



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

2022 has been a big year for Save the Children Rwanda and Burundi. We did whatever it took to improve the lives of children and their families in Rwanda and Burundi.

Because of the support of our partners and donors, Save the Children was commissioned by UNHCR as its 2023 project implementing partner in Rwanda and Burundi. Because of this, we will expand our programs nationally, around health and nutrition, child protection, gender-based violence, and complementary pathways to provide skilled refugees with job opportunities.

Through our child protection interventions in Mahama Refugee Camp, we reached 18,458 children.

In Burundi, as well as becoming UNHCR partner of choice nationally, we also started new World Bank and EU contracts which will reach thousands of gender based violence survivors and prevent thousands more cases. Under Education, we trained 5,800 pre-primary teachers and 4,322 school leaders in play-based and age-appropriate activities.

Kumwe Hub, our innovation and impact investment Hub, has taken off with a new team, new funding partners, and new projects. 6 child-focused businesses have received loans amounting to \$63,300 through Ongezea Loans Fund. 14 Rwandan businesses working with different ASRH themes were awarded grants through our Ndashinganye Grants, and a daycare for entrepreneur mothers was established in Mahama Refugee Camp.

Our achievements would not have been possible without your collaboration and financial support. We look forward to working with you in 2023.

[Watch the End-Year Video here](#)

Maggie Korde,
Country Director, SCI Rwanda & Burundi



Save the Children

NEWSLETTER FOR 2022 RWANDA & BURUNDI OFFICE



THE MEDICALIZATION OF MAHAMA II HEALTH CENTRE

Save the Children completed its medicalization process at Mahama II Health Centre. The maternity ward was renovated, theatre staff have been hired and all medical equipment was procured. Save the Children addressed feedback on minor issues, provided by the Ministry of Health during the final assessment and now waiting for certification to start delivering surgical services.

“Once we start delivering surgical services in Mahama Refugee Camp, we will be able to cut down the number of mothers who spent an hour on rough roads trying to get to the emergency services at Kirehe District Hospital.”

Said, Dina Denis, the SCI-Field Manager



9 SCI staff attended the clinical mentorship at Kirehe District Hospital to be familiar with surgical procedures for the sake of readiness for the medicalized health center.

HEALTH & NUTRITION



920 pregnant women were followed up regularly



692 mothers delivered at Mahama II Health Centre



3,188 sick children were received by CHWs in Mahama II

31.4 % of them Were treated in the community

68.6 % of them Were referred to the health centre



SAVE THE CHILDREN STRENGTHENS THE CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS IN MAHAMA REFUGEE CAMP



Save the Children conducted seven training sessions for 60 Community Health Workers to enrich their knowledge and skills in healthcare service delivery, to children and their families living in Mahama II Refugee Camp.

This training improved the quality of healthcare services provided by health workers to children and adults at Mahama II Health Center and the host community.

Thanks to Community Health Workers' interventions, over 900 people were identified and referred to Health Center for treatment, 210 pregnant women were provided with Antenatal Care services, 137 women were accompanied to the health center for safe birth delivery; 241 lactating women were followed up after delivery and taught effective breastfeeding ways, 4,006 children were screened for malnutrition and 553 received malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia treatment. 19,976 people attended 378 education sessions on health and nutrition.

As a result, pregnant women who attended Antenatal Care increased from 34% to 74%. Pregnant women who gave birth at health centers increased by 24% and children who received the BCG vaccine increased from 99% to 110%.

SAVE THE CHILDREN COMMEMORATES WORLD AIDS DAY



On December 1, 2022, SCI joined the Government of Rwanda to commemorate World Aids Day at Mahama Refugee Camp.

This event was organized in collaboration with other partners, to reflect on progress made to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS infection in the camp.

Refugees, especially adolescents and youth, were mobilized to voluntarily test for HIV to know their health status, for early treatment and prevention.

Theopiste Niyonshuti, SCI-Medical Director, reminded the participants that HIV testing is offered freely at Mahama I and II Health centers.

"You must undergo HIV testing to know your health status and all these services are offered at our health centers for free. It's everyone's responsibility to know his/her health status." Said Theopiste, Medical Director.

Currently, 646 persons living with HIV/AIDS are being followed up through the anti-retroviral department in Mahama Refugee Camp. Of those, 5.5 % are youth aged between 15-24 years old.



THE IMPACT OF PEER EDUCATORS IN MAHAMA REFUGEE CAMP

In November 2022, SCI bid farewell to 17 peer educators who had been participating in ASRH community mobilizations, health education sessions, awareness raising on HIV, and referral of adolescents and youth to Youth Friendly Spaces since 2016.

