



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
BURUNDI**

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ANNUAL REPORT

2016

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SECTION 1 - ANNUAL REPORT

1.1 SUMMARY OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ACTIVITIES IN BURUNDI

At the political level, 2016 was marked by attempts at dialogue between the Government and the opposition, which have come up against radicalization of parties in conflict. The country is more and more isolated on the international level. On 11 October, the Government suspended its cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights Office in Burundi in protest against the report of the UN Experts' independent survey on Burundi on human rights violations and abuses committed from 15 April 2015 to 30 June 2016. In the same realm, the National Assembly passed a law on the country's withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC), on 12 October 2016.

The economy of Burundi has collapsed. The country is considered the poorest in the World (IMF) with a two- hundred and sixty US dollar- GDP per capita in 2016; that is a decrease of 20% compared to 2015. Hard currencies have become very scarce because the International cooperation is suspended by traditional financial partners, notably Belgium and the European Union. As of December 2016, the official rate of one euro was BIF1,764.87 while in the private exchange offices (FOREX), it was changed at BIF2,700. In the change operations, SOS CV Burundi also estimates to have lost BIF 531,839,514 during the year 2016 since the Government decided to transfer foreign currency accounts of legal entities to the Central Bank of Burundi (BRB) from March.

During the year 2016, market prices escalated. Officially, inflation has increased from 5.53% in 2015 to 7.1% in 2016 but it has practically been higher. For example, the price of rice rose from BIF 1,800 per kilogramme in 2015 to BIF 2, 500 in 2016; that of beans went up from BIF 1, 400 to BIF 2,200; that of the 900 gramme- family bread rose from BIF2,000 to BIF 2,500 to name but a few. This means that SOS family needs are very hardly met even though family allowances were increased in 2015.

The year 2017 will be particularly hard for the population. The Finance law 2017, which was approved, imposes new taxes to finance the budget. For example, the price of fuel shifted from BIF1, 880 a little to BIF 2,100; public transportation increased by 11% while the tax on telephone calls increased from BIF 42 to BIF 52 a minute. It is worth noting that Burundi is experiencing very insufficient rainfall by the end of 2016, which will undoubtedly worsen the food insecurity already reported in some areas of the country. This worsened food insecurity has led most Province Governors to forbid food transaction across Provinces. On the other hand, water shortage in hydraulic dams leads to incessant power cuts, therefore causing frequent use of generators in SOS projects.

Finally, other measures to reduce the State budget's deficit are regularly taken by concerned ministerial departments. For example, the Government has decided not to pay for water and electricity bills for vulnerable children's host centres, including SOS Children's Villages Burundi as from 1 January 2017.

In addition, a controversial new law regulating Foreign NGOs was passed at the National Parliament and the Senate. It particularly introduces ethnic quotas in staff recruitment and a specific contribution of 35% of the net remuneration received by foreign NGOs local employees.

With improvement of the security situation, SOS Children's Villages Burundi was able to carry out the planned activities. Thus, it has just initiated the "Foster care" programme in Muyinga and Rutana locations. It caters for 25 total orphans in 18 voluntary foster families bringing the total number of children in foster care to 92. The 5 SOS Children's Villages assist 1,441 children and young people, including 717 living in SOS family houses and 632 in youth facilities as well

as 92 children taken care of in Foster care Programme. This year, 2 SOS families from Bujumbura and Cibitoke will be integrated into the community.

With regard to youth socio-professional reintegration, the country still faces a serious problem of unemployment. For example, out of 43 resettled young people in 2016, only 13 got an employment. Faced with this situation, SOS Children's Villages Burundi encourages and financially supports young people's micro-projects initiatives. The program also builds capacity for young people on enterprise development and has introduced the Master's scholarships in promising fields. Five (5) SOS young people are already carrying on their studies in Benin. It should be noted that 35 young people graduated while 9 SOS adults got married.

SOS Children's Villages Burundi provides support to families and communities through 5 Family Strengthening Programmes (FSP). In 2016, the FSP assisted 915 families with 4,598 children including 2,814 children under 17 years old and 1,784 over 18 year old young adults. The number of families which have exited the Programme is 267 including 245 exited by self-reliance. An external assessment was conducted for FS Cibitoke and Gitega. It should note that some of the FSPs were closed on 31 December, resulting in 14 employee lay-offs. A new DGD programme 2017-2021 covering all the 5 FS Programmes has been submitted to SOS Belgium for funding.

At the educational level, SOS HG Primary School Rutana has been aligned with the National Education Policy (extending primary education to 9 years instead of 6 years) and has been provided with additional facilities and equipment. An internal assessment of SOS HG Schools and Kindergartens Bujumbura and Muyinga was carried out. The remaining medical centres and school facilities will be assessed in 2017.

In terms of medical care for our target group children, the 4 Medical Centres carried out medical consultations and initiated preventive activities. These include medical check-ups, systematic deworming campaigns, malnutrition and viral hepatitis B, C as well as HIV / AIDS screening.

The CVPP implementation process in Cibitoke is going on. The project charter was developed and the Programme Director's recruitment process was launched. All site staffs were guided on the CVPP while the feasibility study is underway. The CVPP implementation in Bujumbura is to be launched in 2017. It should be noted that an internal audit conducted by a regional team was carried out in all programme units in Bujumbura, Muyinga and Rutana in June.

As for important events, the International Director for the Eastern and Southern Africa Region together with the Regional Representative in charge of Burundi visited SOS CV Burundi from 18 to 20 May. In addition, the Country's First Lady visited SOS CV Rutana in February. The Mobile Phone Company SMART prepared a fundraising campaign for and with SOS CV Burundi participation. It was conducted from 1 to 30 September. This was an occasion to carry out a media campaign with three radio stations on SOS CV Burundi activities, with questions of competitive games for the population.

Finally, SOS Children's Villages Burundi deplores the passing away of two SOS employees: an SOS mother and a cleaner.

SCHEDULE OF MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2017

Month	Activities
January	Preparation of the annual report 2016
	Appraisal of performance agreements 2016 and Validation of Performance agreements 2017
February	Starting the implementation process of CVPP Bujumbura
March	Starting the process of integrating into community two SOS families of SOS CV Cibitoke and Bujumbura
	Starting the new DGD Programme 2017-2021
	Provisional reception of the SOS HG SL1 newly- built premises
April	Conduct programme review in all CV programmes and develop mid-term plan 2020
May	Holding the first meeting of the National Management Team
June	Celebrating the African Child Day
	Celebrating the SOS Children's Villages Day
July	First review of the National Action Plan 2017
	Official inauguration of the CVPP Cibitoke
	Mid-term appraisal of Individual Work Plans
August	Assessment of 4 SOS medical centres , 3 SL1 and 3 KGs
	Integration of two SOS families into community
September	Preparation of the National Action Plan and Budget 2018
October	Holding the second meeting of the NMT
November	Organisation of the World Peace Games for Children and Young People
	Celebration of the International Child Rights Day
December	Celebration of the World Day for the Fight against HIV/AIDS
	Second review of the National Action Plan 2017

SECTION 3- FACILITY REPORT

3.1 BUJUMBURA

3.1.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BUJUMBURA

The security situation in Burundi and particularly in Bujumbura is gradually improving compared to that of 2015. Following this calm situation, Village activities are normally proceeding. Unlike last year, children went on holidays. However, the freezing of bilateral and multilateral aid has had economic consequences. Even though family allowances were increased last year, SOS family needs are hardly met. Prices of essential commodities are spectacularly surging. For example, rice price went up from BIF 1,800 a kilogramme to BIF 2,500 in December 2015; that of beans shifted from BIF 1,400 a kilogramme to BIF 2,200, the

price of sugar rose from BIF 1,800 a kilogramme to BIF 2,200, that of cooking oil (5litres) went from BIF 17,500 to BIF 22,000 while the 900 gramme-family bread increased from BIF 2,000 to BIF 2,500.

The Village takes care of 132 children in 13 family houses and assists 4 others in their families of reference. To ensure better care for 13 newly- received children, a medical check-up and psychological assessment was carried out. The "Foster Care" programme, meanwhile, has welcomed 24 new children placed in 19 volunteer foster families. It currently cares for 56 children living in 41 families. Representatives of volunteer foster families have received training on child safeguarding and detection techniques of child psycho-emotional problems in order to improve the care of these children.

In child safeguarding, the Child's Council was renewed and a set of specifications has been assigned. Also, a Village child, member of the National Child's Forum participated in a meeting of the forum in March in Bujumbura.

In terms of academic achievement, children got a pass percentage of 81% while it was 84.3% last year. In addition, all 6 children attending grade 6 moved ahead.

As regards psychosocial support, the Village takes in children with psycho-emotional challenges. The latter affect their care in general and their academic performance in particular. Therefore, the Village has carried on the therapeutic intervention programme so as to help them empty their bad memories. It is within this framework that 44 identified children are cared for through the child psychodrama, academic re-adaptation games "FENIX ", peer to peer discussion group and creativity. In addition, an evaluation of activities already carried out in this area took place in March. It was concluded that children who had once withdrawn into themselves were able to open up and express their problems. Also, children developed imagination through stories and drawing.

