

Rwanda & Burundi Country Office

QUARTLEY NEWSLETTER

Quarter
01.2022

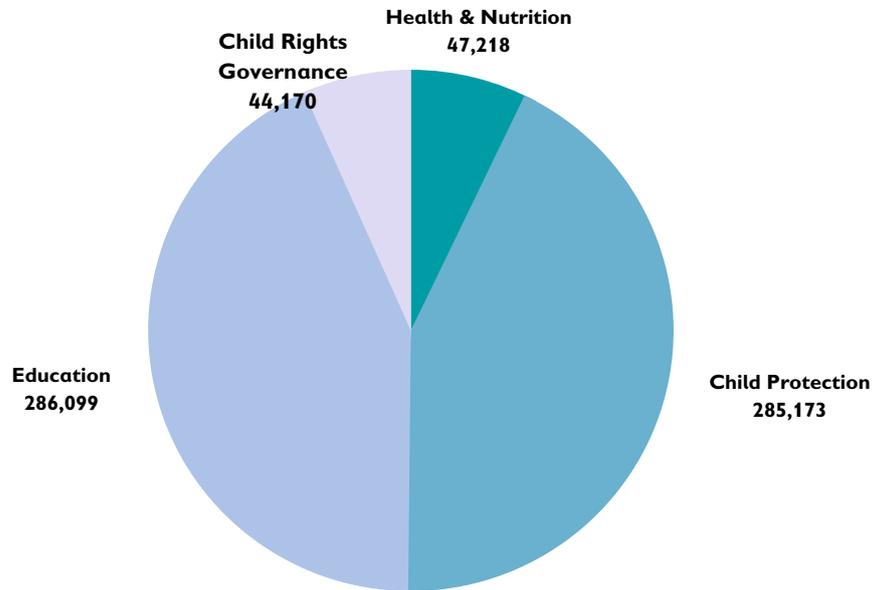


What have we been up to in Q1 2022

2021 Rwanda and Burundi Country Office Total Reach

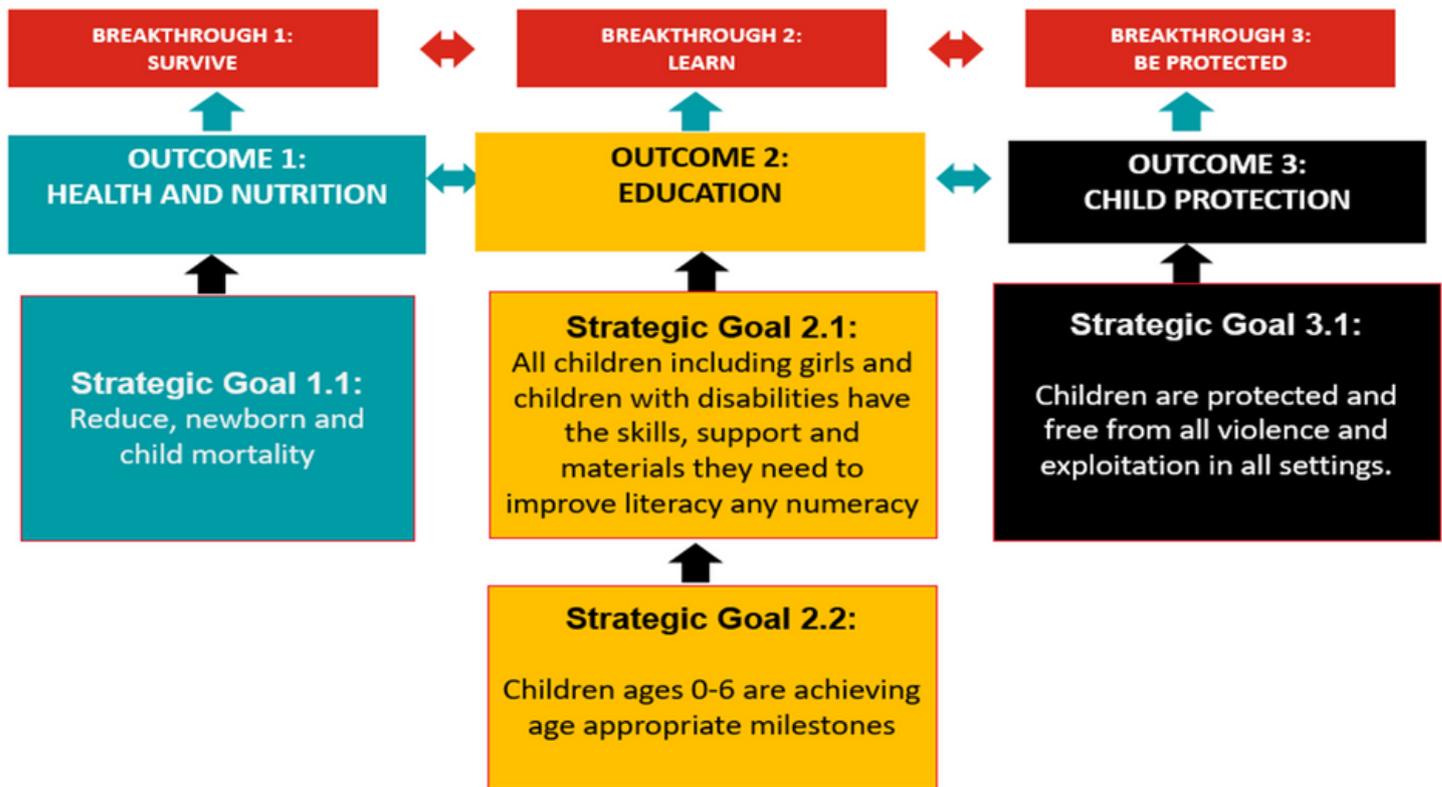
We would like to thank you!
Your generous support allowed us to directly assist 621,697 people in 2021, among them 486,907 children.

