

**TOP STORIES**

**THE INAUGURATION OF MAHAMA REFUGEE CAMP II MEDICALIZED HEALTH CENTRE**



On May 30, 2023, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management, Kirehe District, UNHCR and Save the Children (SC) inaugurated the Mahama Refugee Camp II Medicalized Health Centre worth 350 million Rwandan francs. The Medicalized Health Centre run by Save the Children can now provide advanced services that include cesarean section and blood transfusion services in Mahama Refugee Camp in Kirehe District.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Hon Zachee Iyakaremye, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, emphasized the importance of the Medicalized Health Centre in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, referrals to Kirehe District Hospital and cost by bringing the services closer to refugees and residents from the host community.

***“Mothers used to spend hours on the rough road to undergo Cesarean section operations at Kirehe District Hospital. This could result in maternal mortality and morbidity. Providing these emergency services within the camp will reduce the risks of maternal morbidity and mortality.”- Said Hon. Zachee Iyakaremye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health***

Jeannette, 31, underwent a successful cesarean section within the Mahama Refugee Camp. This enabled her family to care for her and her newborn baby efficiently through frequent visits, she did not experience an infection as before.

***“Undergoing the cesarean section within Mahama Refugee Camp helped me get cared for by my relatives. Both the baby and I didn’t get tired as before and we are all healthy. I was discharged from the health center after only two days of undergoing a successful cesarean section.” Said, Jeannette.***

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, SC recorded 71 successful cesarean section operations performed at Mahama Refugee Camp II Medicalized Health Centre.

Save the Children is grateful for the support from the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR and other donors such as BPRM, UNFPA and the Embassy of Japan who generously supported this great work. Since January 2023, SC was chosen by UNHCR as the leading implementing partner for health and nutrition in all refugee camps, including Kigeme, Kiziba, Mahama, Mugombwa and Nyabiheke, and transit centres. Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence were also expanded to cover the entire Mahama Refugee Camp and other locations like urban settings and Gashora ETM.

**SAVE THE CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN THE 3<sup>RD</sup> HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**



In Burundi, in May, Save the Children (SC) co-hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> high-level ministerial conference on the role of regional economic communities, regional mechanisms, and governments in promoting the youth, peace, and security agenda in the East Africa Region. The conference was honoured by the presence of His Excellency the President of Burundi.

Delivering his remarks during this high-level event, Geoffrey Kirenga, the Save the Children Mission Director in Burundi reflected on the moments of insecurity and conflicts that most countries of the region have experienced in the two last decades and that have negatively impacted people's well-being including children and young people who suffer more.

During the conference, SC and other partners advocated for inclusive policies and increased participation and meaningful engagement of young people in decision-making processes and programs. They also put emphasis on the partnership between the governments and young people to advance the East Africa Region's youth, peace, and security (YPS) agenda and the development of national roadmaps to implement the YPS agenda at the national level

In April, SC and Children's Voice Today through Sida Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Project in collaboration with EPRN, CLADHO, and UNICEF held a 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Dialogue on investing in children and young people in Rwanda.

The dialogue was intended to share the experience of citizen participation including children and adolescents' engagement, share the findings and recommendations from Fiscal Space 2021 and Budget briefs 2022/23 budget to strengthen the budget for priority sectors for children in Rwanda, and summarize the key priorities to be considered in the next budget for 2023/2024.

During the dialogue, SC shared experiences and lessons learned from children and adolescents' participation in planning and budgeting in Rwanda.

As a result, the Government of Rwanda and its partners committed to strengthening the mechanisms for the implementation of sustainable Public Financing for Children in Rwanda in 2022/23 and increasing awareness on gaps in addressing multidimensional Child Poverty in Rwanda.



# ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS

## AWARENESS RAISING ON CHILD LABOR IN MAHAMA REFUGEE CAMP BROUGHT 60 CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL



SC raised awareness which was intended to fight against child labor and promote children's rights in Mahama Refugee Camp

The awareness raising was undertaken after realizing the increase of children exposed to child labor and going to Gas sites to earn money by carrying gas. This put most children at risk of physical harm, abuse, exploitation, and dropping out of school. Community and local leaders committed to working with SC to handle this issue by identifying children with protection concerns, timely reporting of child labor cases, and strengthening the Child Protection Committees in their activities to prevent violence against refugee children with or without disabilities. Around 1,453 persons of concern including 604 children were reached.

