



HEALTH BUILDERS

In a year of uncertainty, Health Builders remains a steadfast partner in rural communities of Rwanda

2020/2021 Annual Report

WWW.HEALTHBUILDERS.ORG

A Letter from Health Builders' Leadership

Dear Friends and Partners,

In 2021, Rwanda, as the rest of the world, was hit hard by consecutive COVID-19 waves, which have had a profound effect on people, families, and businesses. Health Builders' activities were significantly impacted by nationwide lockdowns and other COVID-19 prevention measures.

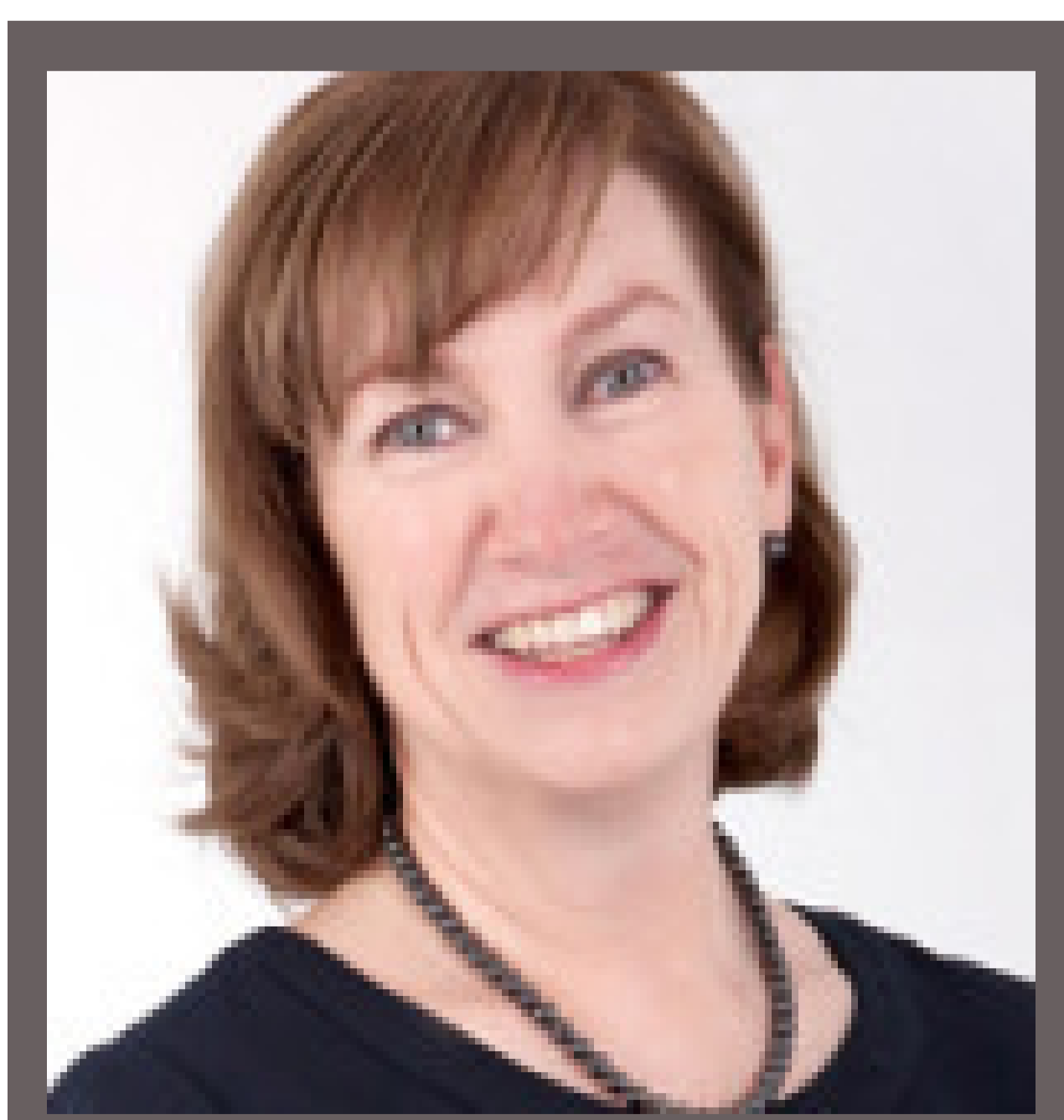
Despite the notable challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Builders continues to lay the path to maintain smooth and efficient delivery of healthcare services, the need for which was especially exposed during these uncertain times. Because Health Builders has a long history of supporting communities in rural Rwanda, we were able to quickly adjust and pivot our work. Health Builders serves on the front lines of the COVID-19 emergency response, actively involved in the training of healthcare providers and supporting vaccination campaigns.