As Save the Children is transitioning from the ASRHR peer educators approach to the ASRHR peer facilitation approach, we recorded 2,937 adolescents and youths who attended the Behaviour Communication Change sessions on the prevention of early pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Of those, 36 % (1,068) approached peer educators to get condoms and 3.3% (98) were referred to the Youth Friendly Spaces for ASRH counselling, STIs screening, and adolescents and treatment.

Thierry is 20 years old and has been attending awareness raising on adolescent sexual and reproductive health sessions since 2021. When Thierry first arrived at the camp in 2015, he had little knowledge on using a condom during sexual intercourse and did not know where he could find them.

After attending a couple of behavior communication change sessions in Mahama Refugee Camp, his knowledge of using condoms during sexual intercourse has greatly improved and he no longer feels shy to ask for condoms at Youth friendly spaces and condom kiosks.

“Peer Educators taught me how to use a condom to protect myself against HIV/AIDS and now I’m comfortable getting condoms from the kiosk for use, says Thierry.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



In October, Save the children conducted awareness raising on Maternal and Child Health and Infant child and youth feeding to prevent malnutrition among children aged between 0-5 years old, improve their nutrition, and teach parents the best ways to prepare a well-balanced diet for their families.

During an awareness campaign, 348 mothers of children aged 0-2 years attended cooking demonstrations that were organized to teach them the best ways to prepare a well-balanced diet and establish kitchen gardens to prevent malnutrition among their children.

As a result, 124 new kitchen gardens (Vegetable gardens) were established in Mahama Refugee Camp, and Save the Children recorded a decrease in acute malnutrition admissions by 6.2% (From 119 admissions in Q3 to 112 admissions in Q4).

Seraphine, 40 years old, lives in Mahama Refugee Camp. She had no kitchen garden at home which resulted in the lack of vegetables while preparing meals for her children, which put her children at a high risk of malnutrition.

When she attended the awareness campaign on maternal and child health, she learned how to make a kitchen garden using used bags. Today, she gets vegetables to feed her children from the garden and this has helped in curbing malnutrition.

“ Because I don't have enough land, Save the Children taught us to grow vegetables in used bags, and despite not having a lot of lands, this kitchen garden has helped me in preventing my children from getting acute malnutrition. For example, in my community, you could see two or three children with malnutrition. But nowadays, there is no child with malnutrition as a result of these kitchen gardens. ”

Said, Seraphine.

[Click here to watch the cooking demonstration video](#)

CHILD PROTECTION

RWANDA
Children reached

19,346

Boys 10,812

Girls 8,534

BURUNDI
Children reached

24,949

Boys 10,978

Girls 13,971

EVENING FOR FAMILIES



In November 2022, Save the Children organized an evening for families in the Mahama refugee camp to discuss issues that affect children's rights.

Some parents use physical and humiliating punishments against their children and this has affected the children emotionally, physically, and mentally and their relationship with their parents.

To fight these harmful practices, Save the Children collaborated with Child Protection Committees to raise awareness of positive discipline in everyday parenting. About 617 parents attended the evening for families.

Today, the majority of parents have created a conducive and friendly environment at home and this has helped their children feel safer and participate in decision-making at home.

Faustine, 36 years old, used physical and humiliating punishment (PHP) as a way of disciplining her children. and this affected her relationship with them.

"When I arrived at the camp, All I knew was that if a child made a mistake the only way to teach them and correct them was to beat them," Faustine shared.

Faustine attended an evening for families and learned how to apply positive discipline in everyday parenting. She was encouraged to discipline her children while also respecting their rights. Since then, Faustine has been building a strong relationship with her children and teaching them how to be more responsible.

"As a parent today, I take my children inside when they make mistakes, I talk to them to understand the reasons why they did what they did before disciplining them. I counsel them on how that mistake can affect their lives and the best way to handle a situation like that in the future." - Faustine said.

BURUNDI: SAVE THE CHILDREN PLACES UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN INTO FOSTER FAMILIES

Armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo pushed thousands of families to seek asylum in Burundi.

In 2022, 15 convoys of new refugees arrived in the 5 refugee camps based in Ruyigi and Muyinga provinces, and a considerable number of new refugees in urban settings.

Save the Children trained 80 community volunteers based in refugee communities, and provided support to 80 volunteer foster families to host Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC).

As a result, 123 cases of separated and 43 unaccompanied children have been identified and supported.

[watch the video on Save the Children refugee and returnee response in Burundi](#)

THE IMPACT OF SPORTS FOR PROTECTION ON CHILDREN IN MAHAMA REFUGEE CAMP

Since 2017, Save the Children has been supporting young refugees through Sport for Protection activities under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) fund.

Every week, over 4,000 children, aged between 6 and 12 years old, participate in different areas of Sports for Protection, like Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Handball, Cricket, Martial arts (Taekwondo, karate, and judo), and other sports activities

All sports activities are facilitated by 20-trained active sports facilitators, who mainly conduct sports training sessions for children, evaluate the impact of sports on children and mentor their peer young coaches.