As a result of this awareness raising, 35 children; including 12 children withdrawn from child labor; were helped to return to school.



## INTEGRATED MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH WEEK

In June, Save the Children conducted Maternal and Child Health Week (MCH) in Mahama, Kiziba, Nyabiheke, Kigeme, and Mugombwa Refugee Camps.

The Maternal and Child Health Week was organized to increase awareness regarding the use of preventive and curative services and provide key preventive services (including Polio vaccines, malnutrition prevention, and family planning), dissemination of messages for promoting hygiene and sanitation in the camps, and identify new cases for early treatment.

Among the services provided to refugee children during the MCH week were: deworming tablets, vitamin A, malnutrition screening, and family planning.

During the campaign, Save the Children reached 41,339 children and their families through health services and education sessions.

## CHILD-LED ADVOCACY RESULTED IN RETURNING 14 STREET CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL

Children who have been empowered by Save the Children in partnership with Children's Voice Today (CVT) through Sida CSOs Project engaged local leaders to advocate for children who dropped out of school and ended up in streets.

The young advocates reported that their fellow children dropped out and joined the streets due to various reasons including poverty, violence in different settings, and conflicts in their families.

As a result, 14 street children from the Burera District of Northern Rwanda were reunited with their families and re-enrolled in School. The children received school kits and their parents and caregivers got sensitized on positive parenting to ensure that these children are safe and happy in their families.

“Today, I am in P4 and I perform well in class. I am committed not to dropping out of school again. My life has changed since I re-enrolled in school. My relationship with my parent has improved since I reunited with her.”

Said Kevin\*, 14 years old.







# PREVENTING **EARLY AND UNWANTED PREGNANCIES** IN MAHAMA REFUGEE CAMP

Since January 2023, Save the Children has raised awareness on the prevention of Early and unwanted pregnancies among 17,142 adolescents and youth in Mahama Refugee Camp.

The awareness was intended to encourage community members to take a lead in the prevention of Early and unwanted pregnancies by empowering and equipping adolescents and young people with knowledge about their rights and sexual and reproductive health.

During the awareness, refugees discussed the key factors of early and unwanted pregnancies among adolescents, their consequences on their lives, and the parents' contribution to preventing early pregnancies among adolescents in Rwandan Camps.

The assessment; conducted in May; revealed that the early pregnancy cases decreased from 16 in Quarter 4, 2022 to 12 in Quarter 1, 2023.

## THE PROVISION OF SOLAR POWER KITS TO FAMILIES TO PROMOTE A SAFE BACK TO SCHOOL

Save the Children worked with the Rwanda Education Board to design back-to-school messages targeting key stakeholders including parents, local leaders, community members, and schools to ensure that all children go back to school. These messages are being broadcast countrywide using different channels including radios, social media platforms, etc.

In addition to this, Save the Children secured funding to implement a safe back-to-school project called Leveraging Innovation to Generate Home Technology for School (LIGHTS), which provides solar power kits to 1,000 families, who in turn accept to send their children back to school.

The project will be implemented in two districts of Rwanda (Kamonyi and Ruhango).

## OTHER KEY ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. In collaboration with the Rwanda Basic Education Board, USAID-Schools and Systems developed a Social Emotional Learning Framework to be incorporated into the Pre-primary and Lower Primary Curricula and used in Rwandan schools during the next school year (2023-2024).
2. In collaboration with the Rwanda Basic Education Board, USAID School and Systems developed the Social Behavior Change Strategy to ensure the community, the school, and the policymakers, are on board to support emergent literacy in schools, at home, and the community. This strategy is in the process of being approved by the Rwanda Basic Education Board.
3. Save the Children contributed to the development of the Strategy against school dropout and repetition that was initiated by the Ministry of Education that will be in use for the coming five years





# EMERGENCY RESPONSES

## THE FLOODING IN BURUNDI



Burundi is among the 20 countries most affected by climate change globally. The majority of the humanitarian needs faced by the country's populations are caused by recurring climate-related disasters. Over 114,000 people (84% of the internally displaced population in Burundi) are displaced due to natural disasters.

Since 2020, 2021 and 2022, over 100,000 people were affected by the flooding of Lake Tanganyika and the main rivers, and thousands of these people still live in Internally Displaced People sites established in Kinyinya and Sobel in Mutimbuzi commune.