Regarding capacity building, 4 new SOS mothers were appointed after completing their initial training in June. Similarly, core care co-workers and administrative staff received three training courses in First Aid, Stress Management and Non-Violent Communication for Peaceful Conflict Resolution respectively in July and November.

On the other hand, the Village Director took part in an experience exchange workshop on the main theme "What inspires us in our work", in Innsbruck, Austria, in June. He also received training on how to promote human growth in order to learn to recognize human life forces to build self-confidence and that of others which took place in Rwanda in October. Finally, the Social Worker and the Pedagogical adviser attended the first sequence of training on Child Psychodrama at Kigali Training Center in December.

As part of fulfilment, the Village celebrated the SOS Children's Villages Day and Christmas Eve. The Equinox choir enlivened the mass for both events. The Equinox choir also held a concert at the SOS Children's Village Cibitoke in March. It was an opportunity for the choir children to visit thermal springs of Ruhwa. It is worth noting that the Village celebrated 3 SOS young people's weddings. Similarly, three SOS families visited the SOS Children's Village Cibitoke and three others visited the SOS Children's Village Gitega in June.

Relationships with the National Radio-Television Broadcasting Station have remained the best. Again, the same institution has just received twenty children from the SOS Children's Village

to participate in a television show called "questions and answers" on the theme "Christmas party". Children got an opportunity to visit the radio station. Furthermore, 20 children participated in publication activities of a report on the condition of the population. The activities were organised by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture in collaboration with the United Nations' Fund for the Population (UNFPA).

3.1.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES BUJUMBURA

Since February 2016, one young girls' home and another one for young boys have been opened in relatively safer areas to temporarily accommodate 35 "Youth 2" SOS young people who had fled the so called 3rd presidential term's protesting areas. These youth homes have just been closed because the security situation has improved overall.

Education-wise, of 144 young people, 85 are attending secondary education, 49 are pursuing their higher education while 6 have just completed secondary education and are awaiting their enrollment in higher education. Among them, 1 young girl from the International College of Tema in Ghana will carry on her postgraduate studies in Law in South Africa. In addition, 3 young people are receiving vocational training. It is worth noting that a mentally- disabled girl still resides in the youth community because she cannot be autonomous.

With regard to academic achievement, the success rate for secondary school pupils was 87% while it was 94.25% last year. Among other failure factors, one can point out the inability to adjust to curricula of the new education policy cycle and introduction of the national competition test in end-of-cycle classes. To reduce the number of failures, a remedial/tutorial programme to strengthen young people attending the end-of-cycle classes has been developed. At university level, 9 young people have obtained their degrees.

In capacity building, all youth leaders have been trained in stress management and non-violent communication as a tool for peaceful conflict resolution.

As for statistics, there are 83 young people in "Youth1", 49 of them are boys and 34 girls. They are dispatched into 7 youth facilities and the boarding of SOS HG Secondary School. This year, 12 young people were received to the youth facilities, 7 were reunified with their families of reference and 2 others were resettled early on their request. The "Youth 2" young people are 61 and 53 of them live in their families of reference while 8 are studying abroad. Seven young people have been resettled.

In terms of socio-occupational reintegration, it is unfortunate to note that the number of unemployed young people keeps on increasing. To illustrate this, of the 19 resettled young people, only 5 had got a job. It is in this context that a support plan for young people in need of "second chance" has been developed in order to strengthen their self-care capacities.

As part of improving young people employability, a resettled young person has been supported to carry on his Master's Degree in Project and Quality Management at the International Polytechnic University Dr. NGUAME MBASSO of Cotonou in Benin. In addition, in partnership with an NGO called NTARE SOLUTIONS, 3 laureates of professional schools received further training in computer science.

Finally, in July, a youth fulfilment day ended the school year. It was on this occasion that 22 young people having brilliantly succeeded have been awarded with incentives.

3.1.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN BUJUMBURA.

During 2016, SOS Kindergarten activities have gone well. There have been no security disruptions like last year. Activities mainly focus on socio-emotional, intellectual and psychomotor development.

As part of care for SOS children attending the SOS Kindergarten, 4 additional activities per week were organised for children with remarkable learning difficulties.

Concerning the teaching staff capacity building, training on the importance of games for children aged 3 to 6 was provided in July. Another one on notions of Internet research for tools to support pre-school child care was carried out in favor of educators during the second term. The Head of the SOS Kindergarten visited SOS Kindergarten of Entebbe and Kakiri in Uganda, in March, for experience and good practices exchange. She also participated, in October in Rwanda, in training on how to promote human growth. The goal was to learn to recognize human life forces in the simplest daily experiences in order to build self-confidence and that of others and to promote human psychic growth.

In the field of child fulfillment, a competitive outdoor game day was held in May. Children exhibited in various games such as running, running in a bag, multi-coloured board and crossing obstacles. On this occasion, merit awards were distributed. Heads and educators of three partner kindergartens were invited to these ceremonies.

Similarly, the end of these preschool activities of the year was marked by the presentation of various games, child achievements and a child excursion to the KARERA Beach on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Father Christmas offered presents to children.

Within the framework of partnership, the SOS Kindergarten provided training on methodology of pre-school activities procedure for Kindergarten's educators called "**Sacré Cœur**" in January.

The year 2016 ended with 188 children while they were 205 last year. Of these, 28 are SOS Village children and 160 are community children including 7 from the Family Strengthening Programme.

3.1.4 SOS HG PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BUJUMBURA

In terms of security, it has slightly improved in the year 2016 compared to 2015. School activities were not disturbed. However, the high cost of living is leaving Burundi population in general and that of Bujumbura city especially in serious difficulties.

SOS HG Primary School has 493 pupils while the secondary school had 611 pupils at the end of the first term 2016-2017. There are respectively 88 children and 144 young people from our target group in the primary and secondary schools.

As far as academic results are concerned, the Primary School recorded a class pass rate of 95.54% while the Secondary School reached 95.25% at the end of the school year 2015-2016. This year, with the evolution of the new education policy extending primary education from six to nine years, grade 6 pupils did not sit for the National Competitive test as usual. All pupils who got more than 50% were received at the SOS HG secondary school.

All the 104 final year pupils obtained secondary education completion's certificate at the Secondary School; a number which had never been reached so far, as a single promotion in the school's annals! On exceptional merits, it should be noted the highest percentage ever achieved by a winner was 87.03%. This great performance was accompanied by 2 other certificate awards with "high pass".

In the realm of external evaluations, the all 78 ninth form's and 74 tenth's form candidates for the National Certification Competitive test passed with average performances ranking the school 3rd at the national ranking. At the State Competitive Examination edition 2016, although still provisional, results are highly appreciable. In fact, 16 of our candidates; that is 15.3%, got at least 80%.

In addition to these encouraging school achievements, extracurricular activities have been organised to contribute to both child fulfilment and schools' radiance. At the primary school level, one can mention, among other things, excursions organised for 3rd and 6th graders. At the secondary school level, interschool sports and athletic competitions were carried out. A high school candidate won the first prize in an essay contest organised by the Rotary Club Bujumbura in April among the city's best schools. It should also be noted that three candidates from the secondary school were awarded for their high ranking in the question-answer contest which was organised by the Burundi Association of Medicine Students in April on diabetes.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the parents' initiative, which made it possible to award each class top ten pupils during the annual result giving.

3.1.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME BUJUMBURA

The year 2016 was a bit undisturbed unlike 2015 which was characterized by a strong political and security disruption. This enabled the Family Strengthening Programme to carry out various planned field activities. However, the ever increasing price of various staples at the market limits family purchasing power in general and that of FS ones in particular. As a consequence, family empowerment is severely compromised.

By 31 December, the FS assisted 895 children including 563 children under 17 years old and 332 over 18 years old young adults living in 176 families. During the year, 13 families with 39 children exited the programme, 11 of them by self-reliance and 2 for non-compliance with agreements.

Education-wise, 443 children and young people are attending schools. Twenty-eighty (28) children are in Kindergarten, 413 pupils are attending the basic education cycle (9 years) while 2 others are in the post-basic cycle. The success rate is 74.6% against 66.5% in 2015.

In child rights, 116 children were trained on child rights and responsibilities. It should also be noted that, following advocacy carried out by the FS, 4 children went back to school after a drop out. Besides, a fulfillment day was realized at the park Bujumbura for FS children. The day was enlivened with various games.

In health, the FS Programme in collaboration with the SOS Medical Centre Bujumbura carried out an awareness day on dirty hand diseases for the population of Mugoboka site, a new intervention area. On this occasion, 921 children between the age of 6 months and 14 years were dewormed with Albendazole and received Vitamin A. In addition, an advocacy was held at the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender in favour of 2OVCS assisted by the FS programme for a surgical operation. The Ministry covered the full cost of both children's medical care.

