



HEALTH BUILDERS



2020 Annual Report

WWW.HEALTHBUILDERS.ORG

A Letter from Health Builders' Leadership

Dear Friends and Partners,

Since 2007, Health Builders has always focused on strengthening the primary health care system in rural Rwanda. And in 2020, it became incredibly apparent why building this foundation was so important. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the strength of primary health care systems in rural communities proved more crucial than ever. Because Health Builders is already an integral part of these communities, we were easily able to work closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH) as part of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Team, helping to decrease the spread of this disease by tracking suspected cases, raising community awareness and enforcing prevention measures in the health centers and the surrounding communities.

Our staff continues to provide training and mentorship to health care providers in 52 health centers across three districts allowing more than 1 million Rwandans to access primary health care services through well-managed health centers. In order to continue improving the quality of these services, Health Builders launched new projects in order to appropriately respond to maternal, neonatal and child health care issues and to increase access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRH&R).

Health Builders continues to champion accessible, quality, and efficient primary health care for all people. This work is made possible by the determination of primary health care providers, by strong and close collaboration with our communities, local governments, the Rwanda Ministry of Health and supporters like you.

Thank you very much!

Nancy Reynolds
Board Chair



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services in Rwanda: inefficient management of clinical systems, inadequate or nonexistent health infrastructure, and outdated technology.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 interventions so that health workers have the facilities, tools, clinical knowledge 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** health centers

