



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
BURUNDI**

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ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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SECTION 1 - ANNUAL REPORT

1.1 SUMMARY OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ACTIVITIES IN BURUNDI

During 2019, the political situation in Burundi remained marked by suspension of inter-Burundi dialogue and preparations for general elections 2020. On economic level, and although we do not have official figures yet, African Development Bank experts were expecting economic growth of 1%. For a population that grows on average more than 3% per year, this growth is insufficient. Prices of the main necessities have significantly increased. For example, according to SOS household notebooks, the price of rice has increased by more than 12%, that of beans by more than 16% and that of maize by more than 33%.

The country has experienced severe climatic hazards. Indeed, torrential rains caused material and human damage, particularly in the north of Bujumbura and in Cibitoke province (north-west). Burundi population has also been victim of cholera epidemic declared in June 2019.

The level of unemployment is very alarming. It is estimated at 55.2% for young people in rural areas compared to 65.4% in urban areas. The fact is that our young people who have graduated from both public and private universities have had very little chance of being recruited on job market. In 2019, only 18 out of 59 young people graduating from programmes obtained a regularly paying job; that is 30%. To deal with this situation, SOS Children's Villages Burundi is developing an entrepreneurial culture among young people by building their capacities and setting up support structures to help them create their own jobs.

In September, SOS Children's Villages Burundi celebrated its 40ieth anniversary. These ceremonies were enhanced by the presence of the President of SOS Children's Villages International, IDR and CVI-Rep as well as the Minister in charge of Social Affairs of Burundi. Members of diplomatic corps, representatives of local administrations, SOS friends, SOS staff representatives from the 5 locations also participated in the ceremonies. Testimonies of young people having grown up in SOS programmes and gifts they gave to their SOS Mothers, Directors of SOS Children's Villages thrilled many participants in the ceremonies, which took place in a memorable atmosphere. On this occasion, SOS rings were given to 9 deserving SOS mothers.

Regarding staff turnover, SOS Children's Villages Burundi welcomed 3 new programme directors while 10 staff members, including 1 Village director and 2 SOS mothers retired on 31 December 2019.

In 2019, SOS Children's Villages Burundi took care of 1,415 children and young people (out of 1,385 planned), including 561 in 5 children's villages and 629 in youth care, as well as 225 children supported in 153 foster families. The gap of 30 children is explained by the admission of new children in extreme need. In the same year, the alternative care programme welcomed 34 new children in SOS families and 62 in foster families. In response to recommendations of the RAP 2017, five new SOS family houses were integrated into community and 8 youth facilities were closed.

At the family strengthening level, child abuse monitors, equipped with Android phones for reporting child abuse, have been introduced in all programmes. In addition, 5 956 OVC (out of 5990 planned) were supported in 1618 more vulnerable families. Eight (8) children passed away and 26 children moved with their families from the programme intervention areas; which explains the gap of 34 children.

At the educational level, 4 kindergartens, 5 primary schools and 1 secondary school provided quality pre-school and schooling for 3,111 children, including 606 SOS children, 75 from FS and 69 scholarship holders. It should also be noted that 4 medical centres carried out 129,407 medical consultations and other preventive and promotional activities for the benefit of children in the target group and the local population.

As far as fundraising is concerned, out of the BIF 168,997,800 planned, BIF 149,328,832 were collected; i.e. 88% of the expected income. In terms of annual budget execution, current expenditure was 98%, the 2% under-execution being attributed to *Sanjo* programme, which is a five-year IPD project. Revenue was achieved at 104% and capital expenditure at 118%, the over-execution being due to purchase of a vehicle for the “Family Strengthening Gitega” programme, which was budgeted for in 2020 budget but was financed through the programme *Sanjo*.

A new creativity programme for 50 children and young people was launched at SOS Children's Village Rutana, teaching children how to make ornamental objects and beads from scrap materials, decorating baskets and pots. They also learned to embroidery, to make tablecloth, and to make packaging and pillows. On the occasion of a fair organised in December, these children and young people exhibited and sold their products. Complementary training programmes in English, driving, drafting of income generating micro-projects for young people were also organised to enable them to be competitive.

A mid-term assessment of the *Sanjo* programme was carried out. SOS Children's Villages also produced a national action plan for gender mainstreaming in its programmes after a participatory audit commissioned by SOS Belgium.

SOS Children's Villages Burundi has experienced both happy and unhappy events. SOS families have celebrated 27 SOS young people's marriages and 110 diplomas, 84 of which are secondary school certificates and 26 degrees. In addition, 109 SOS children and young people were reunited and 59 resettled, all of them leaving with self-reliance. It should also be noted that 6 out of the 8 candidates presented for the entrance test to the International College of Ghana passed; that is a score of 75% ever reached before. We nevertheless deplore the passing away of 10 children, including one from SOS family, another from foster family and 8 from FS.

Priorities of SOS Children's Villages Burundi for 2020 implementing recommendations of internal and external audits, programme risk registers and the salary grid; developing administrative and financial procedures manual, the national guidelines for youth development and strengthening, the national strategic plan for communication and fundraising and a new project to be submitted to the DGD for funding (Phase II of the SANGO Programme). We will also assess the quality of care in alternative programmes and that of pedagogical coaching in SOS school structures, finalise the encoding process and set up the national register of fixed assets. Finally, we will create a website, recruit potential donors online, regularly consult calls for proposals and comply 100% with equipment, IT security and software standards, without forgetting to put all the machines on cloud.