All Health Builders programs are led and implemented by Rwandans, who best understand the unique circumstances of the communities we serve. Staff works side by side with community members, local leaders, and the Ministry of Health to develop appropriate and culturally sensitive, cost-effective, and sustainable solutions.

Health Builders staff show tremendous resiliency, responsibility, and dedication to support the communities in the most need. We are incredibly proud to be addressing the fundamental challenges that prevent universal access to quality primary health care services in Rwanda, and look forward to continuing our work in 2022.

Nancy Reynolds

Chair, Board of Directors



Michel Musilikare

Executive Director



HEALTH BUILDERS



Health Builders is an international non-governmental organization registered locally in Rwanda, dedicated to addressing the fundamental challenges that prevent universal access to quality primary health care services in Rwanda: inefficient management of clinical systems, inadequate or nonexistent health infrastructure, and outdated technology.



Mission

Health Builders strengthens management of health systems and builds health care infrastructure.



Vision

That all people have access to high quality health care, allowing them to live dignified, healthy, and prosperous lives.



Purpose

Under this vision and mission, Health Builders operates on a simple idea: apply health management principles so that health workers have the facilities, tools, and medicine they need to save lives. Health Builders focuses on the core issues that fundamentally challenge health care delivery and then builds strong management systems to enable comprehensive, quality health care.

Where We Work

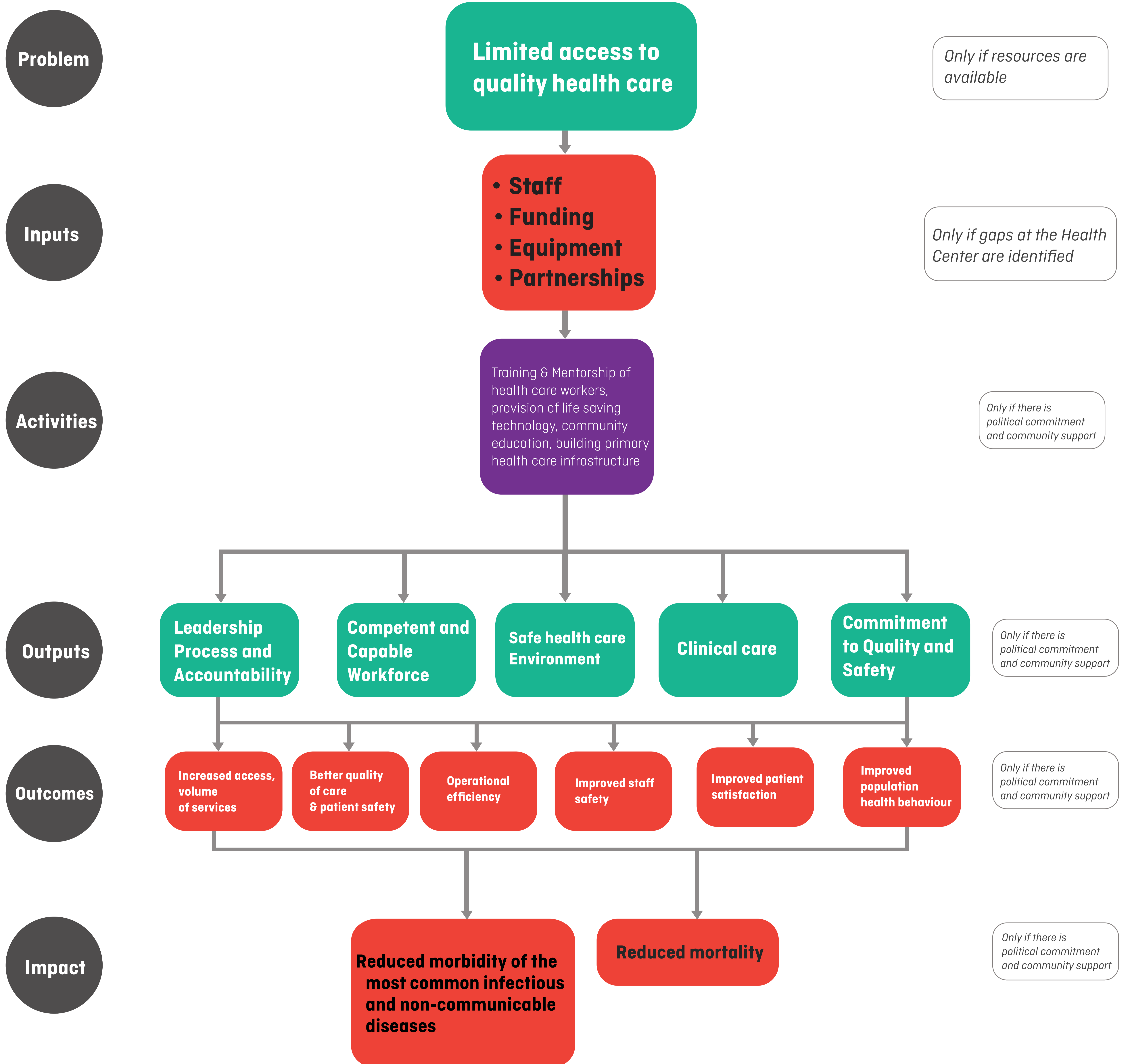
In **52** primary health care (PHC) centers

