

Voices OF HOPE

Rwanda

Merab Nyishime, a Maternal and Child Health National Support Manager at Kirehe District Hospital in southeastern Rwanda, was caring for newborn twins when she noticed something wasn't right with one of the babies. Mukandoli Sifa and her twin babies, Gakuru and Gato, had already been at the hospital for a few days.

“When I got closer, I saw Gakuru had a totally different colour to his brother. He had generalized jaundice, but it had not yet been detected,” said Nyishime. Thanks to enhanced training in Maternal and Newborn Health provided by Partners in Health Rwanda (a PWRDF partner in the All Mothers and Children Count program) Nyishime was able to identify insufficient breastmilk as the cause of Gakuru's jaundice. It was determined that Sifa was not eating enough.

The doctor ordered phototherapy and additional IV fluids to improve nutrition and treat Gakuru's jaundice, and Nyishime called the head cook and nutritionist at the hospital. She explained to them the effects poor nutrition can have on breastfeeding and infant health.

Now all mothers in neonatal care at the hospital receive an additional meal of porridge and clean drinking water to help support proper maternal nutrition and breastfeeding.



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