1.2 SCHEDULE OF MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2020

Dates/Months	Activities
20 January 2020	National Management Team meeting
27 February 2020	Senior Management Team meeting
3 March 2020	Meeting of Heads of Department in charge of activity follow-up
14 April 2020	National Management Team meeting
5 May 2020	Meeting of Heads of Department in charge of activity follow-up
25 June 2020	Senior Management Team meeting
7 July 2020	Meeting of Heads of Department in charge of activity follow-up
20 August 2020	National Management Team meeting
1 September 2020	Meeting of Heads of Department in charge of activity follow-up
20 October 2020	National Management Team meeting
3 November 2020	Meeting of Heads of Department in charge of activity follow-up

SECTION 2 : STATISTICS DATA

2.1 FACILITY STATISTICS DATA (See Navision)

2.2 SUMMARY OF STATISTICS DATA (See Navision)

SECTION 3- FACILITY REPORT

3.1 BUJUMBURA

3.1.1 SOS FAMILY CARE BUJUMBURA

During 2019, health and educational performance of children/young people in alternative programmes was generally satisfactory. In addition, the security situation has significantly improved.

The SOS Family Care programme has 121 children living in 13 family houses. During this year, 11 new children were admitted. Of the 121 children, 119 (98.3%) are enrolled in school, 16 of whom are in kindergarten, 82 in primary school and 21 in secondary school. Of the two children not attending school, one is not of school age while the other is a young girl with a mental health problem and she is currently being cared for in a specialised structure. Compared to last year, school results were satisfactory with a success rate of 87.8% against 84%.

The village has integrated an SOS family into the community to align with the strategy 2030. This family currently resides in a well-secured neighbourhood in Bujumbura. The SOS mother and children have been prepared so as to help them adapt easily to this new form of family care. The warm welcome given to the family by neighbours has dispelled the anxiety due to separation from the Village community.

In July, the village organised an outing for all children to the “public garden” in Bujumbura as part of their entertainment and development. The Village Management seized this opportunity to give incentives to children who achieved better results and/or behaved well. It was also an opportunity for SOS families to joyfully end the school year and wish children a happy holiday by sharing a convivial meal. An excursion for SOS mothers was also organised in the south of the country as part of their fulfilment.

Ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of SOS Children's Villages Burundi took place in Bujumbura last September. It was very nice to see: people enjoyed watching children and young people's songs and dances. The SOS Children's Village choir called Equinox displayed its angelic voices while welcoming the President of SOS Kinderdorf International at SOS Children's Village Bujumbura. SOS young people and adults shared touching testimonies about their lives in the different Villages Burundi. In addition, 9 SOS mothers including one from Bujumbura received an SOS ring from the President.

The Village has experienced other joyful moments. It celebrated 4 SOS young boys' weddings, one of whom has already given birth to a baby girl. In addition, two football matches pitting SOS young people and others from local community took place. SOS young people won the first match by a score of 5 goals to 1 while the community one won the second by 3 goals to 1.

The village has strengthened its activities to protect child's rights. It is within this framework that the children's council was renewed and immersed with their specification note. Core care co-workers have also been trained on management and reporting of incidents related to child safeguarding.

The Village contributed to the validation of national guidelines on the target group and placement of children in alternative care programmes. The implementation plan for the SOS Care Promise was also assessed. Commitments which have not yet been implemented have been postponed to 2020.

The village's relationships with its partners have been strengthened. For example, Startimes, together with the Chinese Ambassador to Burundi, visited SOS Children's Village Bujumbura with a donation of two hundred schoolbags worth three million six hundred thousand Burundi francs (BIF 3,600,000) for children and young people. In addition, a local bank, CRDB Bank, offered SOS Children's Villages Burundi a donation of 30 mattresses worth five million one hundred thousand Burundi francs (BIF 5,100,000) while visiting the village. Additionally, the Bible Society of Burundi supported the village by training its core care staff on taking care of traumatised children and young people.

SOS Children's Village Bujumbura organised farewell ceremonies for six local employees who retired on 31 December. They were offered gifts and grateful speeches for the trust and good work done in SOS Children's Villages Burundi during their 20 years of service were delivered.

Finally, the village celebrated Christmas Eve with a baptism of 2 newly received children to SOS families. SOS Children's Village Bujumbura and local administrative authorities took part in it. One could see joy on eyes of all children/young people.

3.1.2 FOSTER FAMILY CARE BUJUMBURA

With the admission of 9 children placed in 6 voluntary foster families, the Foster Family Care Unit has 79 children placed in 50 families as of 31 December 2019. These children have been admitted through social surveys involving local administration and community leaders.

During the surveys, it was found that low -income families are the most available to receive children in need. Awareness-raising sessions will be held during the year 2020 with families potentially capable of providing better care for children that would be untrusted to them. To this end, a data bank of voluntary foster families will be set up.

A Foster Care volunteer paid visits to 50 foster families to inquire about care situation of the children/young people they have welcomed. The protection situation of children under their care is overall satisfactory despite precarious living conditions of some foster families. A study to assess the quality of care will be carried out in 2020 so as to set up improvement strategies.

Of the 79 Foster care children, 69 are attending basic school, 2 in the post-basic cycle while 8 children are not of school going age yet. At the end of the 2018-2019 school year, results are very satisfactory with a success rate of 87%.

Foster parents have been trained on “Child safeguarding” and “Child protection”, on family savings and on the prevention of Ebola virus. In addition, all new foster parents have been imbued with the content of SOS Code of Conduct and they have committed to abide by it.

Finally, experience exchange visits were made between SOS families, Foster care and community families. It has been an opportunity to learn from one another.

