



Photo by Elysee Nijigena SCI Rwanda Mahama Refugee Camp

## Two years on - our response to the Burundi Refugee Crisis

It is now two years since we started our multi-sector response to the Burundi Refugee Crisis. We had only 4 staff and our aim was to reach 25,000 people with community services interventions, which focused on identifying people with special needs for support and referral.

Over the past two years 43,915 refugees, of which more than 24,000 are children, have been reached with our humanitarian assistance in Mahama refugee camp.

Latest statistics in Mahama camp, there are:

- 53,749 Refugees and Asylum Seekers Registered
- 27,749 Child (under 18) Refugees and Asylum Seekers Registered

### Our Key Achievements:

#### Education:

1,505 people including 705 children have been reached through our education work for out of school children and youth. A literacy and numeracy program started in 2015 with the rising number of out of school children and youth in Mahama. There was no alternative nor accelerated learning program to link them to formal education so as to continue with their education or be able to develop their own livelihoods.

In 2016 following the pilot project SC embarked on an alternative and accelerated learning program that graduated 1,164 students in the first year and now enrolls 400 new students aged 13 to 25 years every four months.

Additionally, the program runs English as a second Language class with 362 youth currently enrolled with the intention of linking them to the Rwandan education system.

The program has also grown to conduct protective education and life skills and conducts activities including:

- Library facility for children and youth;
- Community reading clubs for both children and parents;
- Adolescent girls and young women hygiene;
- Sports mentoring program.

#### Child Protection:

We have reached 42,774 people including 21,404 children with our protection work. Save the Children supports 14 youth and child friendly spaces within the camp where youth and children can access a package of high quality services including psychosocial support, learning support and life skills training.

Since May 2015, Save the Children supported child and youth friendly spaces have reached 11,431 children with psychosocial support services, 16,201 with learning support and 8,357 with life skills.

About 800 separated and unaccompanied children arrived in the camp and were documented and referred for follow up support. 350 of these unaccompanied children were placed in long-term alternative care with foster families and are receiving individual case management support.

## Health and Nutrition:

35,623 people including 18,754 children have been reached through our health and nutrition interventions. 239 pregnant women attended the SC-run antenatal clinic received dignity kits, 4,244 of women of reproductive age were provided family planning services, 375 pregnant women with obstetric complications were referred to district hospital for comprehensive medical care, 15,428 adolescents and youth use sexual reproductive health services.

Additionally, 8,227 children were fully covered with routine immunization and 909 women received more than two doses of tetanus toxoid. 438 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition whereas 3,680 children with moderate acute malnutrition were treated. Furthermore, our Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program supported all children aged 6 to 23 months, 864 pregnant women and 635 lactating mothers.

## Livelihood:

120 vendors (25 men and 95 women) were supported to generate their own income through the constructed market place. A further 1,407 refugee households are accessing nutritious vegetables through the shared 110 community kitchen gardens constructed in different villages within the camp. Vegetable kitchen gardens will also support in fighting malnutrition and other diseases caused by lack of vegetables.



In addition, 400 Burundian refugees were facilitated with cash grants as support to start up their own income generating business within the camp. Each one of the 400 refugees received a voucher of 200,000 Rwf to buy merchandise for selling.

100 women (SGBV survivors) are also supported with hand craft training including shopping and hand bag making, solid and liquid soap making.

## Staffing:

Currently, SCI has more than 97 active staff serving 43,915 refugees in 18,620 households. In addition to community services, our response covers child protection, health and nutrition, livelihood, education for out of school children and youth.

# Summary of our interventions:

## Child Protection:

We currently responsible for child protection interventions in the whole camp and 3 transit centers, where we support women and children with psychosocial, safe spaces to play and learn, and youth groups for social support. Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence are also provided with psychosocial support and referral services as required.

## Community Protection:

Ensuring the special needs of the elderly and people living with disabilities are met through community referral mechanisms and direct support.

## Education, Livelihood and Youth Empowerment:

Ensuring out of school children and youth from the Burundian refugee community have access to quality learning opportunities while equipping them with life skills.

## Livelihood:

Supporting refugee households access nutritious vegetables through kitchen gardens constructed in different Villages within the camp: kitchen gardening uses vertical gardening methods that include sacks and wood to utilize small land space available. Also refugees are given the opportunity to generate own income through the constructed market place, entrepreneurship training and hand craft training.

## Health and Nutrition:

Providing children, women and men in humanitarian contexts with access to quality primary healthcare, maternal, newborn and child health and infant and young child feeding services. Volunteers are also trained to be pharmacists, nurses, midwives and community health workers.

Also we are actively present at Gatore, Bugesera and Nyanza reception centers providing Child protection interventions.

We express our gratitude to our partners for supporting us to strengthen child rights and protection systems within Mahama Camp to ensure no child left behind despite of the situation.

## Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination:



Save the Children leads the Child Protection sector for Burundian refugee response in Rwanda. Save the children co-leads the Education sector with ADRA. Save the Children collaborates with UNHCR, the government of Rwanda and other emergency response agencies to protect the rights of Burundian refugees, especially children, through an integrated package of services and capacity-building initiatives. These include incentive support to Burundian refugee volunteers, strengthening of community-based child protection networks, increasing access to sustainable supply of child friendly spaces, and ensuring continued access to basic health services for all children and their caregivers.