[Click here to watch the video](#)

THE DAYCARE FOR TEENAGE MOTHERS

In November 2022, Save the Children, funded by UNHCR, launched a daycare for teenage mothers to address a range of issues faced by teenage mothers and their children in Mahama Refugee Camp.

This daycare accommodates 18 children aged between 6 months to 36 months and has 10 trained volunteers.

“This daycare helps children get the right food and health care, have a chance to play and learn, and experience love and safety,” says Mireille Niyonsaba, Caseworker Team Leader.





COUNTRY DIRECTOR MEETS WITH VOLUNTEERS

On December 15th, 2022, Maggie Korde, the Country Director of Save the Children Rwanda & Burundi, held a meeting with 355 volunteers working in child protection, health, and nutrition interventions in Mahama Refugee Camp.

The meeting was a reflection on achievements, successes, and challenges affecting the daily activities of volunteers in ensuring quality service delivery in 2023.

In her remarks, Maggie appreciated Save the Children volunteers for their tremendous commitment to responding to the issues that affect the lives of children and their families in the Mahama Refugee camp.

“Let me thank you for your work to Save the Children and the children we serve. We cannot function without you. We do our best to ensure that you have a better life and our staff advocate for your wellbeing”

Maggie Korde

EDUCATION



5,800 pre-primary teachers and 4,322 school leaders in play-based and age-appropriate activities



44,320 copies of storybooks were distributed in Rwanda



Over 200,000 children have access to books to improve their reading skills and learning outcomes

NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH 2022



In September, Save the Children collaborated with Soma Rwanda members to organize the celebration of International Literacy Day and the launch of National Literacy Month (NLM) under the theme: “Transforming literacy learning Spaces”.

Save the Children also coordinated all reading activities that were conducted during National Literacy Month to promote the culture of reading among children in Rwanda. Parents and caregivers were encouraged to make reading spaces for their children and read with them for at least 15 minutes per day.

Save the Children has been chairing Soma Rwanda, a platform that brings together all government partners in the education sector, since 2016.

[Watch the NLM launch highlights video](#)

[Watch the NLM closing ceremony highlights video](#)

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING ASSESSMENT (IDELA)

Save the Children in collaboration with the National Examination and school inspection authority, NESAs, assessed learning in pre-primary using the Save the Children assessment tool called IDELA- International Development and Early Learning Assessment.

This assessment was the first of its kind in Rwanda as far as learning assessments are concerned in Rwanda. We are working with MINEDUC and NESAs to institutionalize IDELA as the pre-primary assessment tool in Rwanda.

VOICE OF BENEFICIARIES

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S NUTRITION SERVICES SAVED AMANDA'S LIFE



Amanda*, 3 years old, lives with her family and two siblings in the Mahama refugee camp. When Amanda* was 12 months old, she suffered from severe acute malnutrition associated with a digestive disorder. "When my child was 12 months old, she started refusing to eat certain foods like rice, beans, and vegetables. This affected her growth and ability to gain weight," says Suzan, * Amanda*'s mother.

[Read more here](#)

MAHAMA DAY CARE: CLOSING THE MOTHERHOOD GAP AND HELPING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND THEIR CHILDREN THRIVE!



Olpah, 28 years old, is a mother and an entrepreneur selling vegetables, tomatoes, and fruits in Mahama Camp. Last year, when Olpah was in the Kigeme refugee camp, she was supported by Inkomoko with the capital to start her small business. Olpah was transferred to Mahama Camp and continues her business but often had challenges with running her business whilst taking care of her two-year-old child.

[Read more here](#)

[Watch the video here](#)

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRL CHILD



[Watch the video OF YOUNG GIRLS SPEAKING OUT FOR THEIR RIGHTS](#)

On October 11, 2022, Save the Children joined Kirehe District to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child under the theme: "**My health, my dignity!**"

Speaking at the event, Dina Denis, SCI-KireheField Manager, urged young girls to play their roles in fighting against gender-based violence and report whenever they experience any form of violence.

"You have to know your rights before fighting for them. You have the right to health care and to education. Whenever you experience any form of violence you have to report it in time,"-Dina Denis, SCI-Field Manager Said.



NDI UMWIGEME AWARENESS

In collaboration with the Ndi Umwigeme Platform, SCI conducted awareness sessions on Sexual and gender-based violence and child protection through the “Evening of Girls.”

In 2016, Save the Children established “Evening of Girls” through the “Ndi Umwigeme” platform which brings together all young girls living in Mahama Refugee Camp to discuss and campaign against the issues that affect their lives.

1,093 people including children and adults, were reached and as a result, early pregnancies reduced by 68.7%; from 16 in Quarter 3 to 11 cases in Quarter 4.



