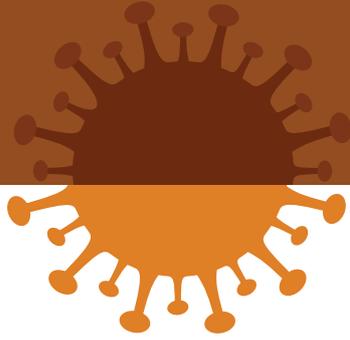
&

25 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

in the community followed the same training with the same subject

6

FROM VIOLENCE TO UNDERSTANDING, COUPLES RECONCILE!



25 couples and 50 community leaders empowered



“

In my heart I felt so guilty that when I woke up I apologized to my wife,

From 15-19 June 2020, 15 couples in the integrated village of Mayengo (Rumonge province) underwent capacity building on gender and the prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

This capacity building was organized by UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender, within the framework of the joint project to support social cohesion through the integrated rural village of Mayengo.

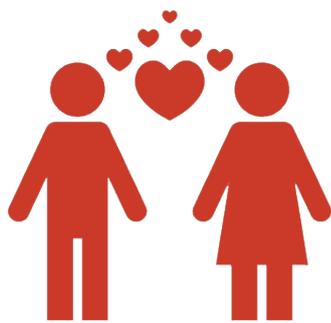
According to Etienne Nahigombeye, there are some bad behaviors of men, which are the result of the lack of necessary information.



“

Personally, I used to think that the role of the woman is to do all the housework and field work that I always saw her doing without thinking I could help her. For me, I was just looking for money to eat. From a sum of 10 thousand francs for example, I would just give her a maximum of 2000 thousand francs to prepare food. With everything else, I would drink alcohol with friends until very late at night”, shared Etienne. He added that on his return, he would attack his wife violently. “Many times I left nothing at home, yet I continued to abuse her and still found money to go out and drink, he said.

Etienne Nahigombeye, sharing his testimony



A NEW START

This capacity building was an eye opener for him. Indeed, with the testimonies shared by other couples, and the exchanges they had, he realized that he could become a better person: a husband and a father that his family will be proud of. This capacity building allowed his couple to discuss what was wrong, and that this allowed him and his wife to reconcile and promise each other a fresh start.

Among the 15 couples from the integrated village of Mayengo who attended the week-long sensitization session, some are role models and others are couples with problems related to sexual and gender-based violence.

It was an opportunity to train these couples in gender equality and the fight against sexual and gender-based violence and to provide a rapid and adequate response to cases of recorded violence, in order to bring about a positive behavioral change among problem couples like Etienne's.

For her part, Raissa Manirakiza said she also learned a lot. She testified that her couple has now agreed to discuss everything before taking any action.

“

We have been taught all kinds of violence, including psychological, physical, financial, but also sexual violence. After each day of training, my husband and I had summary discussions at home so that each of us could see where we need to make improvements. Another reassuring thing is to have learned that there are texts that discourage and condemn the perpetrators of gender-based violence,” she concludes.

During these exchange sessions, stormy discussions emerged among the participants, seeking together the solution to the kind of violence they all witness either within their couple or in the community, especially since they live together in the same village of Mayengo.

Indeed, these sessions were participatory to the point where the participants themselves found answers to their challenges. However, they unanimously agreed that it is not only women who are victims, but also some husbands.

They agreed they were going to enlighten other couples who did not participate in this training in order to relay the information and knowledge acquired. In addition, these 15 couples committed to be role models, who will be expected to train to their neighbors by example.

I am committed to change, not to make my wife suffer anymore, so it will be very easy for me to help other men and friends who have the same behavior as mine. I am sure that when they will see my radical change, they will easily follow me,

Etienne Nahigombeye also testifies.

Parallel to this awareness session for these 15 couples, 20 community leaders from the same village of Mayengo were also being sensitized on the same subject. These community leaders, who often intervene in conflict in order to reconcile them, must also be familiar with the notions of gender and the prevention and response to gender-based violence. For their part, they also expressed their satisfaction after this capacity building.

Estella Niragira, a woman who is one of the 20 community leaders trained shared that this capacity building was very useful for her.