In **3** districts

Supporting more than **1,000,000** people



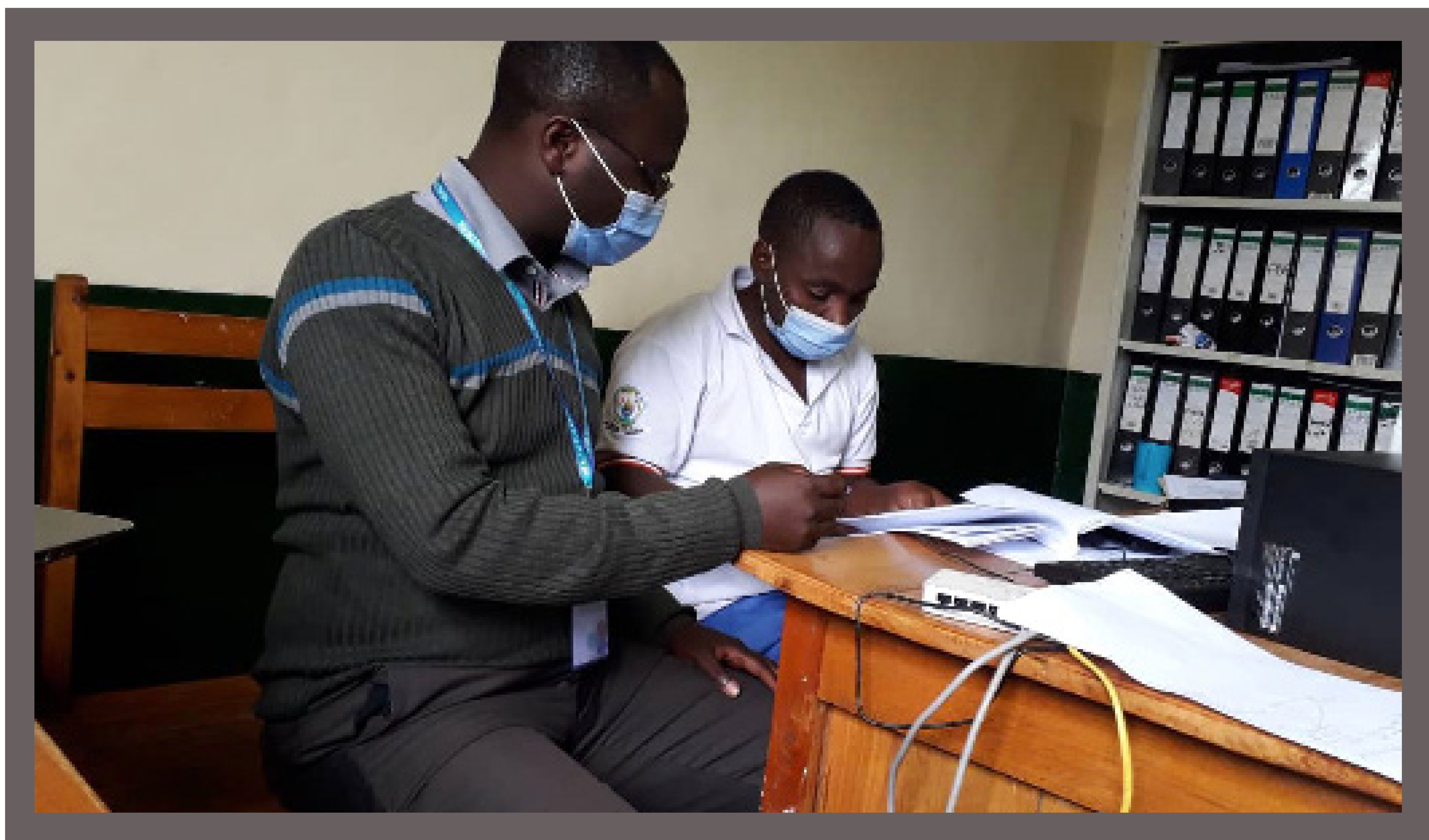
Health Builders' Theory of Change



Mentoring and Training

Health Builders provides management and clinical care training to equip health care providers with the knowledge, skills and resources needed to give patients a high-quality standard of care. Health Builders' mentors travel to health centers providing hands-on technical support and coaching in 5 key risk areas identified by the Ministry of Health: Leadership Process and Accountability, Competent and Capable Workforce, Safe Environment for Staff and Patients, Clinical Care of Patients, and Improvement of Quality and Safety. In 2021, Health Builders provided training and mentorship to health care providers and administrative staff in 52 health centers, associated health posts and community health workers in three rural districts of Rwanda (Rwamagana, Rulindo, and Nyabihu) with a total population of more than one million.