In 2022, we continue to serve the communities in Rwanda and Burundi and do whatever it takes to save children.

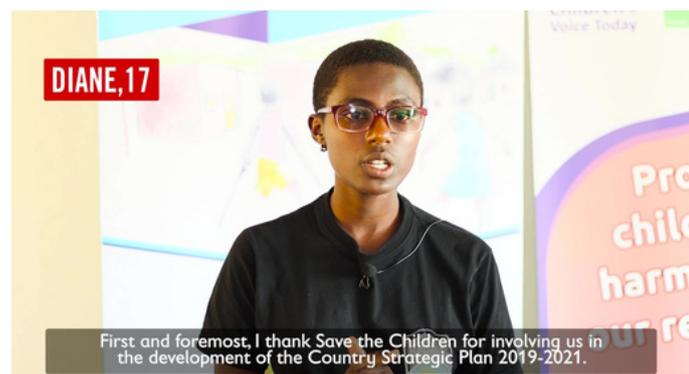


Take a Look Back At Our 2019-2021 Country Strategic Plan

2019-21 CSP Background



Here is short [video](#) of some of our key achievements from 2019-2021 strategic plan.



Here is a [video](#) from children who participated in the development and implementation of our 2019-2021 strategic plan.

Launched our new Country Strategic Plan (2022-2024)