3.1.3 YOUTH CARE BUJUMBURA

The Youth Care programme had 127 young people on 31 December while there were 125 in 2018. Of these 127 young people, 22 live in youth homes, 26 live in secondary school boarding schools, 69 reunited young people live with their families of origin and 10 others live abroad for study reasons. During this year, 22 young people were reunited with their families of origin and 19 were resettled. Following family reunification, two youth homes, one for girls and one for boys, were closed. As a result, employment contracts of two youth leaders were terminated.

The Youth Care programme is concerned about the education of its young people, since 125 out of 127 young people are in school. Indeed, 4 reunited children are attending primary school, 56 young people are in secondary school, 32 are in higher education, 3 are in vocational training and the remaining 2 young people are mentally retarded. It should be noted that 25 young people from secondary school and 5 from universities have obtained their diplomas. School results are generally satisfactory with a success rate of 86% against 88.7% in 2018. This reduction is due to maladjustment of young people newly admitted to 7th year at the SOS HG Secondary School in Bujumbura. Strategies for capacity building and school supervision of 6th and 7th grade pupils are to be developed in 2020. This year, emulation prizes have been given to young people with very good school results in order to motivate them. Exceptionally, 3 SOS young people from Bujumbura were admitted to entrance test to the International College of Ghana.

Reintegrated and resettled young people took part in a meeting to analyse criteria for granting Master's scholarship loans. It was an opportunity for the Programme Management to inform the young people about the new Strategy 2030, to address their concerns and assess the progress made in legalising statutes of their mutual and support association. In the same vein, 20 reintegrated and resettled young people took part in national forum in July to identify internal and external difficulties related to their family reunification and resettlement in order to decide on improvement strategies. In addition, a resettled SOS young person participated in regional forum in Kigali on youth employability. In addition, a tracking footprint study was carried out among resettled young people between 2012 and 2018 to identify strengths and weaknesses related to children and young people family care. Youth representatives met with the President of SOS Kinderdorf International. On this occasion, young people expressed their concerns in relation to the reunification of children/young people with their families of origin and integration of SOS families into the community. Satisfactory answers and pieces of advice were given.

It is important to note that during this year, 19 young people were resettled. However, only 8 young people got a job. In order to deal with this unemployment challenge, 22 secondary school graduates were trained in project drafting and 6 resettled candidates were trained in driving and English. One resettled young person was granted a loan-scholarship to continue his master's studies in statistics applied to management at the Université Bordeaux de Management in Senegal.

3.1.4 PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION BUJUMBURA

The overall assessment for the year 2019 is positive thanks to efforts made by education staff in collaboration with other stakeholders. The friendly school environment ensured quality pedagogical coaching for school children and pupils.

In primary school, the year ended with 529 pupils compared to 524 in 2018. Of the 529 schoolchildren, 79 are from our target group, including 72 from SOS families, 4 from family strengthening and 3 granted with an SOS scholarship. The Secondary School has 778 pupils against 768 last year. Among them, 137 children are cared for in SOS Children's Villages programmes and 641 from the community.

The school success rates have been satisfactory. Indeed, the success rate in primary school was 94.8% at the end of the 2018-2019 school year while it was 98.2% in the 2017-2018 school year. Out of 86 pupils enrolled in grade 6, 85 were admitted to secondary school; that is a promotion of 98% against 97.6% of the previous year. In secondary school, 690 out of 763 pupils enrolled advanced in the 2018-2019 school year, a success rate of 90.4% while it was 89.2% in the 2017-2018 school year.

In this year, the secondary school is delighted with the success of all the candidates to grade 9 National competitive test of Certification and Orientation to the post basic Cycle. In addition, all 142 candidates who did the National Examination Edition 2019 have got more than 50% according to provisional results with an average of 68.1% in Economics Section, 64.2% in Language Section and 63.3% in Biology - Chemistry - Earth Sciences. It should also be noted that 6 out of the 8 SOS young people who sat for the entrance test to the International College of Ghana passed the test; that is a score of 75%. It is worth mentioning that Her Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi awarded one of the secondary school laureates for having been the first at the national level in the National Competitive Examination 2018. It was during the Celebration of International Women's Day, on 8 March.

Other successes were recorded at secondary school. Indeed, 3 pupils won a scholarship to study abroad granted by the mobile phone company "Econet Wireless" as part of leadership development in Africa. Another pupil has been the first in a Slam competition (a form of poetry) between the best schools in Bujumbura.

Pedagogical staff received training in inclusive pedagogy, motivation and active teaching methods.

Fulfilment was at the heart of school life. To this end, an excursion for 6th graders was organised in Cibitoke. Likewise, a study trip for the secondary school finalists and a visit to the thermal water of Rumonge by the secondary school staff were carried out. In addition, a fair with dances and songs was held within premises of the secondary school and was attended by all categories of Bujumbura population.

3.1.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING BUJUMBURA

The Family Strengthening (FS) Bujumbura has, as of 31 December 743 children and 38 siblings not directly supported by the programme in 188 families, compared to 745 children and 42 siblings in 2018. This discrepancy is due to the passing away of 2 children because of malaria, which is highly prevalent in the region.

Of the 743 children supported by FS, 605 children/young people are in formal education while 12 young people are in vocational training in mechanics and driving. The remaining 126 children among whom 50 are not of school age and 76 aged between 3 and 6, have no access to pre-school education due to lack of suitable educational structures in their location. Children/young people attending school have succeeded at 70.9%, compared with 70% of the previous year. Summer holidays ended with a fulfilment day organised for children/young people supported by FS.