In this quarter, the Gatumba area was again affected by an overflow of the Rusizi River causing additional 3,200 persons including 2,004 children living in Kinyinya, Mushasha, Gaharawe, and Vugizo locations to seek shelters in Internally Displaced People sites.

To respond to this situation, Save the Children Burundi trained community volunteers that can support in such instances and continue to monitor the areas along the Lake Tanganyika and Rusizi Rivers.

## EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE IN BURUNDI



In June, Emergency Humanitarian Unity from our Head Quarters in London arrived in Burundi to be on the frontline to respond to the Cholera outbreak. The Ministry of Health of Burundi also introduced our team to the operations field of the Cholera response.

The team visited Gatumba Hospital where there are Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC) and the affected area to analyze the existing asset, assess the capacity of the medical staff and identify the gaps. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 538 cases of cholera were confirmed in eight health districts.

SC team is working with the Ministry Of Public Health and Control of HIV AIDS (through the Operations Center for Public Health Emergencies) to reduce the spread of cholera by providing information awareness messaging to the affected population and increasing their access to WASH services and hygiene practices.

## THE DRC'S NEW INFLUX OF ASYLUM SEEKERS TO RWANDA



The escalation in fighting within the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo resulted in an increase in new asylum seekers arriving in Rwanda. As of March, over 6,387 asylum seekers have arrived in Rwanda, of which over 3,100 are children. 4,511 asylum seekers are accommodated in Nkamira Transit Centre while 1,760 are in Mahama Refugee Camp.

Save the Children immediately responded and worked with the Government of Rwanda and UNHCR to start operating a health post. Save the Children is providing health, nutrition, and child protection services to asylum seekers hosted in the Nkamira Transit Site and Mahama departure center. Around 4,732 asylum seekers, including 3,266 children have been reached through Health and Nutrition interventions, while 587 children; including 261 Unaccompanied and Separated Children; have been reached through child protection and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence interventions since January 2023.

Thanks to other partners; including UNFPA and UNICEF; for supporting our work in Nkamira Transit Centre. However, more funds are needed to support more children and their families in need of humanitarian assistance, especially helping them access improved health and nutrition services and support more children with protection concerns with psychosocial support and other basic needs.

## THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MEASLES IN MAHAMA REFUGEE CAMP



Following the campaign against measles conducted by Save the Children in collaboration with the Ministry of Health at Mahama Refugee Camp, 21,136 children aged between 9 months and 15 years old were vaccinated from March 20 to 24, 2023.

The campaign was organized after realizing the increase in measles cases among children, mostly new arrivals. Around 55 cases were recorded in January this year.

The campaign was intended to raise the herd immunity and health status of children and contribute to the country's efforts in measles elimination.

As a result, the number of measles cases in Mahama Refugee Camp decreased by 25% (55 in January to 14 in March) in June 2023.



## EDUCATION

### COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE PROGRAM (COP) TRAINING

USAID Tunoze Gusoma Project held training for school leaders, and pre-primary and lower primary Kinyarwanda coaches on the implementation of the school-based Communities of Practice Program in 28 districts across Rwanda, from January to June, 2023.

The training was intended to equip the Kinyarwanda coaches with knowledge of the Communities of Practice (CoP) program to help them improve the quality of literacy teaching in pre-primary and lower primary classes. As of June 30, over **11,600** Early Child Education (ECE) mentors, Directors of Studies, Head Teachers, School Based mentors, Sector Education Inspectors, and School Subject leads of Kinyarwanda were trained and are implementing the Communities of Practice Program in their everyday school activities.

“*I improved my teaching skills after attending the training. As Kinyarwanda teachers, we meet twice a week to discuss challenges we face while teaching, share lessons learned, and find solutions together to improve the quality of education among pre-primary children.*”

*Said Victoire Ingabire, a teacher at G.S Gasabo*



### 1,200 HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITED FROM PARENTING SESSIONS IN KIREHE DISTRICT

In partnership with Umuhuza Organization under the LEGO Foundation fund, Save the Children empowered 1,200 households to integrate Play into their interactions with young children for supporting their healthy growth and learning outcomes in Kirehe District.

The project targeted parents of children aged 0-3 years through 17 community-based parenting education sessions facilitated by community volunteers and home visits to ensure that parents and caregivers engage in different activities with their children to stimulate their learning, growth, and development.