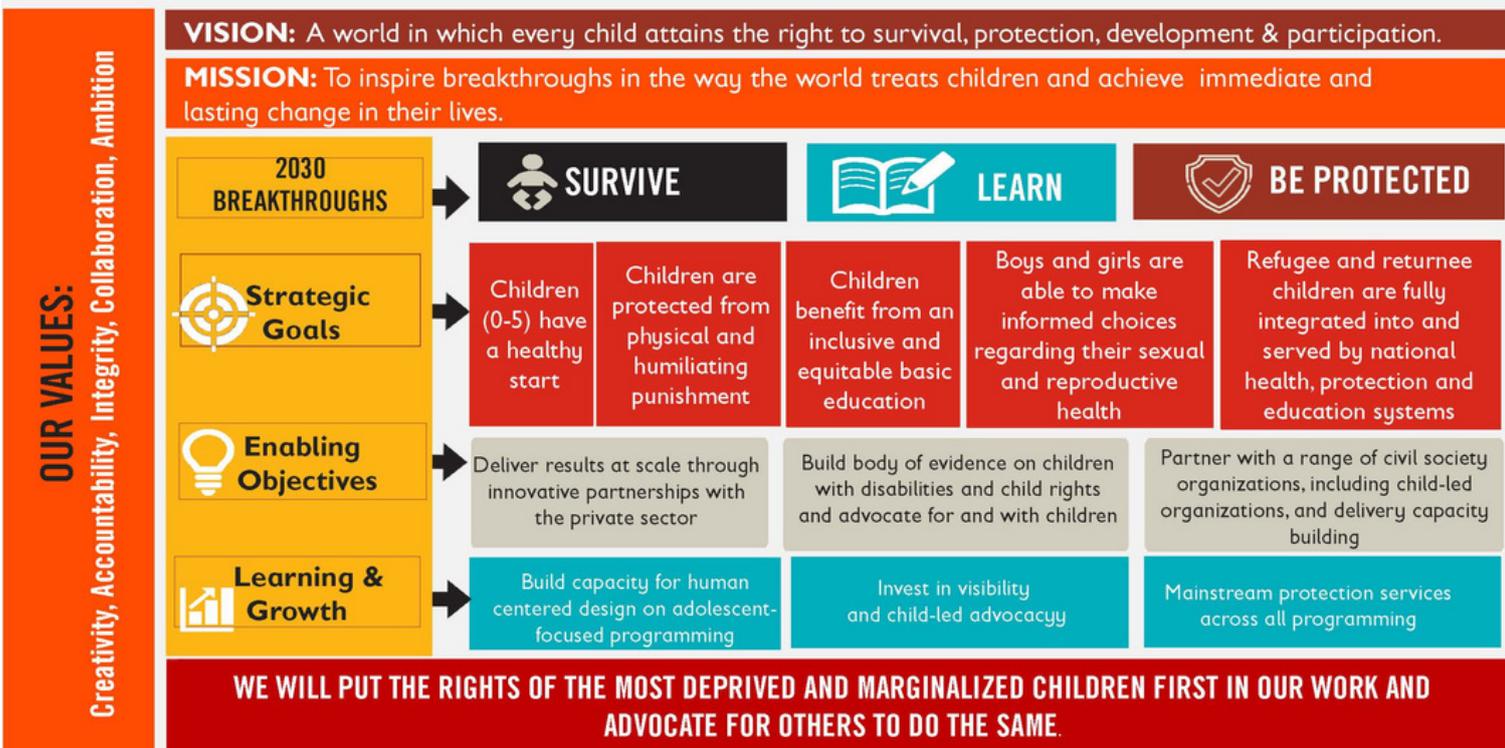
On the 29th of March 2022, We officially launched our country strategic plan. As Save the Children, we wanted to celebrate and communicate the achievements made during the implementation of our last Strategic Plan (2019-2021) while sharing the challenges faced and learnings. We also wanted our stakeholders including children to be aware of Save the Children's new Strategic Plan and priorities for easy coordination, partnerships and building synergies.

The launch was held virtually on teams attended by over 90 participants consisting of different stakeholders that include Government entities, UN agencies, Donors, International and National NGOs, Various Partners, our staff and members and most importantly children.



Here is a [video](#) from children who participated in the development of our 2022-2024 strategic plan.