The programme discussed different themes to build capacities of its beneficiaries and partners. Thus, FS young beneficiaries were trained on sexual and reproductive health, child rights and duties as well as life skills. As for caregivers, they were trained on child rights and parenting skills. In addition, 4 caregivers and 3 sisters received vocational training in sewing. Furthermore, members of community-based organisations (CBOs) supported by the programme were trained on community life and awareness raised on warning signs and preventive measures against Ebola virus. It should also be noted that the FS staff have received training on community advocacy and Ebola virus. They also participated in a national workshop for good practices exchange and harmonisation of interventions.

The programme provided rice seed to 29 households and peanuts to 50 families as part of beneficiary families' empowerment. Similarly, 3 CBOs benefited from peanut seeds, beans and chemical fertilisers during the agricultural season A.

The African Child Day and the Child Rights Day (20 November) were jointly celebrated with other stakeholders operating in the field of child protection under the patronage of the Ministry in charge of Child Rights. In addition, the FS works closely with 21 CBOs currently operational in its intervention area. Members of these CBOs are grouped into Community loans and savings Associations and they receive financing of their income-generating activities for agro-livestock or small trade. As an illustration, these associations have raised a share capital of BIF 73,565,300 this year. Furthermore, the CBOs provided school supplies to 637 community children not supported by the programme.

It should be noted that not everything was good this year. Heavy rains caused material damage on one of the programme's intervention areas and 39 FS beneficiary families were affected.

3.1.6 MEDICAL CARE BUJUMBURA

During the year 2019, the Medical Centre has undergone positive changes in its mode of operation following introduction of a management software. Indeed, the management of drugs/reagents, client registration and invoicing services significantly improved. However, users have not been accustomed to this tool yet.

Data collection has significantly improved at the Medical Centre thanks to introduction of the service management software. As a result, data related to curative services' attendance has almost tripled this year compared to last year, with 73,073 visits in 2019 compared to 26,854 visits in 2018. In hospital, 721 inpatients were treated compared to 689 in 2018. In laboratory, 31,368 analyses were performed on 15,083 patients. It should also be noted that biological health check-ups were carried out for 20 children newly welcomed to SOS and foster families.

The Medical Centre carried out preventive service. Various immunising antigens were given to 4,115 infants in accordance with the national vaccination schedule, and 1,330 pregnant women and/or women of childbearing age were vaccinated against tetanus. In addition, 2,336 pregnant women received standard package of prenatal consultation services to help in improving living conditions of mother-child couple. In addition, 929 women were put on contraceptive methods. In promotional health, 128 information, education and communication sessions were held for 6,186 people.

It is so delightful to note that the Ministry of Public Health has chosen the Medical Centre as a site for management and distribution of mosquito nets as part of the fight against malaria. A national campaign for the distribution of long lasting insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets) took place therein from 16 to 20 December. On this occasion, 10,948 mosquito nets were distributed to 4,871 households from local community.

The Medical Centre contributed to the fight against HIV/AIDS. Thus, the Medical Centre cares for 433 people living with HIV) on ARV, including 278 women and 20 children. As part of prevention from mother-to-child HIV transmission, 29 mother-child couples have benefited from related services. Regarding client free screening or initiated by the provider, 45 HIV-positive people out of 1,641 screened were registered, that an HIV positive rate of 2.75% compared to 1.44% in 2018. This high prevalence is due to implementation of the new national strategy for screening people at high risk of HIV.

As far as partnership is concerned, the Medical Centre in collaboration with three local NGOs is implementing a project on sexual and reproductive health for young people, with funding from Care International. The latter has also trained the Medical Centre staff on sexual and reproductive health and donated materials for information, education and communication activities on this occasion with a value of four million eight hundred Burundi francs (BIF 4,800,000).

3.2 CIBITOKÉ

3.2.1 SOS FAMILY CARE CIBITOKÉ

The year 2019 ended well despite some disturbances due to weather and security conditions. Indeed, the first semester was marked by drought while the second one was characterized by heavy rains. This led to fields destruction, houses demolition and landslides that blew off dozens of human lives in one of the communes of Province Cibitoke where SOS Children's Village is located. Food prices have risen. For example, one kilogramme of rice increased from BIF 1,500 in 2018 to BIF 1,800 in 2019. Likewise, cassava flour and meat respectively increased from BIF 600 to BIF 800 and BIF 6,000 to BIF 8,000 per kilogramme. This price surge has had an impact on household life. To cope with this situation, SOS families have decided to buy essential products at whole price and build up security stocks.

Military confrontations disrupted the security situation in Mabayi commune of the same province in November. This caused reduction in visits to both SOS children's families of origin and foster families. Security has been restored and activities are normally going on.

The Village has a new Director recruited in advance on 1 October to better prepare him to replace the Village Director who retired on 31 December. Concerning admissions, 6 children were received to SOS families. The village currently has 92 children in 12 SOS families. However, during this year, the village has been bereaved by the passing away of 2 children under its care. One was cared for in a foster family and the other in an SOS family integrated into the community.

The Foster Family Care programme also registered 11 new children who were placed in 9 foster families. The Foster Family Care programme currently has 28 children in 23 foster families.

Child school performance under the care of SOS Children's Village Cibitoke has decreased. Out of 67 children enrolled in primary school, 46 children moved up, giving a success rate of 68.7% while it was 92.18% in the previous school year. In order to improve child results, new strategies have been adopted. These include recruitment of two coaches, concentration exercises to children in need, diversification of individualized lessons and incentives. Thanks to these strategies, the success rate was 96.7% in the first term of this school year (2019-2020). In Foster Families, the success rate was 60% during the school year. In order to increase of foster care child results, we will encourage foster parents to improve their school follow-up.

To comply with Strategy 2030, a second SOS family was integrated into the community in September 2019.