This activity mainly focused on the following areas: maternal and child health; adolescent sexual reproductive health; safe medication use; non-communicable diseases' prevention, screening, and management; malaria treatment; infection prevention and control (IPC); and finance, and data management.



Health Builders Engagement in Innovation is Creating Solutions



Health Builders in collaboration with TIP Global Health piloted E-Heza Data Solutions in Rulindo District. E-Heza is a simple, cost-effective, user-friendly technology designed to improve management of clinical information and easing decision making at primary healthcare level.

E-Heza supports frontline primary health care providers with a simple way to collect, analyze and use Maternal and Child Health (MCH) data to improve the quality of care for mothers and under-five children through antenatal care (ANC) and child growth monitoring

Achievements in 2020 and 2021 include:

- The innovation has been piloted in 8 villages and one health center in Rulindo District serving 11,399 people
- Eight health centers staff and 32 community health workers (CHWs) have been trained on the solution
- 24 Mara Phones and 2 tablets have been given to the CHWs and health centers staff respectively to aid in the implementation of the project.
- The health center staff and CHWs continue to receive on-job training from Health Builders and TIP Global Health mentors to ensure they use the innovation effectively

Infrastructure

Construction of Mwulire Health Center in Rwamagana District

Mwulire Health Center is the eighth health center being constructed by Health Builders in its effort to provide safe and functional facilities for healthcare delivery to the underserved communities living in rural areas in Rwanda. This new health center will serve over 29,500 people residing in Mwulire Sector of Rwamagana District. Currently, the majority of Mwulire sector's population walks at least eight kilometers to the nearest health facility to access health care services.

The construction launched in May of 2021 and will be completed in two phases: phase one comprised of the outpatient block, maternity block, and nutrition block; phase two includes a ward's block, service block, laundry, and administration block.

The plans for the Mwulire Health Center meet the Rwanda Ministry of Health's standards to provide communities lacking health services with the recommended comprehensive primary care package. This includes: an outpatient department, a preventive care unit, nutrition services, observations rooms, administrative block, and a laboratory. Much of the facility is also dedicated to providing maternity services, including



separate pre-, peri- and post-natal care /pre-delivery, delivery, post-delivery rooms; designated rooms for family planning services and prenatal care; and multiple integrated spaces for the full scope of HIV, mental health, and TB counseling. Treatment and follow-up spaces have also been incorporated into the design. Important service areas, including external latrines, an industrial kitchen for patient meals and community nutrition programming, proper waste and water management systems, and cost-efficient and hygienic ventilation will be constructed in addition to incorporating ample community space.

Technology and Equipment

From Eastern to Western Rwanda, Ultrasound Machines For Healthy Babies

Following the success of the introduction of ultrasound technology to seven primary health care (PHC) centers in the rural Rwamagana district in the Eastern Province of Rwanda, Health Builders secured support from Johnson & Johnson Foundation and DAK Foundation to scale the program into 16 additional PHC centers in Nyabihu, located in the Western Province. Health Builders is also seeking to expand ultrasound service to the remaining third district it currently supports: Rulindo is in the Northern Province and mothers currently must walk more than 20 km to access the nearest hospital for ultrasound scanning.



Technology and Equipment



3,650 pregnant women benefit from ultrasound services at their local clinic in Rwamagana