The FS has contributed to the establishment of seven new savings and credit groupings in the new Mugoboka intervention area so as to promote family and community empowerment. Thirty-one (31) families and 2 agricultural groupings also received 2,318 kilogrammes of chemical fertilizers. In addition, both groupings received 200 kilogrammes of rice seed. It should also be noted that 2 caregivers and one young person have obtained their certificates in sewing. Finally, 374 iron sheets were distributed to 19 neediest families to build their houses.

As for beneficiary capacity building, training on organisational development, resource mobilization, financial administration and management was carried out for 206 new members of savings and loans groupings. Lastly, 168 caregivers were trained on child and adolescent progress as well as on the Persons and Family Code. As a result, 12 caregiver couples legalised their marriages.

3.1.6 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE BUJUMBURA

The year 2016 started in a more or less improved security context compared to the year 2015. Therefore, some residents who had fled the SOS Medical Centre's vicinity returned. However, the country's slow-moving economic situation does not allow the Medical Centre to regain the pre-crisis attendance level despite the remarkable improvement from 2015. The lack of certain medicines on the local market and the usual partners' economic difficulties (hotels, business companies, local NGOs, etc.) negatively affect the level of receipts.

Statistically, as of 31 December, 2016, twenty-seven thousand four hundred and eighteen (27,418) people attended curative consultations and 708 people were inwards against respectively 24,042 and 546 in 2015. In laboratory, thirty-one thousand four hundred and fifteen (31,415) analyses were carried out for 15,243 people, compared to 28,324 analyses for 13,463 people in 2015.

With regard to preventive activities, four thousand and twelve (4,012) infants were immunized and 1,369 tetanus vaccines were administered to childbearing age women. Two thousands two hundred and thirty seven (2,237) pregnant women also attended antenatal consultations and 1,062 voluntary women were put on a contraceptive method. In the same framework, the Medical Centre in collaboration with the FS carried out an awareness day on dirty hand diseases for the population of Mugoboka area. At the same time, the Medical Centre carried out a systematic deworming with Albendazole and gave Vitamin A to 921 community children aged from 6 months to 14 years.

Regarding the fight against HIV/AIDS, 461 HIV positive people were regularly followed at the Medical Centre and 444 of them are under antiretroviral treatment. It is worth noting that 2,435 people got freely screened and 77 cases were found HIV positive; that is a seropositivity rate of 3.16%. A total of 1,044 pregnant women were HIV screened and 42 women who were revealed to be HIV positive were regularly followed via the Protection against Mother to Child Transmission.

In terms of capacity building, one doctor attended two training sessions: one on the new guidelines for HIV / AIDS management in January and the other on HIV / AIDS pediatric management in October. In addition, two nurses attended a training workshop on new guidelines for tuberculosis management in July.

Finally, it should be mentioned that the IT management of the Medical Centre services has not yet started despite the already installed equipment. Adaptation of the software to the work realities such as the translation into French and incorporation of the pre-established forms by SOS Children's Villages on one hand and the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS on the other hand is still missing.

3.2 CIBITOKÉ

3.2.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE CIBITOKÉ

Cibitoke province is experiencing a calm security situation compared to the year 2015. Village activities have been taking place as planned. However, living conditions are becoming more expensive as a consequence of soaring food prices due to drought occurring in the Province. For example, the price of locally-grown rice rose from BIF 1,000 in June 2016 to BIF 1,500 in December 2016, causing a price increase of 50%, while the price of beans rose from BIF 900 in June to BIF 1,300 in December.

The Village has received 14 new children totaling 161 children and young people in our care. The medical check-up carried out for these 14 children revealed 8 cases of Kwashiorkor, 2 cases of anemia and 2 cases of marasmus. All these children are on an intense diet. They are followed by the Medical Centre and also receive psycho-emotional support for a better integration within the Village.

Educationally, 44 young people are attending secondary schools, including 23 at the SOS HG Secondary School in Bujumbura; 77 are at primary level, 29 at kindergarten while the remaining 11 have not reached the school going age yet. In relation to academic performance, the Village recorded a success rate of 75% at the secondary level and 81.5% at the primary level at the end of the last school year. These performances are achieved through combined efforts by the Village, the School and the Medical Centre. Indeed, the Village welcomes children with a strong delay on the physical, mental and psychosocial development each year.

The Village is already in the process of implementing the SOS Children's Villages Programme Policy. From 17 to 19 August, all the Village staff took part in an orientation workshop on the Programme Policy in order to have a common understanding of the Policy and its consequences on administrative structures and on the daily work. In addition, the Project Charter Cibitoke was developed.

As part of staff capacity building, 12 SOS mothers, 6 SOS aunts, the cashier secretary, the Village Director and the technical responsible received training on first aid by Red Cross Burundi from July 18 to 20. All participants got certificates. They were also trained on the use of newly- installed fire extinguishers at the Village. Likewise, the Village Director attended training in October in Rwanda on how to promote human growth in order to learn to recognize life human forces to build self-confidence and that of others. It's worth mentioning that an SOS mother trainee followed the last sequence of her initial training organised from 9 May to 3 June at the HG Training Centre Kigali and was appointed SOS mother. In addition, the Director participated in a training workshop on child/youth participation from 26 to 29 April in Bujumbura.

Young people also received training on life skills from 3 to 4 July. The training focused on communication for behavioural change, personal skills, self-knowledge and adolescence management. This reinforces child resilience and brings him/her to deal with encountered problems. At the end of the training, young people got committed to behave as a model for their peers, to face their future with certainty and to develop their self-esteem.

In the health realm, young girls in the SOS Cibitoke Children's Village participated in an awareness raising workshop on HIV/AIDS and tetanus in December. They were also informed

on body and clothing hygiene. After the awareness session, 21 girls of childbearing age received anti-tetanus vaccines. In addition, as of 20 October, the Village received 170 long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets from the National Integrated Programme against Malaria to protect Village children against mosquitoes.

Concerning partnership, the Village is part of a synergy of child safeguarding stakeholders in the province Cibitoke that was established since August; its presidency being assured by the Governor of the province so as to protect more children. A plan of action has been developed, the first priority being the establishment of child safeguarding committees in all areas of the province.

Finally, in terms of events, the SOS Children's Villages Day was celebrated at the same time as Mothers' Day in June. On this occasion, the Provincial Director of Education offered Village children copybooks worth 387 Euros. It should also be noted that in May the SOS Children's Village Cibitoke was honored by the International Director of SOS Children's Villages of Eastern and Southern Africa Region's visit with the CVI- Rep in charge of Burundi. The Minister of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender also took part in this important visit.

3.2.2 SOS KINDERGARTEN CIBITOKÉ

The SOS Kindergarten Cibitoke has 92 children including 28 SOS Village children, 9 FS beneficiaries, 1 child granted with the organisation's scholarship and 54 community children.

From a pedagogical point of view, educators made drawings on different themes such as animals, food and transportation to improve child' awareness level. In addition, a kit of observation games (dominoes, puzzles and pawns) was acquired.

With regard to capacity building, the Kindergarten Officer together with her colleagues from Rwanda and Burundi made an experience and best practices exchange visit at Entebbe and Kakiri kindergartens in Uganda in March. Parents' involvement in diversifying child fulfillment activities that the Kindergarten organises has been highly appreciated. She also participated, in October in Rwanda, in a training course on how to promote human growth. The goal was to learn to recognize human life forces in simplest daily experiences in order to build self-confidence and that of others and to promote human psychic growth. It should also be noted that all staff members have been guided on the SOS Children's Villages Programme Policy.

As part of partnership with other kindergartens, an educator from the SOS Kindergarten Cibitoke participated in educators' recruitment for a new kindergarten "SARONA Academy" KANYOSHA. From 1 to 2 September, the recruited educators underwent training sessions on pre-school teaching methods.

The closing of the first term 2016-2017 was marked by the Christmas party organised early on 22 December 2016. Ceremonies were complemented by the presence of Santa Claus who offered presents to the children.

3.2.3 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL CIBITOKÉ

By the end of 2016, SOS HG primary school Cibitoke had 235 pupils including 77 SOS Village children and 7 children who have been granted scholarship by the SOS Organisation as well as 151 community children.

The end of the year coincides with that of the first term 2016-2017 where school results show that the school achieved an overall success rate of 89.9%. SOS Village children achieved a rate of 81.5% while community ones achieved a success rate of 95%.

As part of SOS teachers' and aunts' capacity building, the School held a training workshop on the French teaching methodology from 28 March to 1 April 2016. A consultant from the Department of Curricula Designing for Basic Education facilitated the workshop. By the end of the training, participants learnt writing techniques to increase child's French level.

Likewise, the Principal took part in a training course on how to promote human growth. It took place in October in Rwanda. The goal was to learn to recognize human life forces in the simplest daily experiences in order to build self-confidence and that of others and to promote human psychic growth. It should also be noted that all staff members have been guided on the SOS Children's Villages Programme Policy.

Regarding fulfillment, a basketball match pitted the school team to that of the "Future Hope School" in February and another one pitted our school team to that of SOS HG primary school Gitega in June. In both cases, SOS HG Primary School Cibitoke lost the matches with a slight score difference. Pupils of Cibitoke got an opportunity to visit three Gitega touristic sites, namely the former German administrative building (former provincial office), the country centre's tree as well as the National Museum Gitega. The Head of the Museum guided the children observing historical objects therein. A short documentary film about the visit was made.