On 27 September, the President of SOS Kinderdorf International together with the IDR and the CVI Rep. paid a visit to the village. They had the opportunity to visit other programme units of Cibitoke. The day after the visit, 2 SOS mothers received an SOS ring from the President of SOS Kinderdorf International in Bujumbura during the celebration of the 40ieth anniversary of SOS Children's Villages Burundi.

In November, national guidelines for the target group and the placement of children in alternative care programmes were validated in the location Cibitoke. An assessment of the implementation of the SOS Care Promise was also carried out.

The SOS Children's Village has recruited a Social Assistant for a period of one year in order to strengthen the follow-up of foster family children. The Village has granted medical assistance cards to 18 children living in foster families to improve their health. Fourteen (14) foster parents received a parenting capacity building training on child welfare, which was conducted in May. In addition, training on child rights was provided to 23 foster parents.

Various internal and external trainings were carried out for staff to strengthen their capacities. Internally, core care co-workers have received training on maternal responsibility, planning, medical follow-up of children and young people, biomedical waste management, child protection and trauma healing. In August, SOS mothers benefited from a retreat in Gitega. Externally, the sponsorship officer (PSPO) Cibitoke was trained on the use of DSAPP software in Nairobi in July. A project drafting team in Cibitoke location also received training on project drafting and fundraising strategies in October. It should also be noted that the new Village Director completed a professional orientation at SOS Children's Village Muyinga in October. It is worth noting that handover and takeover ceremonies between the outgoing and the incoming Village Directors took place on 5 December 2019.

The Village also cared for fulfilment of children/young people and staff. The Christmas Eve party was organised. On this occasion, children enlivened the day with both folk and modern songs and dances. SOS neighbours and friends were also present in these festivities to share the Christmas joy with children. They financially contributed to support SOS Children's Villages activities by seven hundred and twenty-three thousand Burundi francs (BIF 723,000).

3.2.2 YOUTH CARE CIBITOKÉ

In 2019, Youth Care was staffed with a full-time youth leader. She is responsible for coaching, monitoring and strengthening youth development as well as preparing them for self-reliance. She started working in October.

The youth care currently has 79 young people, 51 of whom are under direct care of SOS Village and 28 reunited with their families of origin. Among the 51 young people, 27 are studying in primary school, 17 in secondary school, 4 are undergoing vocational training and 3 have got secondary school diplomas. It should be noted that all 28 reunited young people are still attending school. The success rate is 79.4% against 57.5% the previous school year.

The Village celebrated for the first time high school graduation certificates of 3 young people. Similarly, 2 young people completed theoretical part of their vocational training in December. They are now doing further training courses preparing them for employability in the coming days. It is worth mentioning that one young person passed the entrance exam to the HG International College in Tema, Ghana. In addition, one of the 10 young people who benefit from the Village scholarship obtained a secondary school certificate giving him access to higher education. It should also be noted that 3 SOS young people have been reunited with their families of origin.

Various training courses have been held for young people, including education to sexuality, community life, techniques for drawing up young people development plans and their implementation. In the area of sexuality education, emphasis was put on behavioural change, sexually transmitted infections, their mode of contamination and prevention. On the subject of community life, young people were trained in financial education, the drafting of statutes and procedures for legalizing an association.

Integration of young people is one among the village's major concerns. In order to share her experiences, an SOS adult who has successfully integrated into the community was invited to the village to testify about her life, the successes and challenges encountered as well as the lessons learned during her stay at the SOS Children's Village. She took this opportunity to encourage the young people to listen to and implement the advice of their SOS Mothers and Educators. In her testimony, she invited them to become more involved in their process of empowerment and preparation for their integration into the community.

Two among them participated in a national forum from 24 to 26 July in Bujumbura for reunited young people so as to improve the monitoring of reunited young people leaving alternative care programmes,. They were able to identify internal and external challenges related to the reunification and resettlement of young people.

Finally, a team walk bringing together young people and care staff as well as a dancing evening were organised as part of their fulfilment.

3.2.3 EARLY CHILDHOOD & DEVELOPMENT CIBITOKÉ

On 31 December, the kindergarten had 85 children in 3 classrooms. Among them, 17 are from the SOS Children's Village Cibitoke, 5 children granted with scholarship and 63 from the community. The number of children has increased from 73 in the 2018-2019 school year to 85 in 2019-2020 thanks to the quality of childcare compared to neighbouring schools.

The Kindergarten has updated a collection of songs, recitations and a series of French expressions to teach children. These tools have been used to reinforce early learning activities.

In staff capacity building, the head of the kindergarten was trained on child protection and biomedical waste management with a domestic helper. In the same vein, UNICEF trained a Kindergarten 1 educator on early childhood skills development. The training was given in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Technical and Vocational Training.

The Kindergarten has expanded its partnership. Thus, it organised a meeting with the team of the “Stella Maris” Technical Lycée to discuss areas of cooperation between both institutions. At the end of the meeting, they agreed on teacher training, exchange of experience and access of “Stella Maris” school teachers to the pedagogical resources of Cibitoke SOS Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten is concerned with preventing and fight against child violence. Parents have been made aware of the types of violence. They have committed themselves to not only respect and ensure child rights respect in the community but also to report any cases of abuse.

The Christmas party marked the end of the year on 19 December where all children were able to show their parents acquired skills through recitations and dances. The celebration was enhanced by the presence of Father Christmas who gave presents to each child.

3.2.4 PRIMARY EDUCATION CIBITOKÉ

The primary school ended the year with 239 schoolchildren, of whom 64 children are from SOS Children's Village Cibitoke, 6 children granted with scholarship and 169 from the neighbouring community. It provides quality pedagogical coaching by associating all education partners.