16 new PHC centers received ultrasound equipment in 2021

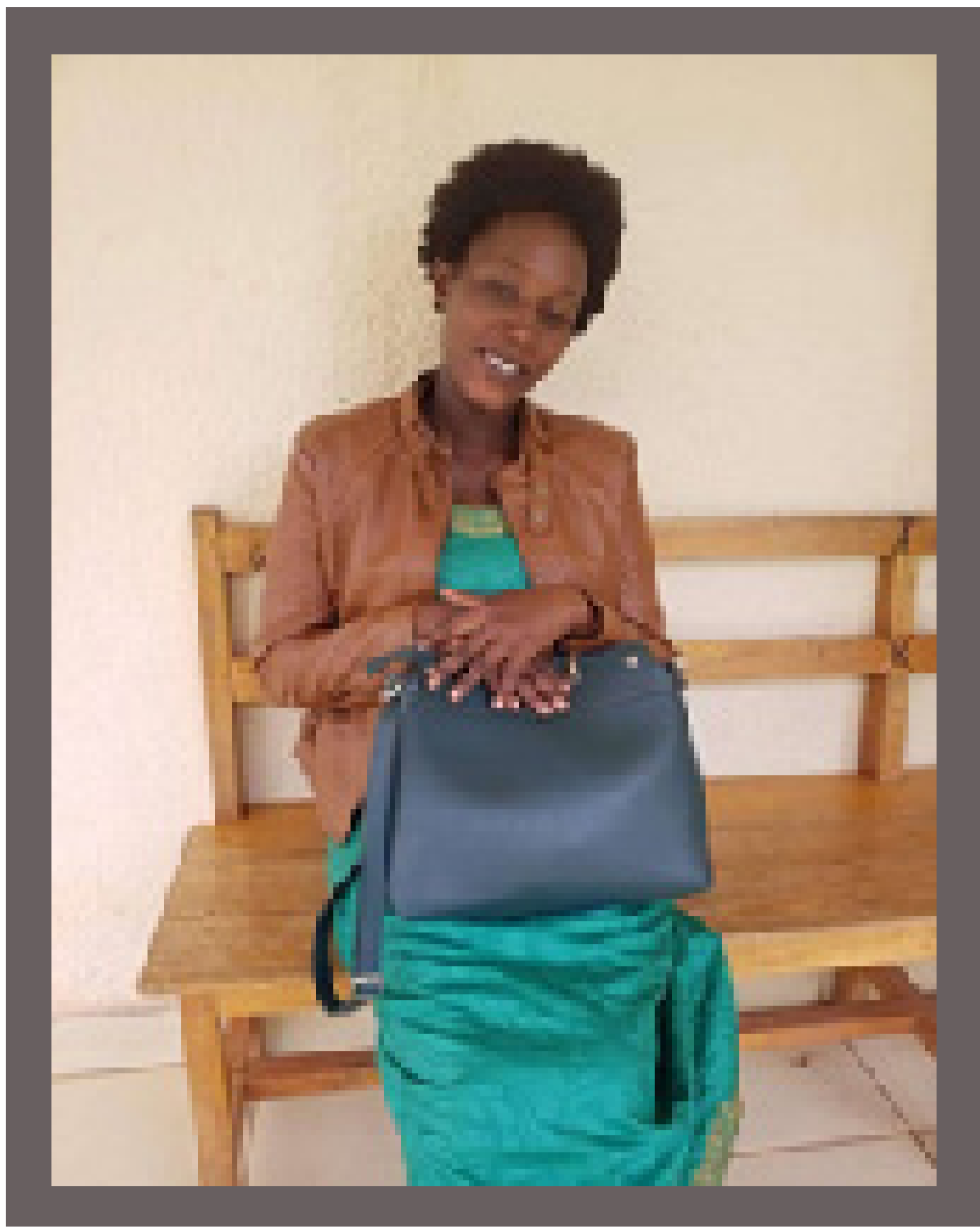
Testimonials

HEALTH BUILDERS



“The whole night I haven’t been able to sleep for the fear that my baby had a problem, but now the midwife was able to see by his eyes that my baby was fine, and I don’t have a low-lying placenta as suspected.”

– **Olive, after receiving an ultrasound at the Ruhunda Health Center**



“Before, we used to wait a long time for consultation because adults and children were treated in the same room. We could sit for a whole day waiting to meet the nurse and sometimes adults were prioritized before kids. Now it is no longer the same, there is a consultation room for children under 5 and a special nurse for them.”

– **Jacqueline, a mother in Rulindo District**

“During our mentorship we help health centers with Public Finance Management (PFM). We sit together with the finance staff at the health center and make sure that we cover the key management metrics, such as procurement, income and expenditures management, bank and cash management, budget management, tax compliances, and the creation of regular financial reports.”

– **Elie, Health Builders Accountant and Trainer of Rural Health Center Administrators**

“There is no issue of confidentiality because our fellow youth trust us, they know we could be in the same position. Therefore, it is easier for them to ask for information and take informed decisions.”

– **Ukwishaka, 23-year-old peer educator in Rubona**



Initiatives

Expansion Into Three Districts Means Mothers Will Have Access to Information and Resources



2,855 New Community Health Workers in 2021

Thanks to the generosity of the Pfizer Foundation, Health Builders was able to expand the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses and Integrated Community Case Management Project (IMCI/ICCM). Health Builders has provided off-site training to 74 nurses, 1,907 Community Health Workers, and 37 Community and Environmental Health Officers in two districts, Rulindo, and Nyabihu. In addition, 217 nurses continue to receive on-the-job training. Later in 2021, the project was scaled up to a third district, Rwamagana, creating a sizable new healthcare community.