On 25 November, the school organised eloquence and game competitions in which children exhibited their talents through poems and answers to questions about world knowledge asked in French, English and Kiswahili by their teachers. These questions covered all areas of education and aimed at child holistic development. Prizes were awarded to the best.

3.2.4 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME CIBITOKÉ

By the end of the year 2016, the security situation begins to improve. From an economic point of view, the freezing of international aid has led to foreign currencies' scarcity and local currency devaluation. As a consequence, prices of staple commodities have gone up, accelerating thus the population's impoverishment.

During this year, the FS Programme provided a package of essential services to 245 families caring for 1,269 beneficiary children including 779 children under 17 years old and 490 eighteen years old and over young adults. Educationally, 494 children and young people including 91 children who are in secondary school, 394 in primary school and 9 in kindergarten have received the programme's support. The success rate was 80% in primary school and 78% in secondary school. Besides, 6 caregivers and 6 young people were trained in sewing for 6 months. It should also be noted that the Programme provided a six-month's vocational training to 171 beneficiaries. Concerning access to health care, 126 neediest families most were granted Health Assistance Cards. A child systematic deworming campaign was carried out in collaboration with the SOS Medical Centre.

In capacity building for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children's care, the Programme carried out community awareness sessions for their self-development. Home visits to support families in the implementation of their development plans have been made. It should be mentioned that two community networks composed of 79 Community-Based Organisations were supported in leasing 10 hectares and 33 acres pieces of land for rice, cassava, beans and maize cultivation. They also received 220 kilogrammes of rice seed and 1,408 kilogrammes of chemical fertilizers.

In addition, 826 community structure members and 245 caregivers were trained on different themes: child rights, child and adolescent development, modern farming techniques, micro project development and management, administrative and financial management, resource mobilization, the Persons and Family Code, community development and group facilitation techniques.

In order to promote child rights, 294 young people were trained on their rights, child participation and life skills. The Programme also made possible registration of 126 children at the registry office and held couple therapy sessions that resulted in legalisation of 99 marriages. In addition, 10 children exchanged experiences on child rights with their peers from Gitega and Bukavu in Cibitoke in August. They were accompanied by FS staff.

As for staff capacity building, the Programme Coordinator and 4 Assistants were trained on gender and development, child participation in their safeguarding, and the SOS Children's Villages Programme Policy. They also participated, in September and November, in an experience exchange workshop with Rwandan co-workers in Kigali.

Similarly, the FS team has benefited from training on gender and development as well as child / youth participation in their safeguarding. The team also participated in an experience exchange workshop in Kigali with colleagues from Rwanda in September and November.

3.2.5 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE CIBITOKÉ

By the end of 2016, the Medical Centre recorded 15,936 medical visits compared to 14,339 visits in 2015; that is an increase of 11%. Children account for 43.2% against 56.8% of adults. In addition, the female population is the most dominant, with 8,598 females against 7,338 males.

In laboratory, fourteen thousand and seventy-seven (14,077) samples belonging to 6,735 patients were analysed against 12,750 samples of 5,698 patients in 2015; that is an increase of 10.4%. The most frequent analyses were Widal-Felix serology, cytobacteriological examination, full blood count and coprological analysis and accounted for 66.9% of the samples analysed. Malaria prevalence was 34.7% on average (1,337 positive cases out of 3,855 blood samples) with widely high rates in December, January and February respectively varying from 46.5% to 40.5%.

In disease prevention, health preventive and promotional activities in the neighbouring community have been carried out. Indeed, a child systematic deworming campaign assisted by the Family Strengthening was held in November. Thus, 623 children attended the appointment and each received a deworming kit consisting of anti-amoebic, anti-helminthiasis and multivitamin. During the same campaign, children under 5 years were screened for malnutrition. Of the 120 children received, 52 had signs of malnutrition (42.3%), including 5 with severe malnutrition. The latter were so far referred to and are being care in Nutrition Supplementation Services of the locality.

In March, the Medical Centre also carried out a deworming campaign with Albendazole for 268 children in need from a regrouped people site. In addition, a screening of malnutrition took place in July for 70 children less than 5 years old at this site during the celebration of the International Nurse Day.

In the same vein, 39 information-education-communication sessions for 1,839 beneficiaries were conducted. In addition, five thousand and eighty-two (5,082) children were vaccinated including those received during two national "Mother-Child Health" campaigns. One hundred and seventy-five (175) pregnant women attended antenatal consultations while 190 women joined family planning through the use of contraceptive methods.

In terms of capacity building, two laboratory technicians attended a refresher course on practices of bacteriological cultures. In addition, in August, all health workers participated in a training session on the full blood count, antibiotics and anti-cough prescription as well as HIV / AIDS pre- and post-screening counselling.

3.3 GITEGA

3.3.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE GITEGA

The province of Gitega is experiencing a relatively calm situation compared to the year 2015 despite theft and criminality cases reported from time to time here and there. However, the drought continuation and foreign currencies' scarcity in the country have significantly reduced production and created a market with unaffordable prices for a population with low purchasing power: prices keep soaring. Family houses that had tried to minimize the impact of this price surge by purchases in stock for non-perishable products now feel overwhelmed by this market situation. In this household difficult situation, cases of abandoned children and school drop-outs keep increasing in the community.

In order to rescue these abandoned children, SOS Children's Village has sheltered 7 new children due to lack of enough space to accommodate more. The Village currently caters for 130 children. Five new children have been placed in voluntary foster families bringing to 15 the total number of children cared for in 11 voluntary families thanks to the "Foster Care" Programme. It should be mentioned that 14 children are attending public schools while another one is not yet old enough to start school.

Besides, the Village held for caregivers, two guiding and training sessions on this new form of care, child safeguarding policy and on detection techniques of child psycho-emotional problems so as to promote quality care in these volunteer foster families. Visits to these families were made in order to address their concerns by focusing on coaching. The Village also held an experience exchange session between caregivers on one hand and children on the other hand on this new child care approach.

Educationally, 27 children are enrolled in Kindergarten, 89 are attending Primary School while 13 others are not yet old enough to start school. It is worth noting that another child did not go to school this year 2016 for health reasons: he was in Kenya for medical care since August 2015. Fortunately, he is now healed and has just turned back even if he is still limping. Concerning academic performance, the success rate was 94.4% whereas it was 90.80% the past school year.

With regard to child fulfillment activities, the Village has signed a partnership with a local folk club known as "INTAHEMUKA" and 57 SOS Village children are currently members of the club. Each child enjoys various folk dances that meet their talents and needs. The Village also works with the "Alliance Franco Burundaise" (France-Burundi Alliance) in child fulfillment: a team of the Alliance made two visits to the Village and Village children had an opportunity to enjoy themselves through films and other projected documentaries to make the most of the opportunity. In addition, children had fun activities every Tuesday with the support of an SOS co-worker in charge of sports activities.

In terms of psychosocial care, 14 children attend peer to peer discussion sessions with the support of two SOS co-workers who have been trained in this field while 10 others have benefited from psychotherapeutic sessions on trauma healing in Ruziba, Bujumbura City. As already recorded success, children are more and more developing a feeling of confidence, unburden themselves to other people and speak of their childhood bad memories. Other members of the local psychosocial care team take care of children needing psychosocial support and evaluate results on a half-yearly basis.

As for child right safeguarding, field visits have been made: 2 in Giheta, 1 in Buraza, 1 in Bisoro and 2 in Rusaka. The first four visits aimed at protecting land for 3 SOS Village children while the last two visits were made to claim for the right to a known family origin for three children.

As part of staff capacity building, 3 SOS mother trainees were guided in their positions while the sponsorship officer participated in a training on child psychosocial care in Kigali. The Village Director took part in two national training sessions on child right safeguarding and on institutional partnership. He also joined other heads of units in a training course in Rwanda on how to promote human growth so as to learn to recognize human life forces to build self-confidence and that of others. The sponsorship officer and the Village Director also participated in a national sponsorship workshop. Locally, SOS mothers and aunts were trained on non-violent communication and peaceful conflict resolution. They were also trained in first aid and got certificates. It is worth noting that 4 SOS mothers attended the last sequence of their initial training from 9 May to 3 June 2016 at the SOS HG Training Centre Kigali and were appointed SOS mothers.

In order to finish the year with a flourish, the Village celebrated Christmas season in joy. Children and core care co-workers took the opportunity to wish themselves a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

However, the death of one co-worker who passed away at the end of year eve following blows and injuries inflicted on him by unidentified criminals is bemoaned. The whole SOS community Gitega joined the family of the deceased and provided moral as well as material support during the hardships.

3.3.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES GITEGA

At the end of 2016, the Village has 144 young people; 49 of them living in 5 youth facilities, 27 are in the SOS HG secondary school's boarding and 68 in the community, 11 of them having been resettled along the year.

