

Voices OF HOPE

Burundi

When COVID-19 appeared in Burundi, PWRDF partner Village Health Works (VHS), began taking precautionary measures. Large gatherings were canceled, which led to changes in how VHW served people in its communities.

On a recent morning the team arrived in Gashasha, a colline in the VHW catchment area. The group was welcomed in a cleared market place along with VHW community health workers and women with their children. The morning began with a briefing, hand washing and distanced lineups. One by one, women handed over their medical booklets and placed themselves and their child on the weighing scales.

After brief interviews and measures to assess each child's growth, notes and information were added and the women received 8.4 kg bags of enriched flour powder. In Burundi, 57% of children under five are malnourished and women and children depend on VHW for food and to keep their children's development in check. Quite a few women themselves are not well and therefore are unable to breastfeed. Hence these regular distributions of enriched porridge are vital.

“This saves me a lot of time and money,” says mom Denise, 24.
“Sometimes going to Kigutu is a whole day, sometimes we women only reach home after dark and then we have so much to do.”




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