As a result of these parenting sessions, parents and caregivers have improved their skills in parenting by making time for their children and engaging them in play activities, and continuing positive discipline practice. 1,200 children aged 0-3; who were reached through the project; improved their social and emotional skills.

“*My child’s brain has developed and he has improved his relationship with me and others. He is willing to play with the materials I made for him. You can see that he is not shy and he is always active because of playing with him.*”

*Fabien, 30 years- old father*



*Playing with a child while at home, develops his/her brain*



*Learning through games improves a child’s relationship with his/her parents and peers.*



**CHILD PROTECTION (CP), SEXUAL & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV), CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE (CRG)**

**THE HEIRS GREEN CAMP FOR ECO-CLUB MEMBERS**

In March, under the Sida CSOs Project, Nature Rwanda organized the Heirs Green Camp for Eco-Clubs members to build their capacity for environmental and climate advocacy in Musanze District.

This activity was intended to promote children’s participation and commitment towards environmental conservation through community action and advocacy activities. During Heirs Green Camp, children actively participated in group discussions on *their* role in environmental conservation to battle climate change and global warming for future generations. Children got an opportunity to visit and learn about environmental and wildlife conservation places, like the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund, and Mpenge River.

The camp was organized as a part of a project that aims at supporting the fulfillment of children's rights to a safe, healthy, and clean environment in Rwanda.



**RWANDAN CHILDREN ATTENDED THE AFRICA CHILDREN SUMMIT**

In collaboration with Children’s Voice Today (CVT), Save the Children facilitated Rwandan children to attend the Africa Children Summit that was held in Kenya under the theme: “Seen, heard and Engaged.”

The Summit was a continental forum that seeks to give children a platform for participation in shaping policies and program interventions around issues affecting them. The conference is also designed to deliver unscripted and authentic dialogue between policymakers and children. Africa Children Summit brought together children, public figures, experts, and government officials, to discuss and showcase new risks and new opportunities in the rapidly changing world.

During the event, children shared their experiences on matters of children's rights and protection, unique challenges faced, interventions by their governments, & solutions to issues.



**CHILD-LED ADVOCACY DIALOGUE WITH THE MAYOR OF NYAMAGABE DISTRICT**

In collaboration with Nature Rwanda, Save the Children held an advocacy dialogue with the Mayor of the Nyamagabe District (in the South of Rwanda) on climate change and other issues affecting children’s well-being, including the lack of electricity that hinders children from using technology (like computers) in their schools, and the lack of rainwater tanks that can help to prevent erosion and improve the accessibility of clean water in their schools, among others.

This advocacy dialogue was organized in line with the 16 days of the children’s action campaign running from June 1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The District’s Mayor committed to engaging all local leaders and district technical staff in children’s activities that are intended to promote environmental conservation and improve the relationship with eco-clubs and the district through regular reports, distributing electricity to different schools to be able to access technology, and set up 108 tanks in some schools of the district during the fiscal year of 2023-2024.





## THE IZIHIRWE KIBONDO CAMPAIGN IN MAHAMA REFUGEE CAMP



In January, through the nutrition program, Save the Children joined Kirehe District and other partners to conduct a one-month campaign against malnutrition and stunting among children.

The campaign, entitled “Izihirwe Kibondo”, was initiated in the fights against malnutrition and stunting amongst children in the district of Kirehe. Save the Children participated in the Izihirwe Kibondo campaign to strengthen the prevention measures and eradicate any form of stunting among children, especially in Mahama Refugee Camp.

According to the 2020 Demographic and Health Survey report, the stunting rate among under-five-year-old children at a national level is 33.1%, while in Kirehe District is 31.3%. The SENS (Standardized, and Expanded Nutrition Survey) report; released in 2021; also shows that the stunting rate is 24.4% in Mahama Refugee Camp.

During Izihirwe Kibondo Campaign, 7,677 under-five-year-old children were screened for malnutrition. From the screening that was conducted in January, 99 malnutrition cases were Identified, as of March, the findings show that 87 % (86) of them have recovered and were discharged from the community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM).

## REGIONAL KUMWE HUB EXPANSION



Following the host of representatives from 12 Save the Children countries across East and Southern Africa for the Kumwe Hub Regional Accelerator Week, Kumwe Hub has expanded its activities to Zimbabwe, Somalia, and Uganda Country Offices.