in **3** rural districts of Rwanda

we support over **1,000,000** people



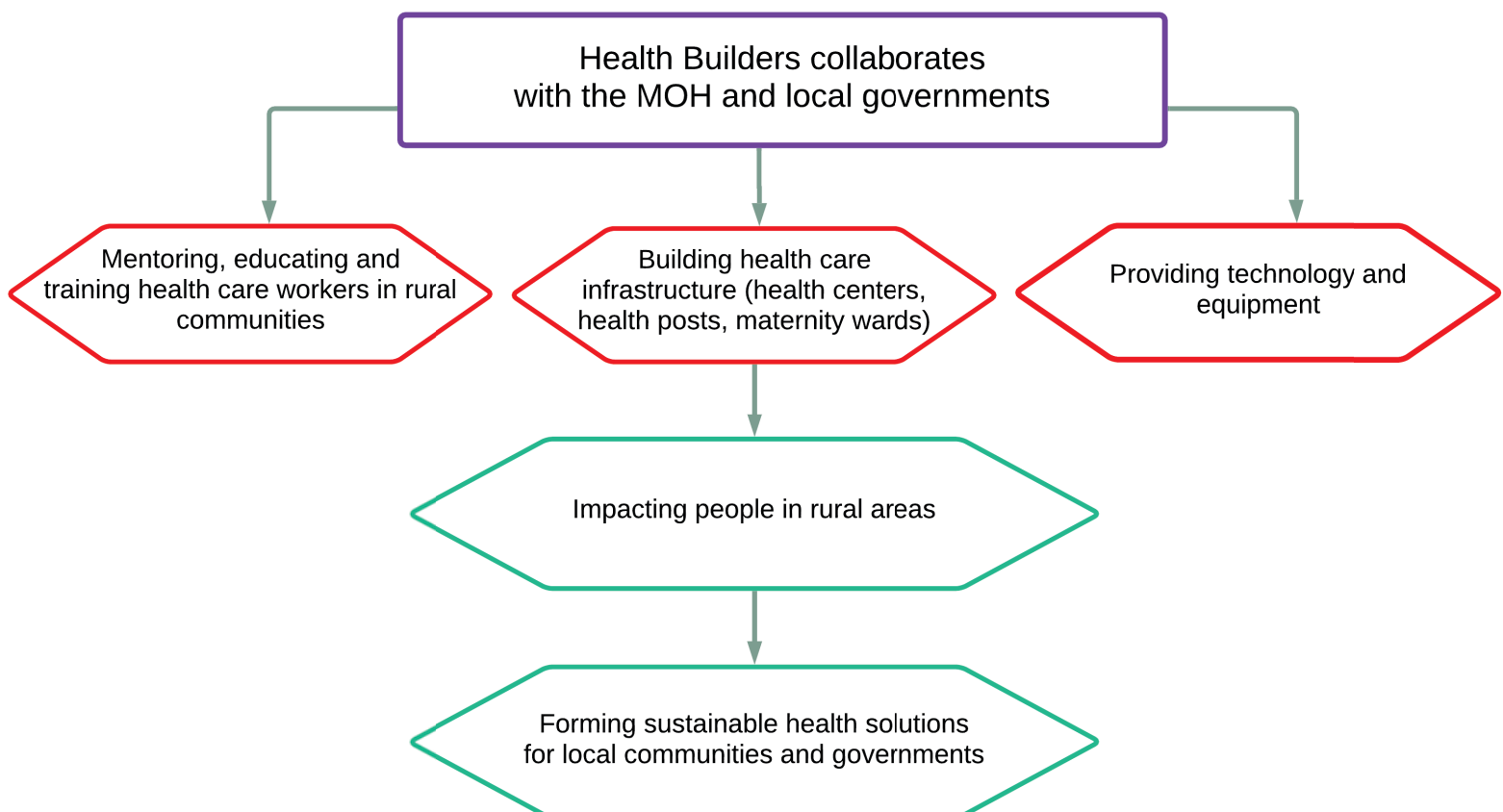
HEALTH BUILDERS





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Health Builders' Approach



Mentoring, Training and Education of Health Care Workers

Training and mentoring health care workers leads to better management of health systems, improves the quality of clinical care given to patients, and helps to educate and empower communities. In addition to traditional training methods – including one-time, off-site, didactic lessons in a classroom setting – Health Builders’ approach is to use alternative and engaging techniques such as simulation and case-based practice for adult learners. Learning opportunities are presented at an appropriate intensity and frequency at the point of care, helping providers to transfer new knowledge and skills into practice.

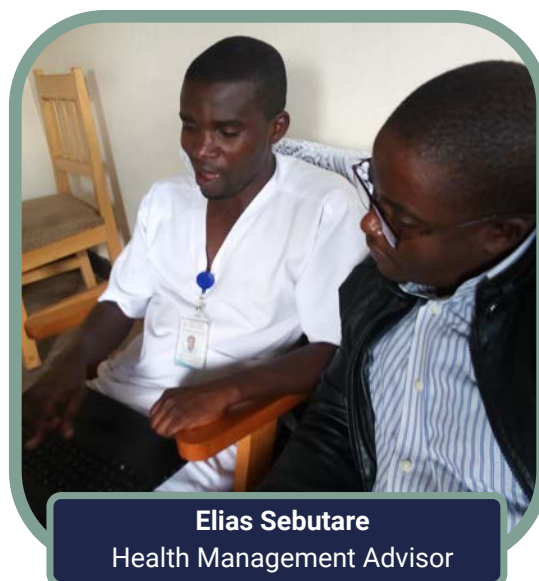


672

**nurses, midwives and
administrative staff
trained and mentored**

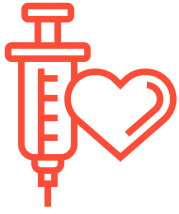
988

**community health
workers trained**



Elias Sebutare
Health Management Advisor

Creating Health Center and Health Post Infrastructure



125,282

Vaccinations have been provided by nine health centers



More than

43,000

babies have been delivered

In 2020, Health Builders began to plan its new and innovative Health Posts Project. These key infrastructures will be the first entry point into the health system in rural communities, reducing the workload at higher levels of care (health centers and district hospitals). In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and our architect partner ASA Studio, a holistic approach has been developed that allows each health post to respond to the specific needs of the people who live in these areas. Three designs were developed (small, medium and large), customized to be enlarged as new funding allows for increased services. The new health posts will be built, equipped and staffed with nurses working in close collaboration with trained Community Health Workers, with a goal of becoming wholly sustainable, allowing the communities to have easy access to high quality health care.



Life Saving Technology and Equipment



7 Obstetric Ultrasound Machines donated to health centers in Rwamagana District

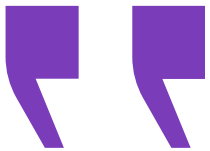


1,803 women benefitted from ultrasound technology from January to June 2020

Access to obstetric ultrasound machines is just one indispensable piece of technology that health centers need in order to provide the best quality of care. In 2020, Health Builders secured seven donated machines for the rural district of Rwamagana. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the support of Enabel, 16 nurses and midwives were trained on the basics of the technology, resulting in a substantial increase of knowledge. Health Builders continues to support the maintenance and additional training for these machines and are already seeing an increase of patient referrals to hospitals when health center scans identified the need for further diagnosis and care.



Testimonials



"I haven't been able to sleep for fear that my baby had a problem, but now the doctor was able to see by ultrasound that my baby was fine and I don't have the placenta previa as suspected." - Olive, expectant mother

"As of June 2020, the health center managed to pay off the entire debt. With the support from Health Builders, we put on cost-saving measures to reorganize our finances by the management of medications, starting to bill properly the community-based health insurance, and to carrying out inventory to evaluate the use of medications." – Ancilla, Health care worker



"The topic that interests most of the youth is on the use of condoms and the menstrual cycle, they are mostly misinformed on both topics and it leads them to making wrong choices." – Ronaldo, Youth Peer Educator



Initiatives

Raising Awareness and Improving Quality of Care for Patients with Non-Communicable Diseases

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 44% of the deaths in Rwanda. With such a threat to the country's health and economic development, Health Builders is leading the way in ensuring that patients who suffer from NCDs are not only able to easily access care but are receiving the information and treatment they need to get well and manage and prevent further illness. In 2020, because of training provided to 62 nurses in 52 health centers, 944 people were screened for hypertension and diabetes and for those needing further treatment, referrals to larger health facilities were made.