In terms of school results, the school year 2018-2019 ended with a success rate of 89.6%. At the beginning of the school year 2019-2020, strategies to improve results were made, including concentration exercises for children in need and diversification of individualised lessons, which brought the success rate to 96.1% at the end of the first term.

On 24 August, the school celebrated its 10th anniversary. Former schoolchildren attended these ceremonies. Festivities began with a visit of the premises. A team walk of participants followed and ended with exchanges-debates on school life. The school has already certified 1,338 schoolchildren since its creation. However, the school is not yet aligned with the national education policy, which brought primary education from 6 to 9 years, due to lack of infrastructure and equipment.

In terms of capacity building, the school director attended training courses on the control of cholera and Ebola diseases organised by the Ministry of Education. At the end of these trainings, pupils awareness sessions were conducted to prevent and fight against the diseases. In addition, the first grade teacher and the school director received training in August on a new primary school curriculum organised by the Ministry in charge of education.

As part of partnership, the school organised a training workshop on teacher-learner relationship for 4 local public schools. At the end of the training, participants wished they would popularize this theme in order to improve pupils learning.

On 20 July the school welcomed pupils and staff from SOS HG Primary School Bujumbura. On this occasion, a football match pitted both teams. After the match, festivities continued at a beach of a local Lake called "Dogodogo."

On 27 September, the school welcomed the President of SOS Kinderdorf International on a work visit. This distinguished guest spoke with the Director about life and challenges of this educational institution.

3.2.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING CIBITOKÉ

During 2019, harvests were worse than last year due to bad weather conditions, namely drought in the first half of the year and heavy rains in the second half. As a result, food prices have increased, which has negatively impacted on families' daily lives. To alleviate this situation, the programme in collaboration with 10 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) raised awareness for 382 families participating in the programme to grow drought- and rain-resisting crops. In addition, the programme has encouraged families to diversify income resources.

The programme has built capacities of beneficiaries and partners. Within this framework, 360 children were trained on their rights and duties and 116 were trained on life skills. In addition, 331 caregivers received training on children's rights, 358 in fighting against gender-based violence while 362 caregivers were trained in resource mobilisation and financial education. Training sessions on children's rights, non-violent communication, child and adolescent development as well as group facilitation techniques were conducted for 48 coaches of children's rights clubs.

Training on reporting and response procedures in cases of abuse was given to 303 focal points, while 103 members of community structures were trained on the Persons and Family Code, leadership and first aid. In the same vein, 47 members of caregiver groups were trained on organisational development and micro-projects. In addition, 1,294 people, including 382 caregivers, were made aware of solidarity and mutual aid, community life, environmental protection, body and environmental hygiene, the fight against endemo-epidemiological diseases, and membership of community health mutuality and microfinance institutions.

The socio-economic strengthening of families and communities has been one of the programme's priorities. Thanks to coaching, 99 community loan and savings associations with 2,819 members, among whom 1,863 are women and 956 are men. They have raised a share capital of BIF 163,624,550, of which BIF 158,904,550 is in use. This enabled the implementation of 1,529 income-generating activities (IGAs), of which 207 are agricultural, 89 livestock and 50 small-scale trade IGAs.

The programme supported education of children in need. It provided copybooks to 764 children and school uniforms to 92 children. It should be noted that out of 15 young people who were unable to continue their education, 3 were sent to study sewing and 12 hairdressing.

In partnership with the administration and NGOs working in the field of childhood, the programme celebrated child-dedicated days. It was an opportunity for the programme to hold an open-gate day. The public was not satisfied with a simple visit to offices, but wished to know more about the programme's intervention domains.

Finally, staff capacity building has taken place. The Programme Coordinator and 7 Social Workers were trained on evidence-based community advocacy, biomedical waste management, safety and SOS Care Promise. Finally, they participated in a national workshop for exchange of good practices and harmonisation of interventions.

3.2.6 MEDICAL CARE CIBITOKÉ

During the year 2019, the SOS Medical Centre Cibitoke continued activities to comply with standards of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS. To this end, an inspection of the Ministry was carried out in October to verify the compliance stage in terms of infrastructure, material/equipment and personnel. Thus, a new partnership agreement was concluded between SOS Children's Villages Burundi and the Ministry.

The Medical Centre registered 24,034 visits compared to 23,425 in 2018 and 1,057 days of hospitalisation. During the whole year, 7,965 patients were received in curative consultations, 476 patients in minor surgery, and 12,918 laboratory tests for 5,252 people including 10 village children and 8 children from Foster care screened as part of health check-ups before hospitalisation. In addition, 346 patients were followed up in hospitalization with an average of 3 days of hospitalization per patient.

The Medical Centre has also undertaken promotional and preventive care. Within this framework, 57 Information, Education and Communication sessions were held for 2,667 people. Training on the fight against STI/HIV as well as sexual and reproductive health was provided for 22 SOS young people and 450 young people from the FSP. During the national campaigns organized by the Ministry of Health and the Fight against AIDS, the Medical Centre successively vaccinated 4,261 children in June and 5,081 in December, while 201 pregnant women received Albendazole. For the same purpose, 303 pregnant women followed at the Medical Centre received intermittent preventive treatment with Fansidar tablets from the second trimester of pregnancy. In addition, the Medical Center participated in the distribution of 3,775 Long Lasting Insecticide Impregnated Mosquito Nets to 1,239 households during the December campaign.