During the regional expansion Kick-Off meeting, these Country Offices briefly shared the key focus of their action plans and how they intend to utilize the allocated \$40K. To socialize their plans, and get additional feedback, thoughts, and ideas from peers in the room to refine their plans or inform their next steps.

Kumwe (Kinyarwanda for ‘together’) Hub is an Africa-focused innovative finance and social investment entity within Save the Children. It supports the growth, success, and sustainability of local businesses; who are having a positive impact on children; through an array of technical support, investments, and services.

## WORKSHOP FOR THE ‘BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE’

The Kumwe Hub team facilitated a three-day Co-Design Workshop for the ‘Bridging the Digital Divide’ program in the Mahama Refugee Camp and Kigali Urban.

This workshop was intended to discuss the problems refugees experience when it comes to connectivity to the internet by playing ideation games to come up with solutions to these problems. These sessions brought together refugee children, youth, and parents along with ministries (MINEMA & ICT Ministry), camp partners (e.g. Inkomoko, Maison Shalom, Red Cross, etc.), and market providers (MTN, Airtel, Liquid, Canal Box, and Mango).

## MASS SCREENING FOR MALNUTRITION IN NKAMIRA TRANSIT CENTRE



*SC nutritionists regularly conduct malnutrition screening to identify new cases for early treatment and conduct awareness raising that aim to prevent malnutrition among children in Nkamira Transit*

Save the Children (SC) conducted a malnutrition mass screening to identify malnutrition cases for early treatment in Nkamira Transit Centre in April 2023.

The screening was organized under UNICEF Fund to raise awareness of the prevention of malnutrition among children aged 0-59 months and detect children with malnutrition cases. 1,738 children were reached, and of those 4.4% (78) were diagnosed with malnutrition.

Since then, SC nutritionists started following up with identified children with malnutrition, providing them with food supplements and organizing nutrition education sessions for their parents on the best way to prepare a well-balanced diet for children, breastfeeding, and hygiene. Today, 48.7 % (38 of 78) of malnourished children recovered from malnutrition.



# THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING ASSESSMENT

In order to measure the quality of access to early childhood education, appropriate parental support to create conducive home environments, and effective implementation of the Early Childhood Development curriculum in Rwanda, SC is advocating the institutionalization of the International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA) as the national assessment tool for pre-primary schools.

SC through the USAID Tunonze Gusoma project, developed the concept note for IDELA institutionalization that will guide the whole process.

In addition, the findings from the IDELA conducted at the pre-primary level in 2022, were presented in different conferences including the National Symposium for Foundational Learning organized by the Ministry of Education.

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



On March 8, 2023, SC joined other humanitarian partners to celebrate International Women's Day with the theme: "Digital all: Innovation and technology for gender equality" at Mahama, Mugombwa, and Kigeme Refugee Camps, Gashora ETM and Kigali Urban.

**At the event, SCI participated in various activities:**

- In Mahama Refugee Camp, young girls who were supported by SC in accessing digital learning resources through tablet sessions testified how they improved their skills. And Ndi Umwigeme platform members exhibited the handcrafts they produced to improve their well-being.
- At Gashora ETM, SC joined other partners to award the excellent girl student in IT at New Explorers Girls Academy located in the host community at Bugesera District.
- At Kigeme, SC and its partners awarded four women excelling in IGA innovative activities with manufactured baskets and hygienic materials.
- In Kigali Urban, SC conducted discussions around the importance of the use of technology among girls and women.

### THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD (DAC)



*The DAC celebration in Rwanda started with the walk to encourage community members to promote the safe use of technology among children*



*The top performers of the poetry competition were awarded with hygienic kits*



*In Burundi, children entertained participants during DAC Celebration*

In line with the preparation and celebration of the Day of African Child (DAC) in Rwanda and Burundi under the theme "The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment", Save the Children (SC) conducted different activities to promote the use of technology, including:

- 16 days of children's action digital campaign that was intended to call on all actors to promote the use of the Internet and safe technologies amongst children and prevent children from the risks that they can experience while using the Internet
- Awareness raising on the use of tablets among refugee children through child-friendly spaces in Mahama Refugee Camp and Ideas Box Spaces in Burundian Refugee Camps.
- Awarding top five performers during the poetry competitions around the Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment in all Child-Friendly Spaces in Rwanda.

During the DAC celebration, SC also committed to joining the government's stakeholders to support everything possible to protect children from online abuse including the 3 months Child Online Protection campaign.