“

I was surprised to learn that gender-based violence is not only sexual and physical. There is gender-based violence that women experience on a daily basis and we thought it should be like that, as long as his man doesn't hit her. Now I am going to sensitize women of my village not to let themselves be traumatized, and I am going to tell them that law protects them. Some see their clothes burned by their husbands drunk, others helplessly assist their husbands who bring a concubine without being able to stop her and spend all their days cooking for them and crying, until they are depressed. I will let them know the law protects them from any kind of violence that they might suffer; because we have just learned this.

Concluded Estella Niragira.



Jackson Hatungimana is a 21-year-old who was one of 20 community leaders trained. He felt privileged to have taken part in this capacity building before he was married. Without a doubt, there are mistakes he will not make like he said.

In addition, it is a good opportunity to educate his friends of the same age as well, because after a week, he went back home with a lot of knowledge that could help them. As for Dorothee Nintuze, she is 23 years old. She joint Jackson in saying that it's an incredible opportunity to have this capacity building before getting married, now she is reassured.

“

I often witness the violence that women experience in the household. Many that I have seen, they are not entitled to anything, they cannot save money, they are not allowed by their husbands to go in association with others, they cultivate but do not benefit from their crops, others are physically abused, all of this made me doubt about marriage, afraid of going through the same thing. But now I am reassured because we were told about the different texts and laws that protect survivors of all kinds of violence,
says Dorothee.

She added that this will be an opportunity to sensitize other girls of her age by sharing the good examples they heard during the capacity building.



Dorothee Nintuze, sharing her impressions and satisfaction during the capacity building of community leaders in the village of Mayengo.

During this week of capacity building, both the 15 couples and the 20 community leaders had training sessions on the prevention of the Covid 19 pandemic and the violence it can cause in a couple. Cyriaque Nshimirimana greatly appreciated all the training. It will be useful for him and he will be able to talk about it to others.

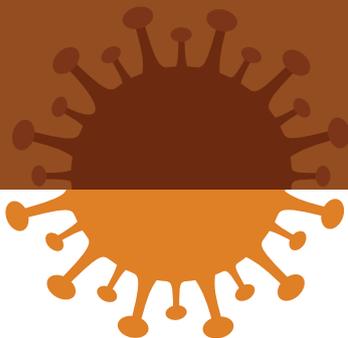
About the fight against Covid 19, he said he learned a lot about the signs that save. In addition, he understood that some couples bicker because the wife

bought the soap within the budget given by the husband, others because they are known to cheat on their wives with many other women all this becomes a source of conflict in the household.

“
It's no longer just HIV AIDS that a husband who cheats on his wife can bring into the marriage, but there is this virus that everyone is talking about. It is important to sensitize the community in our village about this, and I am committed to this as a community leader,
shared Cyriaque.

It should be noted that the same capacity building was given to 10 other couples and 30 community leaders during the week of June 8 to 12, 2020, all of whom also came from the integrated village of Mayengo.

7 DISSEMINATION OF THE BURUNDI POPULATION PROJECTIONS REPORT 2010-2050



The Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi (ISTEEBU) in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA organized on Tuesday, June

30, 2020 a national workshop to disseminate population projections 2010-2050 up to the communal level.



The aim was to present the main results of the report to the various Government structures, technical and financial partners, national and international organizations, the media and all other various potential users. After the presentation of the results, a time for exchanges, observations and requests for clarification was offered to the participants for a better understanding of the report and to facilitate its use. It was indicated during this workshop that these population estimates for Burundi are updated, validated, reliable and usable down to the communal level.



Presentation of the report to workshop participants

It should be noted that this is a continuation of the work begun in 2016, with the production of population estimates for Burundi at the national and provincial levels. In addition, two sessions to produce Burundi's population projections up to the communal level followed in December 2019 and January 2020. Total numbers of persons by communes and by sex were produced during these 2 sessions, as well as for specific age groups.

The data produced were validated by the Technical Committee for Statistical Information (CTIS) in March 2020, again with the financial support of UNFPA. It is with this session of June 30 that all participants promised to make a very good use of these demographic projections for 2010-2050 up to the communal level.

8 UNFPA PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS IN CANKUZO



A session was organized in the province of Cankuzo from 21 to 23 April 2020 for forty community volunteers by UNFPA as part of the implementation of the TUBE-HONEZA Joint Project. They were identified and validated in the communes of Gisagara and Mishiha of the same province. During the three days, themes of prevention and response to gender-based violence, sensitization techniques as well as the skills, role and

responsibilities of a community agent were discussed.

