



FRIENDS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Recovery, Empowerment, AIDS Action, Leadership



*We work to provide comprehensive **community-based health care** to women and their families, to reinforce **women's capacities** to achieve their wellbeing, and to work towards the recovery of **peace and health** in Burundi.*

Who We Are

We are an organization founded by and for Burundian women to address the unique needs of women in the conflict and post-conflict environment. We began in 2002 as a group of women who wanted to work together to improve each others' lives and, in particular, address the problems of HIV/AIDS, sexual violence, and post-genocide trauma in our community. Today, we operate a health clinic in Kamenge, Burundi offering free or low-cost medical examinations and treatment to women and their families. In addition, we facilitate trauma healing seminars and women's groups in Kamenge, Rutegama, Gitega, and Mutaho, and run a restaurant from which the profit is used to provide seed money for micro-credit loans to HIV-positive women.

What We Believe

We believe health is a human right. We also believe that when this right is truly respected, there is hope for long-term sustainable peace in Burundi.

Health, hope, and peace go hand in hand. Our work is continually at the nexus of providing quality and accessible healthcare to our patients and addressing the underlying causes of structural violence and inequality, which are the seeds of greater instability and conflict in Burundi. We focus on the whole well-being of our patients and our community, treating both their bodily needs and facilitating a process of healing from violence and trauma.

We prioritize the needs of women to ensure that we—those who are most at risk to HIV and other infectious diseases— are not denied access to quality healthcare and treatment because of our gender or economic status.