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

In collaboration with other partners, on February 6, Save the Children celebrated the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation at Gashora ETM.

It was an opportunity to call all stakeholders for their engagement in ending Female Genital Mutilation, celebrate achievements, advocate for the abandonment of the practice, and raise awareness to ensure that the community understands its effects on girls' and women's health and well-being.

Parents and community mobilizers were urged to play a vital role in fighting against and eliminating this damaging practice. Over 200 million girls and women have been affected by Female Genital Mutilation in 30 countries around the world. This year, 4.2 million girls are at risk of gender-based violence if communities, states, and international organizations don't speak out against it.

## VOICE OF BENEFICIARIES

### THE IMPACT OF TEENAGE MOTHERS' DAYCARE ON CHILDREN



Daria\*, 17 years old, is an unaccompanied child and she lives with her 15-month-old child in Mahama Refugee Camp. Daria\* was in P5 when she was defiled, got pregnant, and gave birth. So, she dropped out of school to take care of her child. However, Daria\* had limited knowledge of preparing a well-balanced diet for her child, and childcare practices. This affected Daria\*'s child's nutrition status and social development.

***"I had no knowledge about caring for my child and preparing a well-balanced diet for him. So, this affected his nutrition status and physical growth as he couldn't walk and weighed only 3 kgs when he was 9 months old. And he could not express his emotions to anyone."***  
**Says Daria\***

Since October 2022, Save the Children (SC) has been running a daycare for teen mothers; under the Gender-Based Violence policy small grant through the UNHCR fund; to help them go back to school or earn a living while their children are being cared for, fed, and protected in the daycare.

Daria\*'s child is one of 18 children aged between 6 to 36 months of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence survivors who are being accommodated in the daycare. Today, Daria\* can work to earn a living and the basic needs of her child, the weight of her child increased to 6 KGs, and his social, emotional, and communication skills have improved.

***"After my child was accommodated in the daycare, his weight increased to 6 Kg. Today, he plays with others, and he is able to walk."***  
**Says Daria\***

Daria\*, like other teen mothers, strongly recommends SC and UNHCR not to close the daycare to keep her child healthy, and protected and enable her to attend vocational training for a better future with her child.

## IMPROVED NUTRITION SERVICES DELIVERY



Seraphine, 40 years old, is a mother of five children living in Mahama Refugee Camp since 2015. Her 9-year daughter was diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition because of a digestive disorder and she had limited knowledge of preparing a balanced diet for her child. So, her child was immediately admitted to and discharged as cured from Supplementary Food Program.

***"My daughter had a digestive disorder when she was 3 years old, and I had no means to find a balanced diet for her and limited knowledge to prepare a well-balanced diet for her. So, she was diagnosed with malnutrition."***  
**Seraphine said**

In 2017, Seraphine started attending nutrition training, organized by Save the Children for parents of children with malnutrition, on the best ways to prepare a balanced diet for children. She and her peers then learned to establish kitchen gardens with used bags.

Currently, Seraphine and her colleagues have kitchen gardens at home where they get vegetables to prepare nutritious food for their children. As a result, Seraphine's daughter is healthy and there are no more malnutrition cases in her village.

***"Because of the nutrition sessions we attended, we improved the nutrition of our children. Before you could find two or three children with malnutrition in my village, but today, there is a decrease in the malnourished children in our village."***  
**Seraphine said**





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SHOULD LIVE  
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Burundi is among the 20 countries most affected by climate change globally. The majority of the humanitarian needs faced by the country's populations are caused by recurring climate-related disasters. Over 114,000 people (84% of the internally displaced population in Burundi) are displaced due to natural disasters.

Since 2020, over 100,000 people were affected by the flooding of Lake Tanganyika and the main rivers, and thousands of these people still live in IDP sites established at Kinyinya and Sobel in Mutimbuzi commune

During the night of April 3 to 4, 2023, the Gatumba area was one more time victim of an overflow of the Rusizi River causing additional 3,200 persons including 2,004 children living in Kinyinya, Mushasha, Gaharawe, and Vugizo locations to seek shelter in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) sites and others are scattered in households in non-flooded areas.

No death or injury cases were recorded, but the existing situation has put more children at high risk of exploitation emotional and physical abuse, and diseases linked to the use of dirty water, and forced them to drop out of school because of the loss of their scholastic materials and the distraction of their classes.

