



Save the Children

# RWANDA COUNTRY OFFICE

## A QUARTELY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022



### IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES THROUGH EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

Kevin\*, 1 year old, is the youngest of six children and lives with his family in Mahama Refugee Camp. His father, Antoine, and his mother, Beatrice, are Burundian refugees living in the Camp since 2015.

When Kevin was 3 months, he had a digestive disorder, which affected his growth and his weight gain. His mother struggled with breastfeeding and had limited knowledge on alternatives to healthy child nutrition practices. This further put Kevin at risk for Malnutrition. Follow the links below to Kevin's story

[\*\*READ FULL STORY HERE\*\*](#)

[\*\*WATCH STORY HERE\*\*](#)



### REINFORCING CHILD PROTECTION THROUGH THE PARENTS' EVENING FORUM.

*"Male caregivers were urged to promote positive discipline in the families, protect their children from any form of violence for a better future, and regularly participate in the community setting"*

This was a message delivered by Theoneste Turatsinze, our Child Protection Officer, on July 27, 2022, while addressing the parents of Mahama Camp during the parents' evening forum.

Parents were asked to encourage their peers to attend all community settings that are organized in their villages to share the best practices, and challenges and find solutions to all issues that affect children's rights in the camp.

*"Dear parents, I think you have already noticed the impact of attending the Parents' evening as some of the issues that affect children are solved through these forums, and others are identified and shared with MINEMA and UNHCR for intervention. So, I request you to encourage more male caregivers to attend the next forums." - Theoneste shared*

The Parents 'Evening forum was adopted in Mahama Camp in 2018 to promote the rights of children and family values. Now parents from the same village sit together, discuss government policies, and social issues like gender issues, domestic violence, domestic hygiene practices, health and nutrition, and family planning as well as educate each other for the good of their families' welfare in Mahama Camp.



## SAVE THE CHILDREN AWARDED AS THE 2ND EXHIBITOR AMONG NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

On July 1st, 2022, SCI-Kirehe Field Office received an award as the 2nd best exhibitor among international Non-Government organizations during the three days of the open day that was held in the Kirehe District. The Kirehe Open Day brought together 47 partners; including International Non-profit organizations, local NGOs, and private sectors that operate in the district.

Speaking during the official closing ceremony, Dina Denis, the SCI-Field Manager, paid tribute to the district leadership for organizing this activity so that all partners can showcase their services. She added that every partner is committed to contributing to the district's development and transforming the lives of its citizens.

*"As partners, we are committed to contributing to the district's development and transforming the lives of its citizens, especially children. Save the Children will continue to do whatever it takes to ensure that all children have a healthy start in life and are protected," Dina Denis, the SCI-Field Manager said.*

During the Open Day, Kirehe Field Office staff disseminated behavior change messages on health, nutrition, and child protection as well as delivered awareness raising on the different services like HIV prevention and testing, Hepatitis screening, use of male and female condoms, and family planning services at our health center. Around 555 people, including children, youth and adults were reached.

## ERGO THERAPY SERVICE IN MAHAMANA CAMP

On July 20th, 2022, 30 stable mental patients were discharged from the Ergo Therapy service in Mahama Camp. Save the Children initiated the Ergo Therapy service to treat people with mental health issues by maintaining and using their personal abilities necessary for recreational activities like handcrafting shopping bags and table mats and reintegrating them into the community.

Since 2016, Save the Children, in collaboration with BPRM and UNHCR, has been supporting 1,000 people with mental health issues. Currently, 350 people with chronic mental health disorders are under treatment.

In Addition, Save the Children provided the capital of 547,000Rwf to discharged patients, through the establishment of Ejoheza and Duhumurizanye associations which aim at sustaining the program's outcomes and helping them earn money to improve their families' well-being.

*"I am feeling good. When I am here handcrafting shopping bags, I feel relaxed and my self-esteem has improved. I am responsible and capable to feed and clothe my children." - Said Odette.*



## DAYCARE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL MOTHERS.

On July 13, 2022, Save the Children through Kumwe Hub officially launched the Mahama Daycare that will accommodate refugee children aged 6 months-2 years living in Mahama Camp.

The project aims at improving the livelihoods of refugee women, who are both entrepreneurs and mothers, preventing child neglect and abuse, as well as enforcing child protection in general.