2022-24 RWANDA & BURUNDI COUNTRY OFFICE STRATEGY MAP

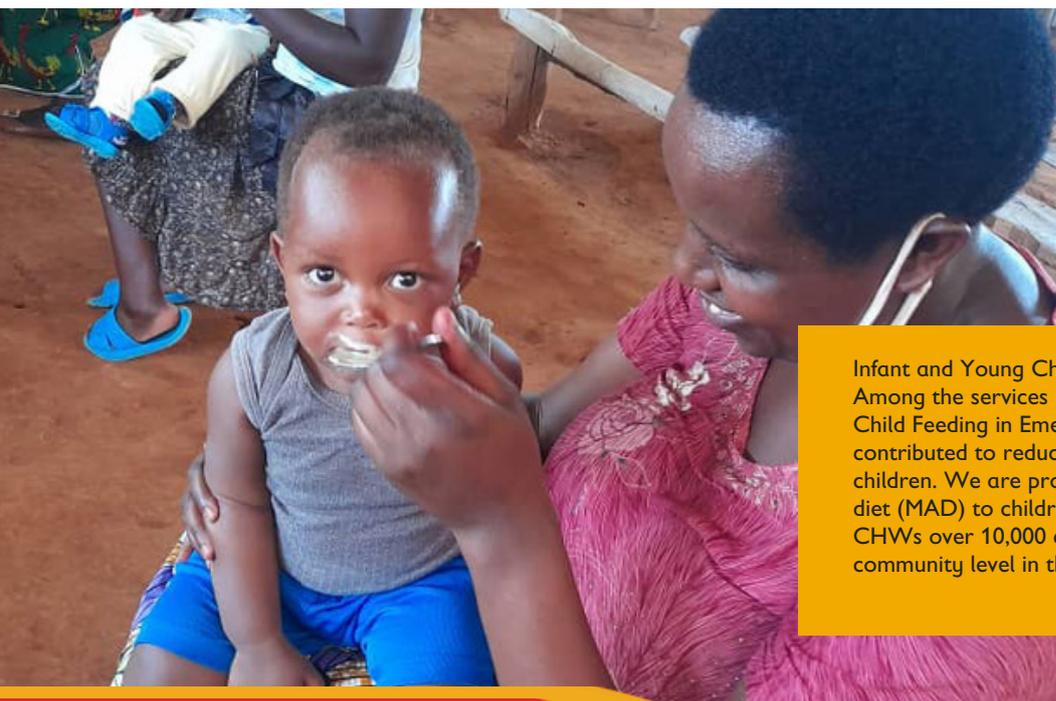


HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE - Mahama Camp

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- 16,657 (7,276 M; 9,381 F) people in Mahama camp received primary health care assistance.
- In this quarter, we had 834 (244M; 590F) inpatients and 17,968 (776M ; 10,207F) outpatients
- We conducted capacity building to community health workers (CHWs), villages leaders and camp executive committees on tuberculosis prevention.
- 15 CHWs in charge of maternal and child health were trained on strengthening maternal and child health at community level.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding program (IYCF): 228 inpatients received fresh food and milk, we also continued our supplementary feeding program for children, pregnant and lactating women, people living with HIV as well as infants in our emergency feeding programming who are fighting malnutrition.
- In Mahama Camp, we received 1,738 (718M, 1,020F) malnutrition cases in this quarter.
- Gatore reception centre continues to be busy with our teams supporting 641 new refugee arrivals in health, nutrition, and child protection. Notably of the 11 children screened at Gatore for malnutrition, 3 of them had confirmed cases and were admitted to our community management acute and moderate malnutrition program.
- 199 refugees from Mahama and Gatore reception centre were repatriated back to Burundi. Our teams were responsible for medical screening and testing for COVID for those returning home. We also provided medical escorts up to the border to ensure that transition is safe for everyone and those with particular medical needs are well looked after.

With support from the Japan Government, UNFPA provided Save the Children with some health medical equipment that will be used in our medicalized health centre to improve the health conditions of refugees in general but children and mothers in particular. We are grateful for their generous support and continued collaboration.



Infant and Young Child Feeding Program (IYCF) in Mahama Camp: Among the services in Nutrition, we have the Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergency (IYCF-E) which has significantly contributed to reducing malnutrition problems among refugee children. We are proud of the increase of the minimum acceptable diet (MAD) to children under two years. In collaboration with CHWs over 10,000 children were screened for malnutrition at community level in this quarter.

CHILD PROTECTION

As of 28th February 2022, MINEMA's statistics show that Rwanda counts 127,269 individuals of the population of concern. Congolese make up 60.65% of the total refugee population in Rwanda while Burundians are 39.09%. The urban refugees make up 0.33% of the total population, children make up 48% of the registered population while women and children are 75% of the registered population.

- In this Quarter we saw 8,245 Children at our child friendly spaces activities and 6,489 Adolescents aged 10-24 at our youth friendly space activities.
- In our case management interventions, on the 3rd of February, we kicked off the 12th intake of our positive parenting and positive discipline training. It's an evidence based four-week intensive training whereby parents are trained on all types of child abuse and its mitigation, as well as children rights. This type of training has proven invaluable for lowering the number of child protection cases we see, not just in Rwanda but in many countries where its used.
- Gatore reception centre is back up and running (and very busy again) with Save the Children collaborating with other partners there, to receive and process 641 new Burundian refugees in the first quarter of 2022.
- As part of our work to identify vulnerable adolescents and youth, in order to provide them with services such as Adolescents, Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) amongst other services, our teams carried out a door to door demographic census that ended in late January. The census study showed us that there are 8,069 adolescents and youth aged from 10 to 24 years old in Mahama II. Among them are 3,890 males (48.2%) and 4179 females (51.8%). This is very important data for ensuring our work is targeted.