Save the Children Burundi is responding to this situation by providing child protection and Gender Based Violence services to children and families affected by flooding and equipping community volunteers with knowledge and skills in supporting and conducting monitoring visits to the families living in the areas along Lake Tanganyika and Rusizi River.

However, Save the Children Burundi will need more funds to ensure all affected children are healthy, protected, and learning as the flooding is likely to continue until June. The lives of 800,000 people including children living in the affected areas are in danger if nothing is done. No child should live this life!

## VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS ASSOCIATIONS (VSLAS)



Save the Children initiated, supported, and supervised the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) approach in Burundi as a part of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response. The program intends to support foster families for unaccompanied and separated children, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), and refugees engaged in income-generating activities; including small trade, Farming & breeding of goats, pigs, chickens, and ducks, manufacturing, and sale of porridge flour.

Around 37 VSLAs with 851 members were established in five refugee camps. As a result, the income of families has increased, and parents were able to provide for their children with basic needs, and 57 children were helped to return to school.

***"VSLA activities came at the right moment! I got a small loan from the ZIGANYA group and then, following the training that I got from Save the Children staff training, I started this small business. Now I can cover the basic needs for my children, I do not count only on the food portion which, most of the time delays." Says Mia, a 30 years-member of a Village Saving and Loan Association.***

## IMPACT OF IDEAS BOX SPACES ON CHILDREN

As refugee children make up 52% of 85,000 refugees and asylum seekers, children are exposed to various forms of violations including physical abuse, child neglect, juvenile delinquency, and sexual gender-based violence.

As a part of the Child Protection program in refugee camps based in Burundi, Save the Children promotes child socio-recreative and learning sessions regularly conducted in spaces named "Ideas Box spaces" that were set by Bibliothèque sans Frontière (BSF).

The Ideas Box are mobile "pop-up" multimedia center and learning hubs that provide educational and cultural resources to communities in need, including refugees and displaced persons. Each Ideas Box is customized to meet local needs by collaborating with organizations, leaders, and members within the community.

In refugee camps, Ideas boxes are spaces open 5 days a week to refugee communities and especially to children where they enjoy various games, explore and learn by themselves Under the supervision of Save the Children staff and volunteers.

In this quarter, 15,813 children participated in Various activities that were conducted in the ideas box spaces, including training for children on Child Protection rights, IT skills, Gender Based Violence prevention, reading sessions, child-led presentations, and talent shows. All these activities helped children learn and achieve their dreams.

***"Before I had joined ideas box activities, I felt shy to express myself in public. But today I am more confident in engaging in discussions with others, and I am involved in decision-making at home. I gained knowledge on child rights and the use of digital tools. I can easily search lessons using." -Said Didier\*, 13 years old.***

[Watch the video](#)





## PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE, AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT THE PRODECI-TURIKUMWE CONSTRUCTION SITE IN BURUNDI

Due to the limited knowledge of the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) among employees at the PRODECI-TURIKUMWE construction site in Burundi, some employees might face Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment during the execution of the project. This could mostly affect women and result in various consequences like losing their jobs, and confidence, increasing depression, and decreasing productivity at work. This could also demotivate women to join construction careers to earn a living.

To prevent GBV at the construction sites, Save the Children Burundi was commissioned to implement the activities of prevention of Sexual Abuse Exploitation and Sexual Harassment risks, elaborate mitigation plans, and response activities through the Integrated Community Development Project (PRODECI-TURIKUMWE) funded by the World Bank.

Among the activities conducted in partnership with the Government of Burundi include the workshops to disseminate the referral and management protocol for GBV, Sexual Abuse Exploitation, and Sexual Harassment survivors, raising workforce awareness of the code of conduct on sites under construction, biannual meetings to analyze the risks of GBV, Sexual Abuse Exploitation, and Sexual Harassment, and training for community-based GBV focal persons.

As a result, male and female employees feel safe and valued at construction sites, and women are motivated to join the construction career.

Triphonie, a 21-year-old mother of one child, started working with the PRODECI-TURIKUMWE construction site at Rusimbuko Health Center after attending a couple of mobilization events that were intended to encourage women to learn hands-on skills. So, she embarked on a masonry apprenticeship. Today, she is a better mason working with men and free from any form of violence at her workplace as a result of workshops on GBV organized for them.