Educationally, the Village has made progress this year, as the success rate has increased by 7.2%. Indeed, it is 89.3% against 82.1% of last year. For end-of-cycle examinations, out of 23 young people who sat for the national competitive examination giving access to post-basic education cycle (after 3 secondary education years), 21 passed; that is 91.3%. It should also be pointed out that 11 young people have completed humanities and technical secondary education and they are waiting to enroll in higher education, while 11 others have got degrees. Unfortunately, unemployment rate remains very high in our country and SOS young people are not spared. To cope with this situation, the Village is increasing young people's awareness of self-employment, trains and encourages them to initiate projects. They are also informed about job offers so as to compete wherever there are opportunities.

The Village has 5 young people studying abroad: a girl at a university in Rwanda, a young boy at the SOS HG International College in Tema, Ghana, two young people at a university in China and one young girl who has just been granted a master's degree scholarship in Benin.

In connection with fulfillment, young people celebrated the African Youth Day. The Village took the opportunity to build capacity for final year pupils on hiring techniques and on the drafting and management of micro projects. The themes of self-esteem and youth participation towards their autonomy have also been developed for all young people. In the context of self-employment, an SOS graduate in Computer Science together with 2 other community young people have just started a self-employment project "Gitega Informatics Centre" (GITIC) in Gitega city. It should also be noted that 2 other young people jointly run a goat breeding project while another graduate in Entrepreneurship is currently living on office equipment trade.

In the area of capacity building, a youth leader was trained on psychosocial care in Kigali. Internally, youth leaders have been trained on nonviolent communication and methods of peaceful conflict resolution. They were also trained on first aid and got certificates.

3.3.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN GITEGA

By the end of the year, there are 90 children at the SOS Kindergarten Gitega. Among them, 27 children are from the Village and 63 from the surrounding community, including 1 who has been granted scholarship from the Organisation. Activities are mainly centred on discovery, socio-emotional, intellectual and psychomotor development.

From a pedagogical point of view, in July, educators produced educational aids using local materials as a complement to existing ones. They also conducted parent orientation sessions on some of pre-school education methodologies in October and November, emphasizing on numeracy, pre-writing and parents' homework supervision.

With regard to capacity building, the Head of Kindergarten visited Kindergartens Entebbe and Kakiri in Uganda in March to exchange experience and good practices. She also participated, in October in Rwanda, in training on how to promote human growth. The goal was to learn to recognize human life forces in the simplest daily experiences in order to build self-confidence and that of others and to promote human psychic growth.

In partnership field, the Head of Kindergarten and one educator provided training a four- day training for educators of kindergartens "Le Pelican" and "Les petits poussins de Jesus ("The Pelican" and "Little chicks of Jesus") on preschool teaching methodology, mainly numeracy and pre-writing. In the same vein, in June, kindergartners and educators visited visually impaired children at Rumuri Centre of Mushasha. It was an opportunity for the kindergarteners to realize that visually impaired children are also able to study, to go about different activities like normal children. The visit was also an opportunity for both institutions' children to have fun together.

To close the first term with a flourish, the kindergarteners solemnly celebrated Christmas on 22 December 2016. Their parents and educators as well as Rumuri centre children attended the celebration. Various and amusing games have enlivened the party. At the same time, Father Christmas that children were eagerly waiting for, offered those presents. The joy was immense for the children, parents and other guests who had taken part in the celebrations.

3.3.4 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL GITEGA

At the end of 2016, SOS HG Primary School Gitega has 438 pupils including 104 SOS Village children and 334 community pupils, of whom 14 are granted scholarship from the Organisation.

Concerning academic performance, the success rate is 95.3% against 97.3% the previous year. With the new education policy extending primary education from 6 to 9 years, grade 6 pupils do no longer sit for the competitive test they used to do. At the opening of this school year 2016-2017, the Government opened 6 schools of excellence nationwide. The top 6th sat for a competitive test to have access to the schools. Out of 345 candidates who took the competitive test in the Central Region, the first in ranking comes from SOS HG Primary School Gitega.

In order to improve English and French writing and speaking skills, the 4th and 5th grades' teachers and the Headmaster participated, in July, in an assessment workshop of 4th grade's new English and French curricula. The team was guided on the 5th grade's new curricula of the same branches of study.

In terms of capacity building, teachers were trained on mastery learning, lesson preparation and teaching methods. As for the Headmaster, he participated in two national training sessions on child safeguarding and institutional partnership. He also participated, in October in Rwanda, in training on how to promote human growth. The goal was to learn to recognize human life forces in the simplest daily experiences in order to build self-confidence and that of others and to promote human psychic growth.

As part of partnership, the school trained two teachers from two surrounding community schools for two weeks on teaching methods and on how to upkeep teaching as well as administrative documents.

In connection with fulfilment activities, a basketball match pitted the school team to that of SOS HG Primary School Cibitoke in June at the SOS Children's Village Gitega playground. The team of the SOS HG Primary School Gitega won the match with a score of 29 against 25.

3.3.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME GITEGA

The year 2016 was essentially characterized by capacity building of community partners and the Programme beneficiaries. Out of seven intervention areas, the Programme has worked on 3 hill areas. Of 367 families, 215 exited the Programme, including 199 by autonomy (92.5%) and 16 by non-compliance (7.5%) with requirements. As of 31 December, the FS assisted 152 families taking care of 652 Orphans and other Vulnerable Children, including 392 children under 17 years old and 260 young adults of 18 years old and over.

Academically, the FS Programme has supported 304 children and young people including 11 children who are in kindergarten, 284 attending primary school, 9 in secondary cycle. The overall success rate is 62%.

Within the framework of child rights, 33 local leaders and 46 single mothers were trained on the Persons and Family Code. In addition, 9 local leaders and 35 members of the "Gender-Based Violence" Committee were trained on the criminal code. Awareness on child rights through contest competitions was increased for 696 children/young people including 383 girls. Winners were awarded. In addition, 6 girls and 4 boys accompanied by FS staff exchanged experiences with their peers from Cibitoke and Bukavu in Cibitoke on child rights. After two therapy sessions intended for 76 couples, 42 children were registered at the communal registry office while fatherhood was recognised for 5 children and 15 couples legalized their marriages.

In terms of community capacity building, awareness on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children's problems and mutual assistance in their communities has been increased for community structure members. Furthermore, 113 community vulnerable children received a school kit consisting of 12 notebooks and a pen while 8 family houses were renovated and 84 families were assisted in agricultural activities.

The FS Programme also carried out 4 training sessions for 356 caregivers and 352 grouping leaders on micro project drafting and management, modern agro-pastoral techniques, financial education and resource mobilization. It is within this framework that savings and loans activities of the community groupings reached an amount of BIF 65, 391, 726. In addition, a local soap factory has been installed in the "KAZOZA K'IBIBONDO" network of Mungwa to increase its income, strengthen social cohesion and enable the network to meet needs of vulnerable children in the community. It should be noted that 1,200 functional literacy sessions were held for 103 caregivers and 614 community members.

As for staff capacity building, the FS team benefited from training on gender and development and on child / youth participation in their safeguarding. The team also participated in an experience exchange workshop with colleagues from Rwanda in September and November in Kigali.

The Family Strengthening Programme, in collaboration with "Terre des hommes", "Familles pour Vaincre le Sida", World Vision and the Centre for Family and Community Development, celebrated child's days on 16 June and 20 November, the Women's International Day on 8 March. It should be noted that a sixteen-day activism against Gender-based Violence was carried out.

3.3.6 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE GITEGA

The country's political situation has significantly reduced local technical and financial partners. This has diminished supports that the Medical Centre was expecting from the latter and the Government through District and national health programmes. The low purchasing power and the fall in production lead population to self-medication. This practice affects the attendance rate and curative coverage which becomes low.

As of 31December2016, the Medical Centre had received 23,234 patients including 11,768 outpatient visits, of which 687 were SOS children and young people. In laboratory 18,015 analyses were conducted for 7,209 people while there have been 2,692 inpatients.

Regarding the fight against HIV/AIDS, 2,540 cases of free HIV screening were recorded, 35 cases being HIV positive; that is a Zero prevalence rate of 1.7%. The Medical Centre is also following 224 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV). Among them, 223 are under Bactrim, 174 under Anti-Retroviral and 42 women under Protection of Mother-Child Transmission. In addition, the Medical Centre offers PLHIV a complementary package of medicines, laboratory tests and nutritional kit not borne by the National Programme against HIV/AIDS. In the field of psychosocial care for PLHIV, 61 HIV positive people received home visits and one therapeutic weekend was carried out for 77 PLHIV.

As part of capacity building for child care and safeguarding stakeholders, 2 culinary demonstrations were held for FS grouping beneficiaries so as to improve their capacity in child nutritional care of their children. Training on testing and managing community-based malnutrition was conducted for FS community-based volunteers. In addition, 2 trainings on sexual and reproductive health were conducted for Community Health Agents and young people. The Community Health Agents have been trained on HIV/AIDS. Finally, partners of health training officers have been strengthened on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children's care and on reporting.