The Senior Advisor to the Governor of the Province of Cankuzo encouraged them to follow this training with interest in order to leave at the end with a maximum of knowledge to share in their respective communities for which they are ambassadors. He also praised the collective protection mechanism against Covid-19 set up by the UNFPA team and recommended that these community agents in training be inspired by it and repeat each time the gestures of respect for social distancing, washing their hands with clean water and soap several times.

The project coordinator presented the "**TUBEHONEZA**" program while insisting on the "Preservation of the social fabric" component for which UNFPA is responsible along with other United Nations agencies in the consortium, namely FAO and WFP which are responsible for the food security component as well as UNICEF which is in charge of the nutrition, hygiene and sanitation component.

SEXUAL RAPE IS NOT THE ONLY FORM OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV).

The theme of gender-based violence was the first to be tackled in order to enter the actual training. It was a question of differentiating the notions of "gender" and "sex" and then explaining the main categories of gender-based violence (GBV), their causes and consequences. This allowed the presentation of the appropriate response and the referral circuit for GBV survivors as well as the role that community volunteers are called upon to play at this level.

More than one participant confessed that until then, they had only been concerned about sexual rapes or cases of young girls who got pregnant outside of marriage. All of them therefore testified that they understood that sexual rape is not the only gender-based violence. At the end of the training, they now know that other forms of violence exist. Some affect the physical integrity while others affect the psychic or are based on the economic and social. All these forms of violence affect both women and men, with a high proportion of women and girls. They all



PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Training in the middle of a session

promised that from now on, they will first change their own attitudes and behavior at the family and community level before going to relay the knowledge they have acquired.

Awareness techniques took up the last half of the training time and TUBEHONEZA community volunteers were sensitized on the qualities, attitudes and skills of a community worker. Finally, they were well coached on the methodology to be followed before and during an awareness session. They were made to understand that each time and at all stages of preparing and conducting an awareness session, they must pay attention to the four key elements of communication. Indeed, if the sender or the receiver is faulty and the channel is bad or poorly chosen, feedback becomes difficult; the message is not passed on properly and is therefore not well assimilated.

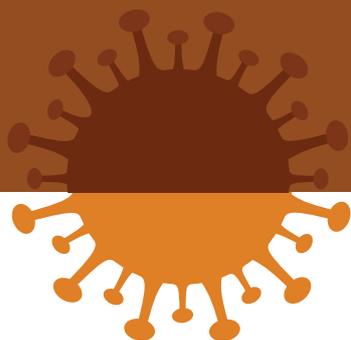
The participants also appreciated the fact that the training addressed this theme on sensitization techniques. NTAKARUTIMANA Valérie, a community volunteer from the Gisara commune said that the knowledge acquired will enable her to improve her community interventions:

Until now I was passive and waited to be solicited upon. Now I'm going to be proactive. I will organize sessions to explain gender-based violence and how to prevent it. I see that I was doing my work in a disorderly manner; right after this training, I think I will be much more methodical, she testified.

This training of community volunteers in Cankuzo closed a series of training sessions that UNFPA organized through the joint project Tubehoneza as their first capacity building sessions set up at the level of all provinces of intervention in order to play the role of community relays of the project. They will be at the forefront of raising awareness on GBV and promoting family planning in their communities. They will also be mobilized to support and refer GBV cases and to promote peaceful conflict management.

The first training session for TUBEHONEZA community volunteers was organized in Bubanza from March 4 to 6, 2020. The same training was repeated for the volunteers of Ruyigi from March 31 to April 2, 2020. In total, out of 120 community volunteers expected at the level of the 3 provinces, 118 responded present and followed the entire training.

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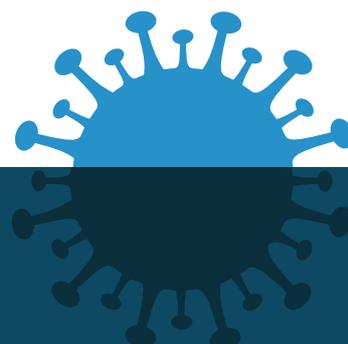
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