Initiatives



Peer-to-Peer Engagement Leads to Positive Discussions about Sexual and Reproductive Health

Health Builders, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC), utilized funds from Grand Challenges Canada to pilot an adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights (ASRH&R) program in 15 PHC centers in Rwamagana, a Rural District in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. Health Builders ensured that youth friendly corners were integrated within the existing health services package at the Primary Health Centers. In addition, 30 healthcare providers and 30 Youth Peer Educators were trained to offer a comprehensive and quality ASRH package in an adolescent friendly environment suitable for confidential counseling and examination. The training was deemed a success, with 100% reporting an improved knowledge of the sexual and reproductive issues they are facing. Trained youth and workers were able to share their knowledge in the community, increasing the use of contraception and screening of Sexually Transmitted Infections.

Initiatives



Health Builders on the frontline of the COVID-19 response in Rwanda

The COVID-19 outbreak ravaged health care systems across the globe in 2020 and 2021, especially in the vulnerable communities of rural Rwanda. Throughout the year, the situation grew increasingly alarming, with cases rising and access to vaccinations limited. Although distribution of vaccines began in the first quarter of 2021, local health officials knew it would take many months, if not years, to scale up to full coverage given the limitation of resources in the rural communities in East Africa.

Health Builders was, and continues to be, on the front lines to not only support the distribution of the vaccine but also ensure that local health centers are practicing and educating about preventative measures, such as wearing masks and social distancing.

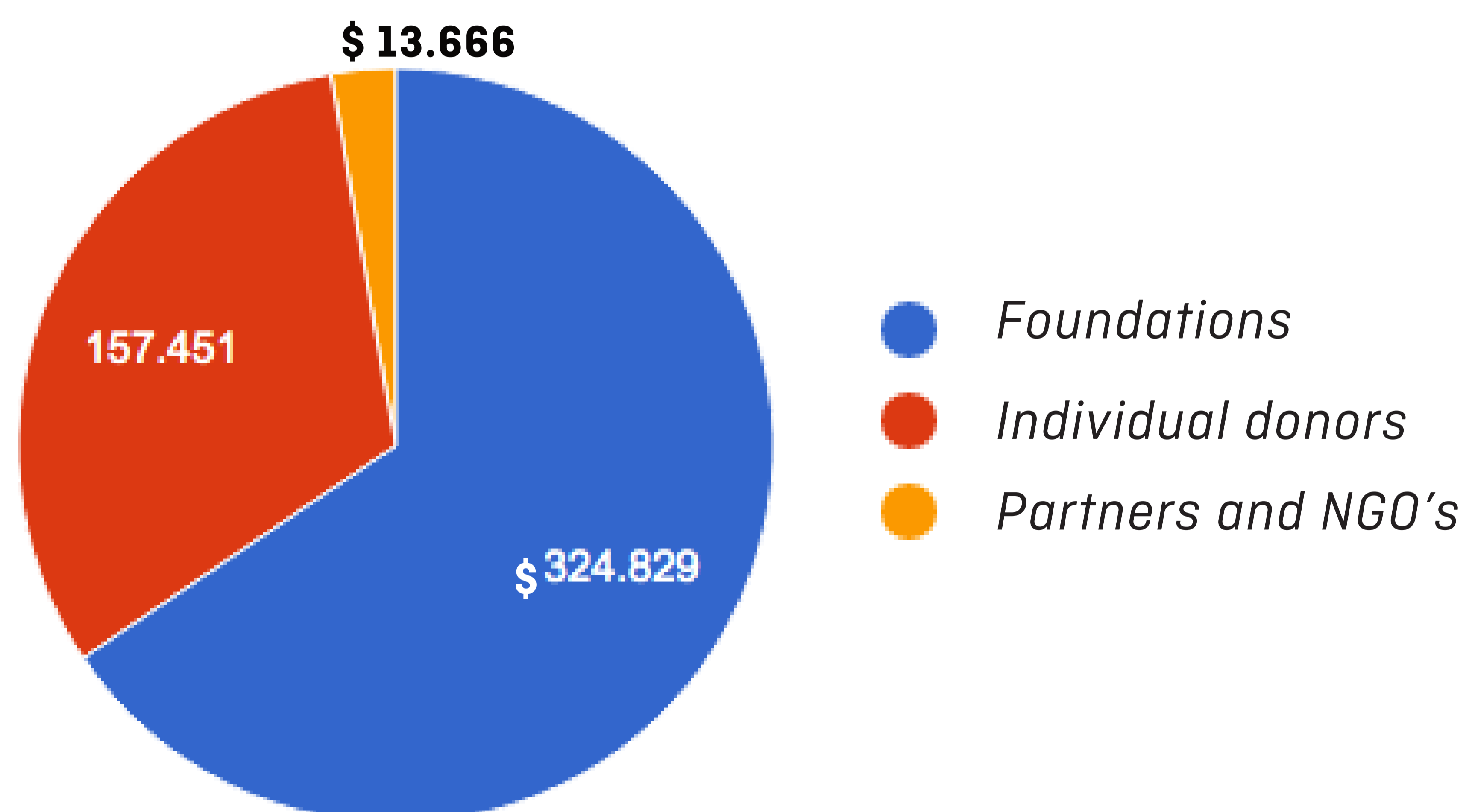
Working in partnership with the Ministry of Health as part of the COVID-19 Task Force, Health Builders supported all 52 health centers to strengthen outbreak preparedness, even through multiple lockdowns and restrictions in movement. Despite the fear and uncertainty COVID-19 has brought to the country, it offered the opportunity to exemplify the importance of Health Builders' work. Because the organization is local and was already working with health centers in these rural communities, we were poised to act not only as a resource and guide in navigating the pandemic, but also helped ensure that people had access to care for other serious health issues.