Regarding the outreach strategy, 137 awareness sessions were facilitated for 23,403 beneficiaries on various themes related to endemic and epidemic diseases, deficiency diseases, and transmission and prevention mode of viral hepatitis B, C and sexual as well as reproductive health. A campaign for HIV/AIDS screening and viral hepatitis B, C was carried out for 190 FS children. Among them, 12 cases were positive including 1 HIV/AIDS positive case, 4 viral hepatitis B cases and 7 viral hepatitis C cases.

As part of staff capacity building, one Medical Centre's co-worker was trained on modern contraceptive technology in May and 7 co-workers were strengthened on staff supervision and management in December.

3.4 MUYINGA

3.4.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE MUYINGA

The political and security crisis that has shaken Burundi since April 2015 has been improved during 2016. Thus, some children and young people have been able to go on holidays in their families of origin. However, a serious increase in food insecurity is observed according to a study carried out by the World Food Programme. Compared to October 2015, it increased by 16% in the province of Muyinga. Taking into account the ever increasing number of children needing family-based care, the Village welcomed 11 new children and opened a new "Foster Care" programme with 15 children living in 11 voluntary foster families.

The Village currently caters for 150 children living in 15 family houses. Despite living conditions in areas of origin which are not conducive to the children's growth and development, the children are progressively adapting to SOS family life thanks in particular to warm welcome by the Village community. However, after consultations and medical examinations, two special cases have been noticed. The first is about a child who had had a closed fracture of the right femur. He underwent a successful surgical operation. The second is that of a child with language and walking delay due to severe malnutrition. After proper diet and psychomotor exercises recommended by a doctor, the child is walking right now and tells names of other children in the SOS family.

From education point of view, 36 children are attending the SOS Kindergarten, 108 are studying at the SOS HG Primary School while 8 others are attending public primary and secondary schools and 6 have not yet reached the school going age. Eight (8) young people of them live in youth facilities. As for the success rate, it is 81.37% whereas it was 82.17% the previous school year. It should be noted that out of 11 children enrolled in grade 6, ten (10) have accessed the basic education cycle extending primary education from six to nine years; that is a success rate of 90.9%.

Within the framework of child socio-cultural and spiritual care, Catholic Action Movements (SCOUT, XAVERI, Youth Eucharistic Movement and Christian Youth Pupils) started in May. Children are very proud and enjoy being part of them. A positive impact can be noticed at home and at the behavioural level.

In connection with psychosocial support, 4 children and one youth leader attended a second Bible-based trauma healing camp organised by the Bible Society Burundi from 15-19 August in Ruziba. It was an opportunity for them to express themselves, to value themselves and to strengthen self-esteem. In addition, strengthening sessions were conducted by a child psychiatrist and psychotherapist from 7 to 11 March so as to support the psychosocial support team to help them detect child problems. It should also be noted that the team of trained educators in narrative approach has provided coaching for 8 children in peer to peer discussion groups. Some children who had difficulty with expressing themselves are now open-minded and share their concerns with educators. In addition, 7 out of 8 children improved their academic performance.

In connection with fulfillment activities, a football match pitted Village children against a community child team at the provincial stadium in July. It ended in a nil score.

As for events, Village co-workers participated in bride-price giving and marriage ceremonies of four SOS young girls and one young man, an excellent meeting opportunity between SOS adults and SOS families. It is also worth mentioning that SOS Day was celebrated on 2 July. It was celebrated for the second time together with the school year closing in SOS schools. This was the right opportunity to strengthen the Organisation's visibility in general and that of SOS Children's Village in particular. Guests' awareness on the SOS Children's Village Support Association's fundraising activities was increased.

As part of the so-called "Global Money Week", in collaboration with TWITEZIMBERE Microfinance SA, an information and training session on the concept of savings was held for the first time in our Village on the "Youth and Child Finance International" proposal. It aims at providing our children with financial and economic education to help them earn and spend rationally.

In terms of capacity building, Village co-workers attended dissemination sessions of 9 key Organization's documents from 11 to 22 July. In the same vein, three SOS mothers participated in the last sequence of initial training in Kigali from 09 May to 03 June and were confirmed. Besides, core care co-workers attended first-aid training in Muyinga in July. It was facilitated by Red Cross Burundi. It should be noted that the Village Director attended a training course in October in Rwanda on how to promote human growth in order to learn how to recognize human life forces to build self-confidence and that of the others.

Regarding donations in kind, the Village received 60 pairs of bedsheets and 200 kilogrammes of sugar offered by the "Human Burundi" association in February. Likewise, "Imagine Burundi Terimbere Foundation" monthly offers the Village 74 boxes of soaps while SOS friends Cankuzo offered several varieties of food products on the occasion of the SOS Children's Villages Day's celebration.

The Village renovated kitchens of its 15 family houses and football as well as volleyball fields' goal posts. The Village no longer experiences recurrent power cuts thanks to a newly-acquired generator.

Finally, the Village community deplores the passing away of the SOS mother CV MUYINGA¹² following a road accident on 9 October and the president of the Village Support Association on 16 January.

3.4.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES MUYINGA

At the end of this year, the Village records a total number of 211 young people: 114 are still in SOS facilities (YF1); 74 of them being in the 7 youth facilities and 40 others are living in various boarding schools. It is worth noting that one YF1 SOS young person left an SOS youth facility upon his request. The Village also caters for 97 young people (YF2) living in the community and 13 young people have been resettled this year.

Education-wise, 21 Village young people are attending high and higher education abroad: one is at the SOS HG International College in Tema, Ghana; 2 are studying at the SOS HG Technical School in Kigali, Rwanda while 18 are attending different universities (Morocco, China, Rwanda, USA, Canada, Hungary and Benin). In Benin, there are two young people who, since November, are postgraduates, majoring in Banking and Finance, thanks to a scholarship granted by "Ordre Africain des Grandes Ecoles et Universités" (African Association of Well-known Schools and Universities-ORAGEU) within its project "Education for All" and SOS Burundi bears stay- related expenses in Benin and other related expenses.

In terms of results, the overall academic success rate for young people attending high education is 87.7% while it was 86.40% last year. It is worth noting that 15 young people got high school diplomas and 14 others graduated from higher education.

In connection with individual achievements, one young girl represented her school in basketball and handball championships held in August in Kenya, opposing East African Member States' schools. It is worth pointing out that another young person attending Marshall & Franklin College in the USA carried out a successful internship at Amazon, a renowned e-commerce company. At the end of a three- month internship, he presented a very interesting final project so that the company suggested him a job offer after graduation in May 2017.

The International and African Youth Days, which were organised by SOS Children's Village, were celebrated in November in a festive atmosphere, with men's and women's basketball matches between local secondary schools. It was an opportunity to increase community awareness on youth employability and entrepreneurship but also to promote SOS brand to the general public.

In a precarious socio-economic context, the major challenge the SOS Children's Village is facing is young people's professional reintegration: out of 58 resettled young people, only 3 have got a job. Faced with this situation, the Village encourages, morally and financially supports young people's micro-projects initiatives but also finances some training programmes to build young people's capacities such as computer skills, driving, English language learning etc.

3.4.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN MUYINGA

SOS Kindergarten Muyinga has 91 children including 36 Village children and 55 community ones. Nine (9) children from the latter are supported by the Family Strengthening Programme.

Pedagogically, children receive an education based on intellectual, socio-emotional and psychomotor development in order to prepare them to face primary education. Drawings on plants, extended family and Christmas as well as school celebrations were made so as to develop child creativity and stimulation. Educators also made other educational aids from local materials namely bowls and lotto drawings.

As regards trainings, an educator received a two-day theoretical and practical training in first aid in July. By the end of the training, she was awarded a certificate. In March, the Head of the Kindergarten together with her colleagues from Rwanda and Burundi made an experience and good practice exchange visit at the Kindergartens Entebbe and Kakiri in Uganda. She also participated, in October in Rwanda, in a training course on how to promote human growth. The objective was to learn to recognize human life forces in the simplest daily experiences in order to build self-confidence and that of others and to promote human psychic growth.

As far as child safeguarding is concerned, parents' awareness on child rights, especially health care, good nutrition and protection against neglect was increased in December.

SOS Kindergarten Muyinga received a donation of books from the Department of Pre-school and Early Childhood Education. These books help to improve child games teaching and speaking skills through stories and songs.

The closing of the first term activities was complemented by a child excursion held on 23 December at Kobero, on the Burundi-Tanzanian border. This excursion was an opportunity for children to discover new environments. On this occasion, Father Christmas offered children various presents.

3.4.4 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL MUYINGA

SOS HG primary school Muyinga, which had 436 schoolchildren in 2015, currently has 431 children including 108 Village children and 323 community ones. Among the community children, 22 children are supported by the Family Strengthening Programme and 18 are granted the Organisation's scholarships.

During this year, SOS HG Primary School Muyinga opened the second year of the last cycle of basic education (extending primary education from six to nine years). Thus, two new sciences-related and humanities-related teachers were recruited.