Our teams continued to deliver comprehensive case management to refugee children this Mahama, Kigali and Huye, as well as Gatore and Nyanza reception centres. In collaboration with MINEMA and Kirehe district local entities, We were able to reunify 21 children with their families in this quarter.

[PHOTO] Sandrine, aged 12, had lived with her family in Mahama camp until her family went out in search of better livelihood in the host community. Sandrine returned to Mahama camp alone and started displaying disruptive behaviour. Sandrine was later reunited with her family, but the family continued to struggle in the host community and decided to return in the camp where we continue to follow up on them and many more families like this.



BURUNDI SUB-OFFICE

- Thanks to UNHCR we received another car (Land cruiser 4x4 so very useful for our work) to support our humanitarian response in all 5 camps.
- In early March our Burundi team received a new convoy of 329 urban refugees, who were transferred to Munyinga and the Sangore transit center. The initial child protection assessments showed that among them were 12 children with specific needs who were identified for follow-up and who will continue at Musasa camp.
- In February we secured a \$80k from Save the Children's Humanitarian fund, which greatly helps our staff who are trying to support the growing humanitarian crisis in Burundi.
- In early February, our team hosted a visit from Claude Bochu, Head of Delegation European Union in Burundi and another visit in Kavuma refugee camp by a high-level delegation made up of OCHA, UNHCR and the UN Resident Coordinator in Burundi. Both groups visited our child protection and gender based violence activities and after seeing the embroidery and basketry made by the gender based violence survivors, the delegation spent 135,000 Burundian Francs buying their products!

In March, we hosted AFP TV which came to cover our humanitarian response at Gatumba. It was another great occasion to advocate for families and children living in Kinyinya2 internally displaced peoples sites as well as calling upon donors and the international community to support us in putting in place a preparedness plan and actions to enable the Burundian community to respond responsibly & efficiently in case of natural crisis.



EDUCATION AND CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

- In February, our Unrestricted Challenge project colleagues visited a youth with disabilities run workshop for parents with children with disabilities, this is one of our most fascinating field activities. The workshops use our curriculum and reading materials and the team were there to observe how the curriculum was working out in 4 different districts.
- Our team also visited community libraries to understand the barriers and opportunities to inclusive literacy.
- In Mahama, the ASRH programme met with marginalized girls (50 teen mothers) at our Youth Friendly Space to revitalize the women's opportunity centers, which offer opportunities in handcrafts, which in turn empower them and allow them to earn a small living. This is an activity that will be happening twice a week and whilst there the teen mothers also get ASRH information and services delivered to prevent unwanted pregnancy in the future.
- In March, Save the Children joined the Minister of State Primary and Secondary Education, Mr, Gaspard Twagirayezu and other education partners in the official launch of the two sister projects funded by USAID to boost reading outcomes of children in primary schools. The projects, Schools and Systems (Tunozze Gusoma) implemented by Save the Children in partnership with FHI 360, Florida State University, and Homes and Communities (Uburezi Iwacu) in partnership with World Vision Rwanda, Imbutu Foundation and Humanity Inclusion Rwanda.



Young school children during the launch of the two sister projects in Kamonyi. The children participated in the launching of the projects by presenting the new project names in Kinyarwanda

KUMWE HUB

- We received additional \$150k from The Centre of Excellence, which means that we can take forward some exciting Q1 pipeline projects including scaling our existing grants programmes to include businesses in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania!
- What do cryptocurrencies and blockchain have to do with children? We are using Cryptocurrencies and the blockchain technology that powers them, to enable us to receive donations in a new and exciting way, shaking up traditional aid delivery. Watch this [video](#) to learn more on how we are doing this.
- Our Kumwe Hub team (Photo below) in March visited Mahama Camp for a scoping and location mapping for the new Mahama Camp Nursery Pilot project for women entrepreneurs with children aged 0-5.

“

Mothers who are entrepreneurs are struggling. Many have no other option than to bring their young children to work with them which is leading to delays and distraction. With our pilot nursery project in Mahama camp we look to help these women to no longer feel like they have to choose between being a good entrepreneur or a good mother.

- Emilie Brondum Reeh, Programmes Officer

”



COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

- Our response on the humanitarian crisis caused by Lake Tanganyika flooding is still alarming in the IDP Camps. Children need Child Protection and Gender Based Violence support more than ever in the camps now.
- On the 18th of February we put out a press release related to the findings of our Burundi needs assessment report. The release can be found [HERE](#) and the report [HERE](#).