"Before I always focused on my business and I did not care for my child's hygiene and well-being. I have started seeing the impact of this project, as the money, I spent on buying pampers and milk, is saved in my bank account. And my child is looking happy and taken care of." -Ange, a mother.

[VITUAL TOUR HERE](#)



## STORY OF IMPACT

### 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 Inkomo 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 FULL STORY HERE](#)

[WATCH OLPAH STORY HERE](#)



# CRICKET

## FOR

## PROTECTION

In partnership with Cricket Without Boundaries (CWB), and UNHCR Rwanda, Save the Children launched the Cricket for Protection in Mahama Refugee Camp on September 6, 2022.

The partnership came after the successful implementation of the Sport for Protection Project which aims to build on the unique ability of sport to actively and meaningfully engage refugee children and youth in the Camp.

## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES STAFF AND CASEWORKERS

Save the Children conducted training for CFS staff and caseworkers on Supervision and Coaching to improve and provide competent case management and CFS services to children and their families.

They were also trained to prepare donors' reports.

The training was designed to increase case management and CFS supervisors' confidence, capacity, and support to caseworkers and CFS facilitators to provide safe, ethical, and competent case management and CFS services to vulnerable children and their families in Mahama Camp.

“

*The knowledge that I acquired from these training will help me to deliver quality services to our beneficiaries.*

- Mireille,  
SCI-Case Management team leader.



“

*The Cricket for Protection is expected to increase social inclusion, and improve psychosocial well-being through fun, safe, and structured sports activities that will contribute to the children and youth's development and learning.*

- Chariff Mika,  
Child Protection officer.





**TO INITIATE BREASTFEEDING  
WITHIN THE FIRST HOUR OF LIFE  
IS ESSENTIAL TO CHILD SURVIVAL  
HEALTH, GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**



Save the Children

## WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

In line with the World Breastfeeding week under the theme: "Step up for Breastfeeding. Educate and Support", Save the Children staff organized cooking demonstration sessions to teach mothers the best ways to prepare a well-balanced diet for their children to reduce the stunting rate in Mahama Refugee Camp.

In the video below, a Save the Children staff highlights the impact of cooking demonstration sessions on children in Mahama Camp.

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)



## 600 PARENTS GRADUATE FROM MOTHER TO MOTHER SUPPORT GROUP (MMSG)

A total of 600 parents; including 470 mothers and 130 fathers; who were trained by Mother Leaders on Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN), graduated On September 29th from Mother to Mother Support Group in Mahama Refugee Camp.

At the graduation ceremony, the mothers who actively participated in the program were awarded certificates of recognition. It was the first ceremony since the Mother-to-Mother Support Group was initiated by Save the Children in June 2016 to reduce the stunting rates among children in Mahama Camp.

The Support Group has played a vital role in preventing malnutrition and reducing the stunting rates among children aged 0-8 years old in the camp.

As a result of the improved Infant and Young Child Feeding practices, around 800 children from Mother to Mother Support Group members experienced a drastic reduction of health and nutrition related issues.

**“Mother leaders trained us on the preparation of balanced diet and breastfeeding practices. My children have never experienced health and nutrition issues as a result of Save the Children support.”**  
Mediatrice .





## ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

### MAHAMA II HEALTH CENTRE TO RECEIVE A MEDICALIZED HEALTH FACILITY CERTIFICATION

Kirehe District officials visited the Mahama II Health Centre to assess the progress made in addressing what the Ministry of Health recommended Save the Children so that the Mahama II Health facility can be medicalized. The delegation appreciated the progress made after visiting the maternity ward and the operation theatre. SCI upgraded Mahama II Health Centre to provide more obstetric emergency services, including cesarean sections and blood transfusions.

Kirehe District will share the report from this assessment with the Ministry of Health which will provide the Certification for Mahama II Health Centre to be medicalized. On average Mahama II Health Centre serves over 5,000 per month, of those 42% are male and 52% are female. Once Save the Children has surgical services on site, the health facility will receive blood by use of drones. It will then cut down the number of mothers who spent an hour in the ambulance on rough roads trying to get to emergency services.

*"We want to reduce the maternal new-born death cases, mortality and morbidity."* -Said, Dina Denis, the SCI-Kirehe Field Manager.

It's expected the Medicalized Health Centre to start offering surgical services on November 1, 2022.

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WE THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA, MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MINEMA) AND UNHCR AND ALL OUR PARTNERS FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION.