This year's academic achievements are very satisfactory with a success rate of 96.6% whereas it was 93.9% last year. Children with learning difficulties benefited from remedial sessions conducted by teachers twice a week. In order to assess the level of learners' English speaking skills, a recitation competition was organised from grade 3 to 6.

The curricula review process, which started four years ago, continued in July. Grade 4 teachers evaluated the French and English curricula. Besides, they were introduced to grade 5 new curricula of the same disciplines (French and English).

In connection with capacity building, pedagogical staff received training on integration pedagogy facilitated by the language teacher and another, provided by the Headmaster, on forms of abuse. A document entitled "Ecole sécurisante et amie de l'enfant centrée sur l'intérêt de l'enfant " (Safe and child-friendly school centred on child best interests) was also disseminated.

As for the Headmaster, he participated in October in Rwanda, in a training course on how to promote human growth. The objective was to learn to recognize human life forces in the simplest daily experiences in order to build self-confidence and that of others and to promote human psychic growth.

As part of advocacy, the local child safeguarding team conducted field visits in SOS projects and within the community in November so as to realize the child rights situation. Overall, child rights are generally respected in SOS projects while community children suffer greatly from insufficient and unbalanced food as well as lack of school fees and supplies.

Finally, SOS HG Primary School Muyinga continues to be ranked first at the provincial ranking of academic results. Its education of quality is a model for other public and private schools in the region. Thus, the grade 4 teacher was invited by "Espoir"(Hope) primary school in Kirundo to train its pedagogical staff on the French teaching methodology.

3.4.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME MUYINGA.

The political and security crisis that has afflicted Burundi since April 2015 has been accompanied by the freezing of international aid. Economically, this situation adversely affects the population of Muyinga in general and the Family Strengthening beneficiaries more particularly. Climatic hazards that the region has experienced have resulted in agricultural production decline, thus exacerbating an already precarious situation. The spirit of solidarity and mutual help is therefore weakened.

The FS Programme's activities cover 4 administrative hills/areas, 3 of which are in Muyinga commune and another one is in Gasorwe commune. In December, the Programme received 232 children at risk of losing family care. They are sheltered in 86 families. As a result, by 31 December, the FS Programme supports 208 families of 1 038 beneficiary children including 536 children of under 17 years old and 502 young adults of 18 years old and over.

From an academic point of view, the FS Programme has 527 school children including 18 kindergarteners, 433 primary schoolchildren and 76 attending high education. The success rate was 78% at the primary level and 84% at the secondary level. In addition, two young people are attending a vocational training in mechanics and driving and one girl is trained on- the- job in women's hairdressing.

In beneficiary capacity building, training sessions were conducted. This is training on nutrition for 131 caregivers in March and another one on modern agricultural techniques for 116 caregivers in October. In addition, 11 awareness raising sessions were held on mutual help and child school supervision. The FS Programme also identified 48 focal points including 38 women and 10 men who were trained on child rights, modern agricultural techniques, nutrition, education and health in March. It should also be noted that 96 young people including 55 girls and 41 boys attended a child rights training session that ended with a fulfillment outing in August.

As far as savings and loans are concerned, savings were made by 20 Community- Based Organisation (CBOs) members. Therefore, an amount of BIF 5, 325, 500 was taken from these savings and distributed to members as loans, which enabled them to buy 11 goats and agricultural fertilizers consisting of 990 kilogrammes of chemical fertilizers and 1,650 kilogrammes of bean seeds.

In terms of decent housing support, 23 neediest families received equipment consisting of 22 iron sheets, 2 doors and 4 windows each. Beneficiaries and the community contributed to making adobe bricks.

The FS Programme regrets the passing away of two caregivers and three children from two different families following a natural illness.

3.5 RUTANA

3.5.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE RUTANA

During the year 2016, the security situation has improved in the province Rutana compared to the year 2015. Nevertheless, the region experienced climatic hazards and as a consequence, there has been decline in agricultural production. As a consequence, prices for essential commodities have increased compared to the same period in 2015. For example, on the local market, the price of beans rose from BIF1,000 a kilogramme in December 2015 to BIF 1,500 while the price of rice went up from BIF 1 ,600 a kilogramme to BIF 1, 900. To cope with the situation, the Village has temporarily made strategic stocks of beans and rice for a two-month period.

SOS Children's Village Rutana has just started the new alternative care, "Foster Care" programme with 10 children living in 7 families including 5 in Rutana and 2 in Makamba. Administrative authorities welcomed this programme: "It is a programme that fits well with the policy of reducing the rate of street children", pointed out the Administrator of Makamba Commune.

Meanwhile, the Village has received 20 new children and now caters for 140 children. These new children needed care and affection very much. Therefore, as a consequence of the loss of parental care and extreme poverty in the intervention area, these children were suffering from malnutrition. At the Village, they are on a balanced diet and are gradually adapting to their new living environment thanks to various games and affection offered by the Village community.

In the health field, an annual health check was carried out in November and December for 140 Village children; that is 1,300 medical check-ups including 320 for the 20 newly- received children. Of all the medical check-ups performed, there were no particular or cases of serious illnesses.

From a school point of view, 32 children are attending the SOS Kindergarten, 64 are studying at the SOS HG Primary School while 33 others are attending general secondary education and 1 in a vocational education. It should be noted that 10 children have not yet reached the school age. The academic performance is satisfactory. Indeed, 58 children out of 61 of the SOS HG Primary School have advanced; that is a success rate of 95.08% while it was 95.7% last school year. In secondary school, 29 out of 32 young people have advanced; that is a rate of 90.6% against 80.6% of the school year 2014-2015.

In child safeguarding, the Village visited a family of origin of a young person so as to recover properties left by his parents, which were about to be robbed. In addition, with the support of SOS mothers, two children met their biological parents. They now experience good relationships with regular and reciprocal visits. Furthermore, the Village contributed to reunion between a young girl and her parents, whom she did not know since her admission 13 years ago. So, she felt happy to spend her summer holidays therein for the very first time.

In terms of events, the Village celebrated SOS Day on 10 July. Village children and young people as well as FS children performed various folk dances. Speeches were around such themes as child safeguarding, educational and vocational guidance for young people, awareness raising to support Village activities, and the new alternative care approach "Foster Care". On 13 July, the Village joined the Provincial Administration to celebrate the African Child Day.

As part of the Child and Youth Global Peace Games, edition 2016, the Village organised various activities. A basketball match opposed SOS girls to community ones. The Village team won with a score of 63 points against 59. Other children and young people participated in a drawing, poetry and song contest under the theme " Luttons contre la consommation des stupéfiants pour préserver la paix et un meilleur avenir des enfants et jeunes (Let's fight against drug consumption to preserve peace and a child / youth better future). At the end of these activities, all participants signed on peace manifestos.

As for staff development, the Village Director took part in a training course on how to promote human growth in order to learn to recognize human life forces to build self-confidence and that of others in October in Ruhondo, Rwanda. In July, the Village Director and the sponsorship officer were trained on new reporting techniques during a national sponsorship workshop held in Muyinga. SOS Mothers also attended first aid training in July and were certified. It should be noted that two SOS mothers followed the last sequence of their initial training from 9 May to 3 June at the SOS HG Regional Training Centre in Kigali and were confirmed SOS mothers. Last, maintenance staff and security guards received training on the use of fire extinguishers.

Finally, the Village was honoured to welcome the country's First Lady in April. On this occasion, she offered a donation of 1,050 kilogrammes of rice and 600 kilogrammes of beans worth BIF 1,530,000. In addition, in January, the Chief Executive Officer of the Sugar Factory of Moso accompanied by other factory personalities offered the Village a donation made of sugar, oil, beans, soaps, corn flour, biscuits and boxes of juice bottles valued at BIF 1,115,600 .

3.5.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES RUTANA

The security situation has remarkably improved during 2016. Young people go on studying as usual. In SOS youth facilities, there are 103 young people and 2 of them have been resettled. It should be noted that 28 young people live full-time in the 4 youth facilities, 51 in different boarding schools and 22 in the community.

Educationally, 78 young people attend secondary schools, 18 continue their higher education in the country while 5 are studying abroad including 2 at the SOS HG Technical High School in Kigali, Rwanda, 2 at the SOS HG International College in Tema, Ghana and 1 is attending Jacobs Bremen University in Germany. The success rate of young people in youth facilities has remarkably improved this school year 2015-2016. It rose from 69.56% to 93.75% and that of reunified young people went from 90.90% to 100%.

It is worth mentioning that a young person, who is studying at the SOS HG International College of Tema in Ghana, visited the United States of America in August where he represented his school as part of the twinning between Tema of Ghana and Maryland of the USA. He had the opportunity to visit the White House and watched a Basketball match Baltimore. In October, he visited the Saint André School in Mississippi as part of a cultural exchange with other young people.

In terms of important events, the Village celebrated 8 youth diplomas and reunification of 7 young people on 9 November. In addition, the Village celebrated the first Bachelor's degree of a young girl who has just completed her higher education with high pass at the "Université du Lac" in Communication Sciences. She is currently working as a programme journalist at NTUMBERO FM Radio station. In April, young people also visited the BBCI (Burundian Bank for Commerce and Investment), agency Rutana, within the framework of the World Money Week, jointly organised by CYFI (Child & Youth Finance International), a partner NGO based in Amsterdam (Holland).