Preventing and Managing Childhood Illnesses by Empowering and Educating Mothers

With the support of Pfizer Foundation, in 2020 Health Builders initiated the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) and Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM) programs in Rulindo district which will be expanded into the Nyabihu district in 2021. The goal of the program is to ensure that nurses are mentored and trained to support and educate mothers on initiating first aid care for their sick children and recognizing the dangers signs to seek treatment. In addition, providing mothers with information on healthy lifestyle and nutrition allows them to proactively take part in the health care needs of their families. To date, 121 nurses are being mentored on IMCI and 988 CHWs have been trained in ICCM. The impact has been direct and immediate: Children who suffered from malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea showed dramatic increases in improved health after receiving the proper treatment for their illnesses.

Preventing childhood illness is one of Health Builders' greatest priorities. Through our mentoring and education programs, we ensure that health care workers have the technical and logistical support to conduct Maternal and Child Health (MCH) community outreach. Focusing on the areas of monitoring growth, vaccinations, nutrition, hygiene, and the prevention of malaria and diarrhea, Health Builders has helped provide almost 417,000 under-five children in three rural districts with appropriate screening for malnutrition and diseases prevention.



Initiatives

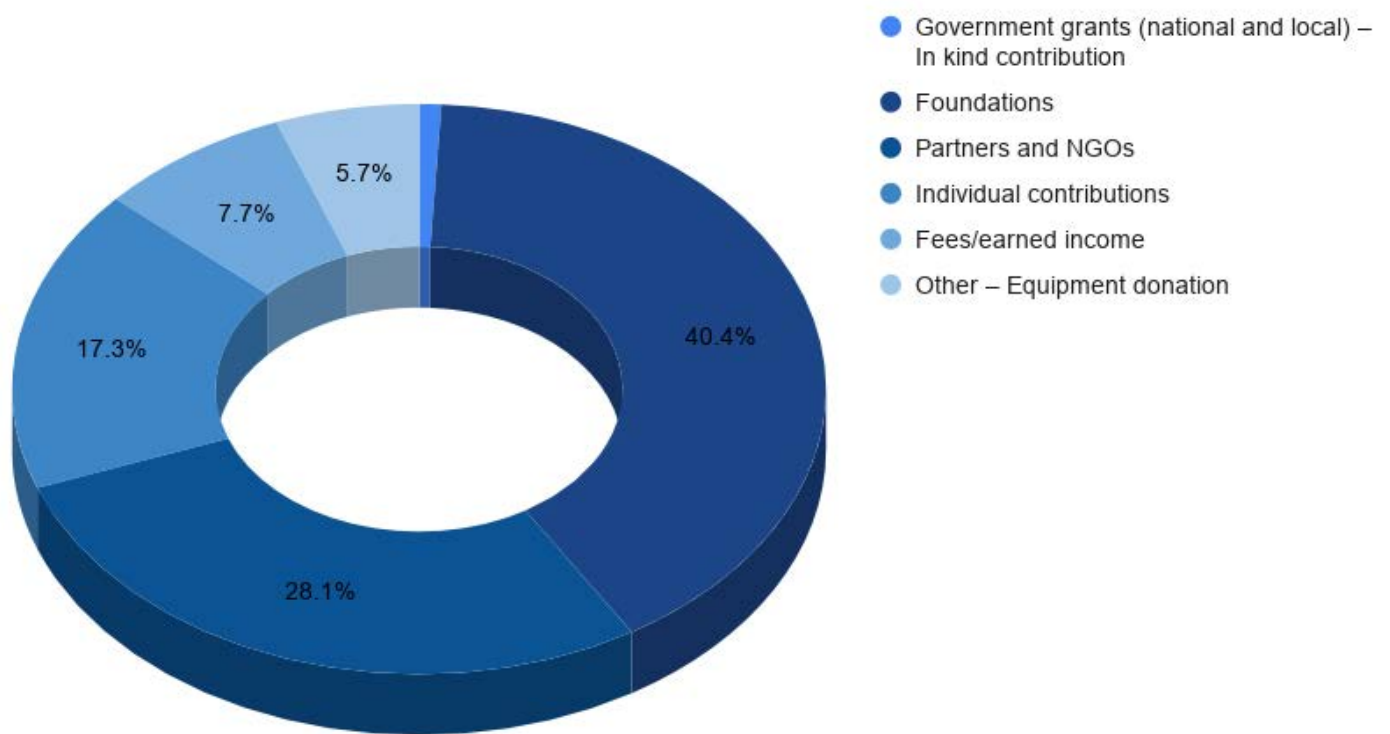
Encouraging Young People to Take Active Roles in Their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