Tina*, 17, is one of the young girls who actively participated in the Ndi Umwigeme platform activities. When she arrived at the camp in 2015, she had limited knowledge of the issues that affect girls’ lives, like sexual and gender-based violence and other forms of violation.

Since then, Tina* started attending various sessions that were organized by the Ndi Umwigeme Platform, especially “Evening of Girls.” Because of this, her knowledge on sexual and gender-based violence improved. She later joined her peers to speak up for the rights of young girls in Mahama Refugee Camp.

“I am now able to say “NO” to sugar daddies. No man can manipulate me into sex because I am aware of all tricks they use.” Says Tina*, 17



RAISING AWARENESS ON CHILD LABOR

In collaboration with Child Protection Committees (CPCs), in October, Save the Children conducted an awareness-raising training on child labor in Mahama Camp.

The training aimed to prevent children from engaging in dangerous activities and urged small business owners to stop violating children's rights through economic activity employment in Mahama I market.

Speaking to the participants, Jean Pierre Hategekimana, Our Child Protection Officer, urged parents, business owners, and caregivers to avoid child exploitation and understand its effects on the children's lives and their future.

"You need to understand that child labor can physically and mentally harm a child. We recorded some children who missed school to go to the market to work for money. No child should live this way. Let's work together to stop child labor in our community. The time is now!"-Jean Pierre, said.

Because of this campaign, 268 children and 1,571 adults were reached. 53 children, who dropped out of school due to various child protection concerns, especially child labor also returned to school.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

On December 26, 2022, the child Protection and Nutrition team jointly conducted an awareness campaign against malnutrition and gender-based violence among adolescents and youths in Rwanda through different sports activities.

This campaign was organized as part of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence to help community members understand how it can affect the nutrition of adolescent girls, especially when they are sexually abused.

Chantal, the SCI-Caseworker, urged young girls to participate in prevention activities against gender-based violence to create a safe and conducive society for everyone.

“In order to eradicate the gender-based violence in our community, it requires collective efforts. Everyone should prevent, and report any gender based-violence case. Everyone is me, everyone is you.”-Said Chantal, SCI-Caseworker.

Approximately, 400 people, including children, adolescents, and youth were reached.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Following the mobilizations for parents to send children with disabilities to child-friendly spaces to participate in various recreational activities, disciplines of sports, and reading, Save the Children celebrated its interventions' success and the impact on children with disabilities on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

[Watch the video here](#)

ONGEZEA LOANS FUND



In 2022, *Kumwe Hub* launched the first set of loans to a cohort of 7 businesses that have innovative solutions to improve children's well-being in health and nutrition. While Financial Institutions offer loans at interest rates ranging between 23 and 30%, we have offered loans with a 10% interest.

To date, 6 child-focused businesses have received loans amounting to \$63,300, accompanied by 20 hours of business consultancy services. A mentoring programme has also been designed to link businesses to experienced mentors who will support them to grow and build valuable networks.

Kumwe Hub has initiated an impact measurement process that will track the impact businesses are having on the lives of children. A baseline study has been conducted to establish a basis for assessing changes in business performance and social impact on children.

To further increase business capabilities for expanding social impact, training workshops are being organized to accelerate the scale of impact that businesses can have on the lives of children.

The current cohort of businesses is set to increase access to nutritious products for children in vulnerable communities at prices they can afford.

[Watch the Ongezea Loan video here](#)

THE KUMWE HUB GRANTS

The Kumwe Hub Grants programme has taken place from September to December this year, between our African countries: Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Each country office was asked to design a programme in collaboration with Kumwe Hub, with the aim of investing in local businesses that would create a social impact for children and communities. Each country office received 20,000 USD to work with.

Tanzania designed the **Tanzania Emerging Youth Awards Programme (TEYA)**: a youth event aimed towards raising youth's profile, building capacity, and highlighting the contribution they make towards developing a fairer, sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous future for the United Republic of Tanzania. The TEYA found **7 social enterprise winners** run by youth entrepreneurs!

Rwanda's grant programme focused on supporting income-generating businesses working with adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH). The grants were given to **14 businesses** working with different ASRH themes: reusable sanitary pads, mapping pro-choice physicians, cartoons, podcasts, menstrual tracking devices, and employment opportunities for teens who are victims of gender-based violence.

Zambia designed a programme with Kumwe centered around supporting start-ups working with reusable menstrual pads, so that girls can stay in school. The grants were given to two income-generating businesses working with low-cost feminine hygiene products that can be sold in rural areas in Zambia.

Zimbabwe's grant programme is aimed at supporting Zimbabwean women and youth through the establishment of chicken hatchery businesses. The women and youths were provided with business development, SCI child safeguarding, and chicken hatchery training.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!

We would like to thank all our donors, partners, supporters, staff, volunteers, and every individual that has been with us throughout this year.

Thank you for making our 2022 a success.



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