Important for reducing the likelihood of abuse within a family is giving youth healthy activities to do and to that end we are still organizing several basketball matches a week which seems to draw large numbers at every session, as seen in this photo above.



International Women's Day in Kirehe, Burundi and Kigali offices had celebrations with both our beneficiaries and within our own teams. Here is the [link](#) to our International Women's Day video where we asked little girls what it was like to be a girl.



In Mahama, Students coming from Kabare in Ngoma district, around 60 kilometers from the camp, playing a friendly football game with our youth refugee team so that our protection team could conduct some community outreach on issues of CP, SGBV, COVID-19 and referral pathways procedures for all participants



In this first quarter SCI Save the Children started installed condom kiosks in Mahama camp hot spots. The installed condom kiosks are opened every day from Monday to Sunday at 8: am to 8 P.M. Since we started operation of the Kiosks in February, 2,416 condoms have been distributed to 201 people, including 87 females and 114 males on a weekly basis

Stories from the field



Adele, with his mother at the CYF in Mahama Camp

ADELE, 17, Boy

Since April 2015, Rwanda has experienced a refugee influx from Burundi due to the civil unrest linked to the then Burundi's Presidential elections.

As of April 2021, there are over 40,000 Burundian refugees in Rwanda residing in Mahama refugee camp, of which 51% are male and 49% female. And around 51.3% of them are children, with approximately 2% of them being children with disabilities. Adele, 17, has a speech and hearing disability and has been living with his family of four in Mahama refugee camp since May 2015.

Children like Adele, need access to comprehensive child protection and learning services, and Save the Children responded to them with recreational and learning interventions under the UNICEF funded project. The project aims to revitalize the child/youth friendly spaces activities by undertaking tablet-based learning and play sessions through the use of both educational and child protection apps.

Currently, in Mahama Camp there are 17 child/youth friendly spaces and a community library, children can attend recreational, sport and cultural activities, which help them to cope with stressful situations they are facing in the camp. The spaces promote equity and inclusion addressing barriers that hinder girl participation in sport activities and strengthening the practice of inclusive sports to make sure children with disabilities participate.

Adele's mother story in her own words (Quotes):

I live with Adele, my son who is deaf, but we thank Save the Children for always thinks about parents of children with disability.

Before, I thought it was impossible to send him in children and youth spaces, as he does not speak, he does no hear and his body is weak, I was afraid that exposing him to other children may hurt him.

After substantive awareness of Save the Children that children with disability are just as able as children without disability, I learnt that I can send my son to play in the children/youth friendly spaces with other children safely.

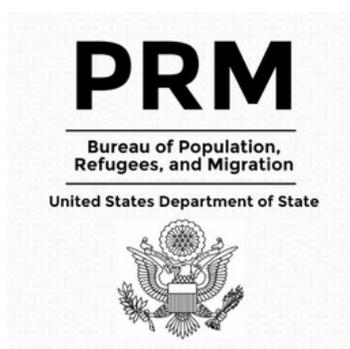
I have started witnessing progress and I no longer take him there myself, but I simply tell him in sign language that go to the child/youth friendly spaces there, they are playing and he takes himself there and brings himself back home with other children. The doubts that I used to have that he may be hurt when going out to play with other children has reduced.

Background

Since March 2020, child friendly space and youth friendly spaces in Mahama refugee camp were closed in a bid to curb the spread of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic; though these child and youth friendly places were immediately closed, it was when the children in Mahama refugee camp needed them more as the schools were also closing and these children were not going to school.

Through UNICEF funded project Save the Children started home based recreational and learning activities whereby 435 children including 355 children with disabilities, 150 boys and 205 girls and other 80 children without disability, 60 girls and 20 boys, were reached with our home-based recreational activities during this pandemic. As the COVID-19 measures relaxed and the child/youth friendly spaces gradually opened, Save the Children introduced more inclusive sports and games for children with disability to express their potential.

We thank the Government of Rwanda, Ministry of Emergency Management(MINEMA) and UNHCR and all our partners for the continued support and collaboration.



WE WILL PUT THE RIGHTS OF THE MOST DEPRIVED AND MARGINALIZED CHILDREN FIRST IN OUR WORK AND ADVOCATE FOR OTHERS TO DO THE SAME