Despite socio-economic development, young people still face enormous challenges in accessing information and services for sexual and reproductive health because of cultural taboos. Health Builders, in collaboration with Grand Challenges Canada, addresses this gap through an innovative, two-pronged program: clinical health care workers in rural clinics in Rwamagana are provided with mentoring, training and educational materials so they can provide youth with services and information. Since the start of the project in early 2020, 30 nurses have been trained on topics such as: Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRH&R); teen pregnancy; sexually transmitted illnesses; gender based violence; and drug and substance abuse. The second aspect of the program is the utilization of 30 Youth Peer Educators. These young people - trained and empowered in leadership roles - share their knowledge with peers in fun and engaging youth settings. Both parts of the program utilize Youth Corners in 15 health centers. These new safe and private areas are dedicated spaces, decorated with colorful and age appropriate murals containing information and messages about the ASRH&R issues the youth face. With the program in a pilot phase, it has already impacted over 14,000 adolescents and is poised to expand additional clinics and other regions.

2019-2020 Income - \$416,678

Sources of Income



*Annual revenue fluctuates based on infrastructure funding.

Financials

Expenses

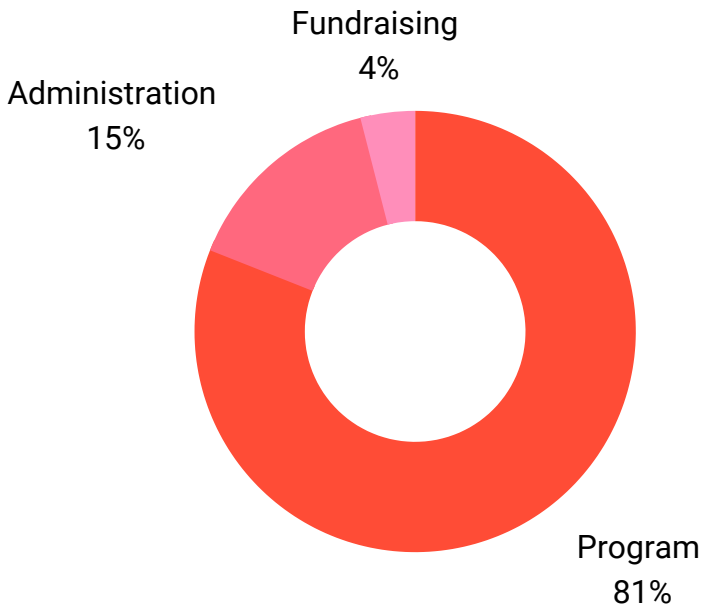
Led by a local team, Health Builders prides itself in being a streamlined, cost-effective organization. We appreciate the support of our donors and ensure that investments in our organization have an immediate and direct impact on the local communities.

Total Expenses Program Services

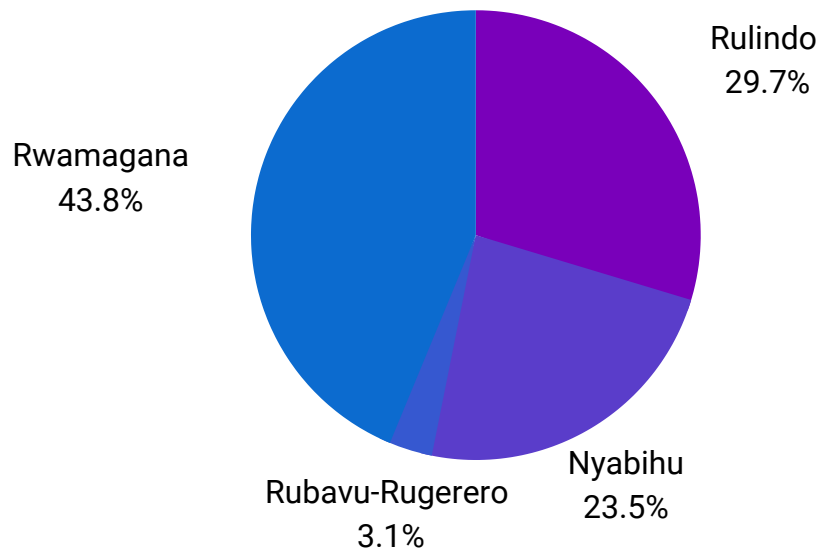
Infrastructure: \$46,595
Management Training: \$307,803

Total:
\$354,397

Expense Ratios



Expenses per Region





Health Builders

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