*“In the beginning, it was not easy as my colleagues discouraged me saying that this profession is so tough and I may face sexual exploitation. But following the Save the Children’s awareness on the prevention of GBV, I felt more confident and ready to learn and prove my competency at the construction site.” Triphonie says*

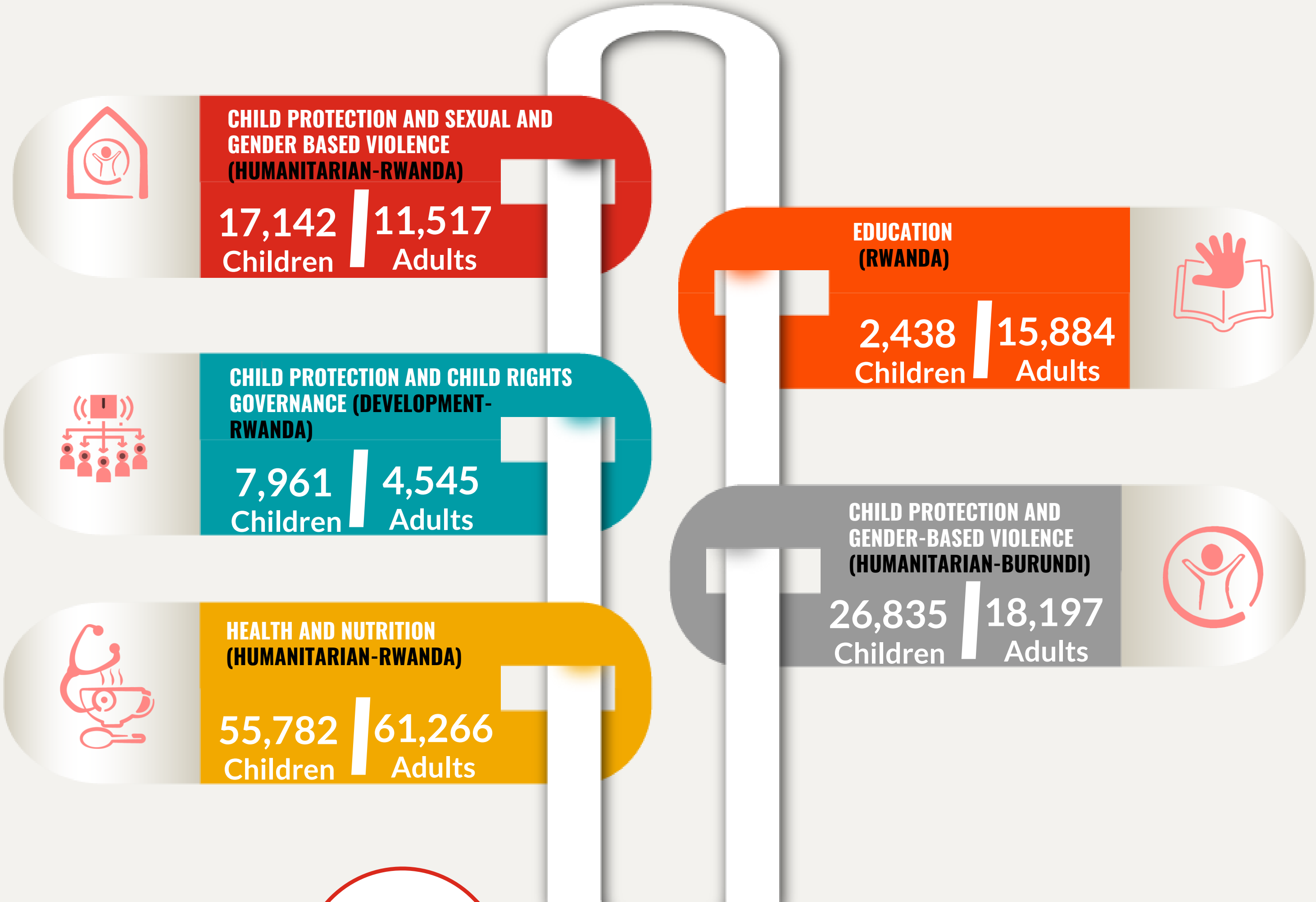
Furthermore, Triphonie inspired other women to join the construction sites to earn a living. A safe and conducive working environment helped Triphonie be productive and be able to earn money to take care of her child and improve her agriculture and small livestock farming projects.

From January to June, Save the Children reached 6,621 people; including 2,545 females and 4,076 males through awareness and training.





OUR PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI (January to June 2023)



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