Events

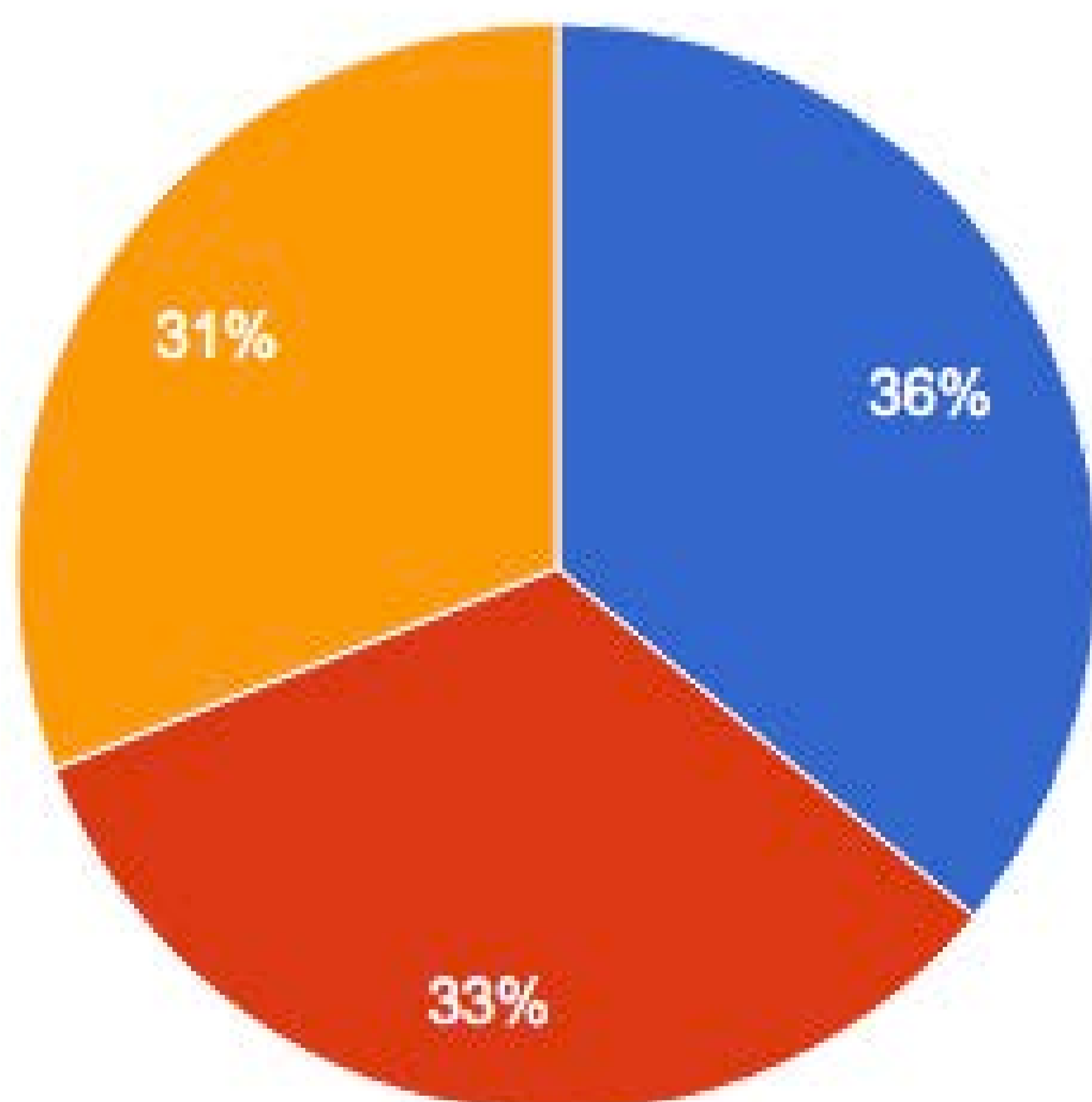
Health Builders held its first annual fundraising event in March of 2021, **VIRTUALLY**, with supporters from around the world joining this webinar to learn more about the history of Rwanda and the important work Health Builders is doing. Moderated by Susan Ormiston, award-winning Senior Correspondent of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the conversation explored the unique history of Rwanda, the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, and the 20 years of rebuilding that followed. Susan interviewed Carl Wilkens, an American who remained in Kigali during the genocide, as well as Health Builders' staff Michel Musilikare and Immaculate Kyarisiima. The event was a great success, raising over \$26,400 for Health Builders and introducing us to more than 50 new supporters.