In health realm, during Easter holidays, SOS young people received a capacity building session on "**Sexual and reproductive health**". They talked about problems that haunt young people, factors underlying early sexual intercourse and how to deal with them. It should be noted that 720 medical tests were conducted for 50 young people. Of all the tests performed, there were no particularities or cases of serious illnesses.

As part of advocacy, 24 young people got their certificates of birth and other identification documents thanks to collaboration with local administration. Thus, one young person was assisted in recovery of the family property despoiled by extended family members.

As for staff development, four youth leaders were trained on first aid by Red Cross Burundi in July.

3.5.2 SOS KINDERGARTEN RUTANA

The Kindergarten Rutana cares for 92 children including 32 from the Village and 60 from the community. Four (4) of the community children are granted the Organisation's scholarships. Children benefit from an intellectual, socio-emotional and psychomotor -based care.

In order to build capacity for the staff, educators were trained on French speaking skills' development, education without punishment or reward, teacher-learner relationship, constructive pedagogy (making learners become actors of their learning), non-violent communication and child-friendly school. In addition, the Head of Kindergarten received training on child safeguarding in February in Bujumbura and on integral human formation in October in Rwanda. In March, she visited SOS Kindergartens Entebbe and Kakiri in Uganda for field training and experience exchange.

In terms of child safeguarding, the Kindergarten conducted 9 child rights education sessions for Kindergarten 3 children. Educators have always helped 7 FS children attending the Kindergarten do their homework. In the same vein, the Kindergarten continues to organise awareness-raising sessions on safety instructions for children at Kindergarten. The Head has finally carried out an awareness-raising session on child rights for school officials of two neighbouring kindergartens.

In the fulfillment area, the Kindergarten organised a child's excursion, which ended with qualification of 32 children completing the kindergarten cycle in June. They got end- of -cycle certificates. In December, the Kindergarten, with parents' support, celebrated Christmas for children. They presented various games to enliven the party and Father Christmas offered them presents.

It is worth noting that, in addition to group presents, children received individual ones. Finally, the Kindergarten celebrated child birthdays.

As part of partnership, a neighbouring Kindergarten "Levain du Savoir" invited the Head of SOS Kindergarten to a workshop organised on quality education and the promotion of private schools. Taking advantage of the occasion, the Head of SOS Kindergarten gave a presentation on management of a private school in general and a kindergarten in particular. In addition, 14 parents who contributed to local sponsorship received certificates of merit in June. In order to strengthen relationships with parents, 9 formal visits into SOS families were carried out so as to discuss about child academic behaviour. For the same purpose, the Head of the SOS Kindergarten held two meetings for SOS mothers to assess the impact of the visits on child preschool life.

3.5.3 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL RUTANA

The SOS HG primary school Rutana just closed the year 2016 with necessary facilities and equipment to meet the policy of the Ministry of Education to extend primary education to 9 instead of 6 years. Thus, levels 7, 8 and 9 three additional classrooms, a laboratory, a library, a multipurpose room, a teachers' room and an additional toilet block were built and equipped.

As of 31 December, the school had 271 pupils, 71 of whom were SOS Village children and 2 FS -supported children receiving the Organisation scholarships.

Academic achievements are satisfactory. The school has a success rate of 95.1% while our target group children's success rate is of 92.9% in December examinations 2016 against respectively 96.25% and 96.15% last year.

As part of teaching staff capacity building, 2 teacher retraining sessions have been held. The first focused on conducting individual interviews with children with behavioural disorders and the second on school discipline. As for the Headmaster, he participated in October in Rwanda, in training on how to promote human growth. The objective was to learn to recognize human life forces in the simplest daily experiences in order to build self-confidence and that of others and to promote the human psychic growth. It should also be mentioned that a 5-day reflection workshop was held on Non-Violent Communication, constructive pedagogy (making learners become actors of their learning), teacher-learner relationships, education without punishment or reward and child-friendly school.

In order to better popularize the concept of child safeguarding, three awareness sessions for parents and teachers on child abuse and education to sexuality were held. Likewise, teachers were also trained on facilitation techniques in order to better prepare them for supervising activities of "Child Rights" and "STOP-AIDS" clubs initiated at the school.

In partnership, two open days for parents were organized. It was an opportunity for them to watch activities proposed to their children and were invited to express constructive criticisms to improve school's educational activities. In addition, with a view of strengthening the "child-friendly school", an awareness-raising workshop on child rights safeguarding in schools was held for school officials and Child Rights Club supervisors from 13 neighbouring schools that take in our target group children.

In the area of fulfillment activities, pupils blissfully celebrated the end of school year with games, songs and dances that convey educational messages. On this occasion, certificates of recognition were awarded to 25 parents who contributed to the support of SOS Children's Village through local sponsorship.

3.5.4 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME RUTANA

In the year 2016, the soaring commodity prices weakened the purchasing power of families assisted by the FS Programme. This undermines the Programme's efforts for family and community economic empowerment to effectively meet child needs.

As of 31 December, the FS Programme assists 134 families of 744 Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children including 544 children under 17 years old and 200 young adults of 18 years old and over. In the course of the year, 39 families of 165 children exited the Programme; 35 of them exited by self-reliance and 4 by non-compliance with requirements.

Academically, 370 children and young people are attending school. Ten (10) children are enrolled in kindergarten, 353 in primary and 7 in secondary schools. Success rates were 80.3% and 83%, respectively in primary and secondary schools.

With respect to child rights promotion, the FS Programme trained 44 peer educators, 24 child rights club supervisors and 15 school officials from 13 schools on child participation in their safeguarding. As a result, 92 new children joined children's rights clubs.

The FS programme also conducted 4 community awareness sessions for 532 people on the importance of free screening and HIV/AIDS prevention. Thus, 339 people responded to the plea for free screening; that is a rate of 63.72%. All of them were HIV negative. The Programme also conducted 2 couple therapy sessions in which 46 couples participated. Thus, five caregivers, who had been abandoned by their partners, came together again.

In order to ensure sustainability of the programme's activities, 10 training and awareness-raising workshops were conducted on community solidarity and child rights safeguarding for 104 caregivers, 66 leaders of Community- Based Organisations and 28 members of Child Safeguarding Committees. In addition, 32 representatives of these groups visited the FS Gitega PRF for experience exchange.

The programme also supported the joint association "TURERERE HAMWE", comprising 8 CBOs whose FS families are members and promoted by chains of distribution. It is worth noting that 729 members of these CBOs have committed to supporting OVC (Orphans and other Vulnerable Children) with a two-hundred BIF monthly contribution. This enabled them to mobilize an amount of BIF 785, 600 to support 100 OVC in school supplies, 94 OVC in food kits and 25 vulnerable families received bean seeds.

Within the framework of partnership, the FS Programme worked with the administration, the Centre for Family and Community Development, the group of CBOs "TUREREREHAMWE", the Christian Literature Production and Distribution Centre in economic strengthening and the Adults literacy centre in teaching caregivers and CBO members how to read and write.

3.5.5 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE RUTANA

The security situation has improved in 2016, which allowed the Medical Centre to go about its daily activities. During the year, the Medical Centre recorded 12,181 outpatient visits including 1,678 SOS children / young people. In laboratory, 10,062 samples for 7,770 patients were analysed.

In relation to preventive and promotional care, 399 women were consulted to monitor their pregnancies. In addition, 457 women adhered to the use of modern contraceptive methods and 607 children were immunized. As part of the outreach strategy, 20 awareness-raising sessions on promotional health activities were carried out on 4 surrounding hills/areas (Rutana, Kayove, Rongero, and Gifunzo). One thousand three hundred and twenty-four (1,324) people participated, 339 of them got freely HIV/AIDS screened. None of them was HIV positive.

In the same vein, 194 HIV positive people were regularly monitored at the Medical Centre, 114 of them are under antiretroviral (ARV) treatment and 80 under Cotrimoxazole prophylaxis. In addition, 1,099 people were HIV screened after pre-screening counselling sessions conducted at the Medical Centre. Among them, 13 were HIV positive; that is a seroprevalence rate of 1.18%. Finally, 8 new people living with HIV were put on antiretroviral treatment.

In November and December, the Medical Centre conducted an annual health assessment of 140 SOS Village children (980 tests) and 50 SOS young people (720 tests). It also carried out 320 medical check-ups for 20 newly-received children into the Village. Of all the tests, there were no particular cases or serious illnesses to mention.

In terms of staff capacity building, one nurse participated in a training organised by the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS held in Ruyigi from May 9 to 20 on modern contraceptive technology. In addition, the Health mediator participated in a training session on HIV screening held in Gitega.

As part of partnership, the Medical Centre has signed two new service contracts, respectively with the National Federation of Savings and loans Cooperatives Burundi (FENACOBUR) and Health Insurance of FVS Amade Burundi (Family against HIV/AIDS).