The Medical Centre has contributed to the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic and reduction of maternal-fetal morbidity and mortality. In this context, 341 women of childbearing age have taken up contraceptive methods according to their choice as directed by the provider and 466 pregnant women have received prenatal consultations. In addition, the Medical Centre monitored 34 persons living with HIV under the antiretroviral treatment and 247 pregnant women were screened HIV negative during prenatal consultations in order to ensure the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Moreover, 454 people were screened at provider initiation with free outreach indexing strategy. Nine (9) of them returned positive, that is, 1.98%.

Finally, a new contract was concluded with the “Mutualité de Santé pour Tous” (a local organisation helping in getting medical care easily) and an amendment to the collaboration contract with PSI was negotiated. Also, a new contract with “BICOR VIE” CAPITALISATION (a life insurance in BICOR) was concluded at the end of the year. In addition, two nurses and the supervising doctor took part in a workshop to strengthen the capacity of providers in the Cibitoke province in new national guidelines for the management of HIV infection under the facilitation of the Provincial Health Department and the Health District of Cibitoke in partnership with the NGO FHI 360.

3.3 GITEGA

3.3.1 SOS FAMILY CARE GITEGA

Gitega, the new political capital city, is experiencing a calm security situation. The population is going about its daily business as usual. Consequent to the bad weather, food prices have increased. To illustrate this, the price of rice has gone up from BIF1,800 per kilogramme in December 2018 to BIF 2,000 in 2019; the price of beans has risen from BIF1,300 per kilogramme to BIF1,400. It is expected that prices will continue to rise because of torrential rains that are damaging crops. In order to cope with the situation, we continue to make group purchases for non-perishable products at wholesale prices. We also have included allowance increase for SOS families in the budget 2020.

The year 2019 coincided with the 40th anniversary of SOS Children's Village Gitega. In recognition of their care, 67 adults, some accompanied by their spouses and children, visited the village in December. On this occasion, children who had performed well at school in the first term received prizes from their elders to motivate them. In addition, the President of SOS KDI awarded an SOS mother from the SOS CV Gitega with an SOS ring (ring of honour) during the national anniversary celebration in Bujumbura.

The village has welcomed 10 new children. Thus, as of 31 December, the village had 99 children in 13 family houses. Of these 99 children, 6 newly received are under school age, 18 are attending the SOS Kindergarten, 69 are enrolled in the SOS HG primary school while 6 children are attending public primary school. The success rate for the 2018-2019 school year is 83.9%, compared to 89.4% in the previous year. An individual-based coaching is provided for children who perform poorly so as to improve school results. It is worth noting that 21 children have been placed in boarding schools; which reinforces their socialisation.

The Village integrated an SOS family house into the community in September to align with the strategy 2030. In addition, 18 children and young people were reunited with their reference families. These children and young people are gradually adapting to life in the community.

The SOS location Gitega has had a Programme Director since August for the decentralisation and integration of activities. The village has pleasantly celebrated 10 weddings in favour of its SOS adults, including 5 boys and 5 girls.

In terms of development activities, the women's football team has taken the lead in the village. It is within this framework that friendly matches between 3 villages (Gitega, Muyinga and Rutana) have been organised in favour of women's teams. The village of Gitega won the match against Rutana by a score of 3 goals to 1, while Muyinga won the match against Gitega by a score of 1 goal to 0. It was a good opportunity to have fun, build friendships and demonstrate their football skills. In addition, SOS mothers and aunts organised recreational outings to tourist areas respectively in the south and north of the country.

The village has carried on psychosocial care activities for children. Two Village staff members conducted peer to peer sessions for seven needy children. Ten others benefited from psychodrama sessions. As a result, the children became more fulfilled and more responsible than before.

The Village held, for leaders of the province Ruyigi, an exchange workshop on the process of placing and caring for children in alternative programmes. This was an opportunity to publicize the work of the Organization and to make collaboration easy with local administrative authorities.

The village carried out additional social surveys for 11 SOS children; which enabled these children to discover their family identities. In addition, property left by their parents was recovered.

Building capacity for core care c-workers remains our concern. Thus, mothers, aunts, social workers, pedagogical adviser and youth leaders were trained on trauma healing in July. The Village Director participated in a professional internship in July.

Furthermore, the Village Director, the Social Worker and the Pedagogical adviser were trained on PDB2 and KOBO Collect in December. In the same month, the Head Finance received training on the pay software “SAGE PAIE et RH”. The Local Sponsorship Coordinator was trained on the use of a professional video camera in May and he participated in a national workshop on sponsorship in July. Heads of programme units and heads of services participated in a national validation workshop of national guidelines about target group and child placement in November.

An evaluation of the implementation of the SOS Care Promise was carried out in November.

3.3.2 FOSTER FAMILY CARE GITEGA

By the end of December 2019, the programme has 32 children in 24 volunteer foster families, seven of whom are newly admitted. Of this number, one child is not of school going age yet, four children are enrolled in kindergarten and twenty-seven children are attending basic education. School performance is highly satisfactory, with a success rate of 90.5%.

Foster parents' capacities have been built namely about child development, child health assessment and monitoring, child abuse, first aid notions, SOS Child Protection Policy and SOS CV code of conduct; which they have all signed.

A development activity was organised for children. They visited a drum tourist site at GISHORA and took the opportunity to exchange and strengthen friendship bonds between them.

To reinforce their follow-up, a temporary worker was recruited to ensure a child close follow-up and foster parents' coaching.

Main challenges remain the lack of permanent staff appointed to monitor families and children in the programme and unwillingness of some community families to join the Foster Care programme. By 2020, intensive activities to identify potential and committed volunteer families will be the focus of the programme's work.

3.3.3 YOUTH CARE GITEGA

At the end of 2019, the Village Gitega had a single youth facility. In terms of youth care, there are 133 SOS young people, of whom 30 are in public boarding schools, 16 in the youth home, 29 at SOS HG boarding secondary school, 3 at the International College TEMA (Ghana), 42 are reunited with their families of origin and 13 have been resettled.