2020/2021 Financials

Sources of Income

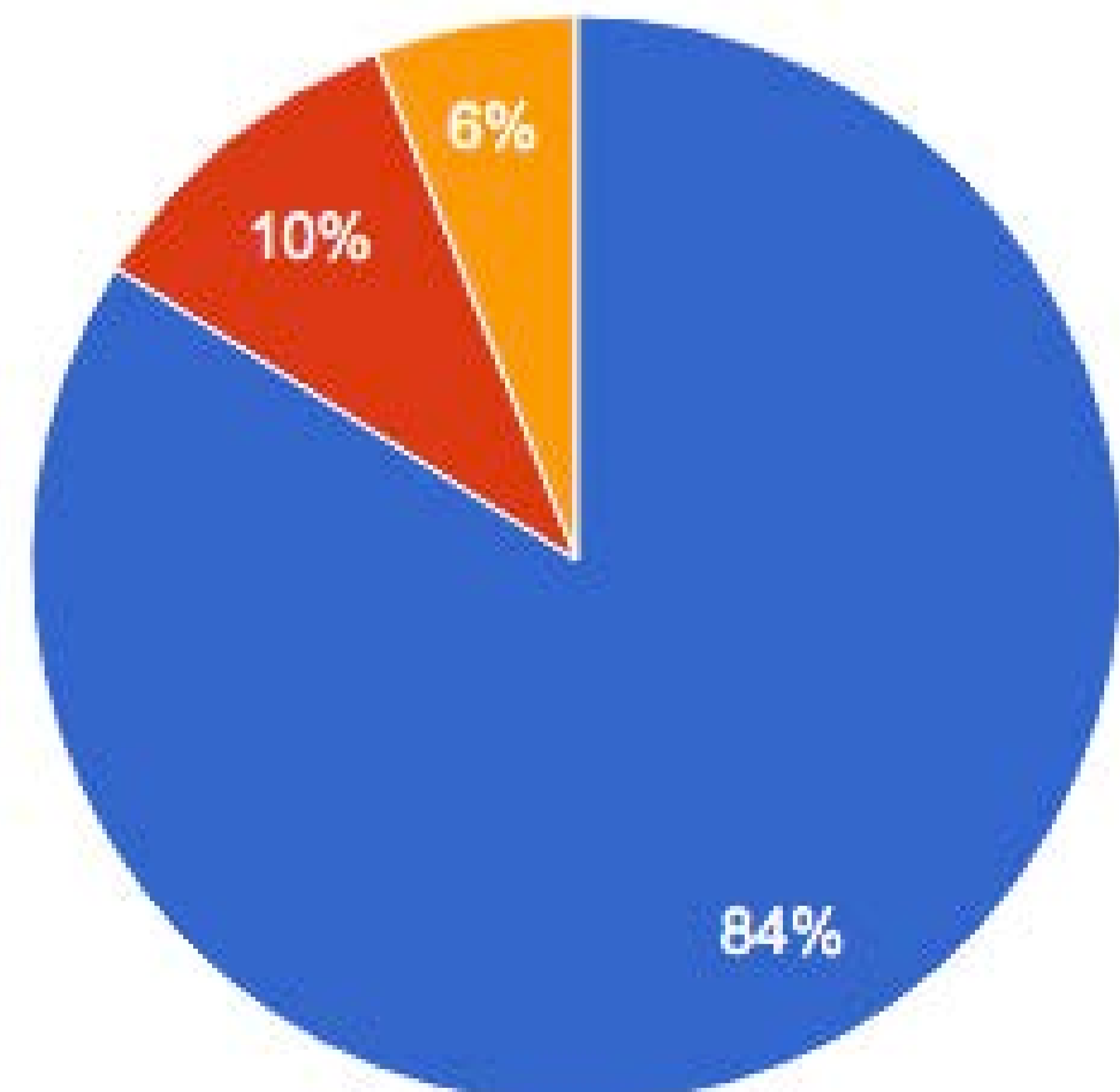


Funds Spent by Region



- Rwamagana
- Rulindo
- Nyabihu

Use of Funds



- Program
- Management & General
- Fundraising



Health Builders

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