Young people's academic performance was relatively good. Out of 83 young people in secondary school, 66 young people passed; that is a success rate of 79.5% compared to 84.9% the previous year. Individualised support is provided to improve results. It should be noted that one SOS young person has completed university and 12 others have successfully completed high school and are getting ready to attend university. A young person who had obtained a scholarship loan to take a master's degree in Benin has just successfully completed his studies. Another one who was studying for his master's degree in Uganda had the opportunity to do an internship in Cairo/Egypt to deepen his experience in environment; which enabled him to get a job in that country. Furthermore, after a selection test, a young girl was admitted to the International College of Tema/Ghana, joining two others.

Young people's skills have been strengthened. Thus, 5 young people took part in a regional workshop organised in Kigali called "Rwanda 2019 youth advocacy, entrepreneurship and leadership training". Topics related to entrepreneurship, leadership and new technologies for development were discussed during this workshop. In order to improve the follow-up of reunited young people exiting alternative care programmes, 30 village young people and adults took part in a national forum organised for them in July. They were able to identify internal and external challenges related to youth reunification and empowerment. In August, an exchange forum on resettlement preparation was held for young undergraduates under the facilitation of SOS adults who gave testimonials on micro-project management. It is worth noting that 50 young people participated in a training course on the prevention and control of the EBOLA virus in April.

A part of fulfilment, a football match between SOS young people and the Family Strengthening Programme ones was played to celebrate the "World Peace Games" in December with a score of 4 to 1 in favour of the SOS team. Young people from the youth facility went on an educational excursion in November to Mount Songa with their educator for sightseeing.

The village carried out a "Tracking footprints" study in May in order to ensure the level of socio-professional integration of resettled young people. Out of 71 adults surveyed, including 33 males and 38 females, who had left the village in the last 7 years, the overall finding was that their level of social integration was satisfactory. This study will enable us to improve child and youth care with reference to recommendations made by the respondents.

Unemployment remains a worrying challenge in relation to reintegration of young people. Out of 13 young people exiting the programme in 2019, only 3 are employed. To enhance their employability, additional trainings on computer skills, English, driving and entrepreneurship have been organised. Thus, 5 young people attended driving training, 1 of them has already got a permanent driving licence and 2 others have a provisional driving licence, while 2 others keep taking an English language course at the "English Language Centre" to prepare for TOEFL and thus have a certificate.

3.3.4 EARLY CHILDHOOD & DEVELOPMENT GITEGA

As of 31 December, the kindergarten had 110 children compared to 104 last year. Of these, 18 are from the Village and 92 from the community. They are divided into three classrooms and are supervised by 3 educators and 1 substitute.

Pedagogical care mainly focuses on early learning activities. These activities are organised around the 5 learning areas, namely pre-numeracy, pre-writing, pre-reading, language and psychomotricity. The kindergarten has been equipped with three television sets serving as teaching aid and 46 board games as well as 49 sets of construction games. These TV sets are added to material produced by educators consisting of 9 “multi-coloured ball” boards, 18 “Sudoku” boards, Image lotto and shape as well as a digit game.

In terms of staff capacity building, the kindergarten organised two pedagogical days: educators were trained on outdoor games and their methodology, which are very useful in child psychomotor development.

The kindergarten shared its experience by welcoming, for three days, three nuns who teach at the “Mount Carmel” kindergarten of Songa. The experience exchange focused on methodologies and the handling of materials in pre-school education. In addition, a social worker at the central prison Ngozi, who is in charge of psychosocial care of children under 5 years, came to learn about pre-school education methodology.

Child safeguarding remains our concern. It is within this framework that educators have strengthened parents’ skills to know and apply child rights. This has been achieved in three parents’ meetings organised per group. In addition, the kindergarten has introduced a close care during break time. They also care for children before parents come to pick them up after class hours.

Kindergarteners joyfully celebrated Christmas and their birthdays. They performed a variety of funny games during these festivities. In addition, they danced and shared food and drink with their educators.

Finally, a farewell homage was paid to Jean Marie Nzeyimana, an educator who passed away while he was about to retire after almost 29 years of service to children.

3.3.5 PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION GITEGA

The school is delighted with pupils' academic performance. Indeed, it has recorded a success rate of 92.28% at the end of the 2018-2019 school year and 97.61% at the national competitive examination, edition 2019.

The total number of pupils is 408 divided into 9 classrooms of the first four cycles and 2 classrooms of the last cycle. Of these pupils, 69 are from the village and 339 from the community, including 16 with a scholarship. There are 13 qualified teachers.

The school has benefited from staff-capacity building sessions. Therefore, the National Office's staff provided support/ supervision and coaching to the new principal. The latter has also received training on learning difficulties and learning disabilities as well as on PDB2.

The school has been aligned with the government's new curricula. It is with this context that the principal, the grade1 teacher and the Head Teacher participated in training on grade1 teaching reforms in August. The principal and grade1 teacher also took part in a workshop organised by the National Office in order to integrate the reform in our curricula.

The Communal Education Department Gitega offered the school a donation consisting of 43 transcripts and 43 pupils' files. The same Department, with the support of UNICEF, gave the school 15 wall maps and 15 teaching boards. The school also received a donation of 3 books for the fourth cycle teachers and 70 soaps from IMAGINE BURUNDI Foundation Cibitoke to reinforce hygiene at school.

The school has initiated and supervised a Child's Rights Club and set up pupils' committee in charge of child protection. This committee has members in every class from grade7 to post-basic cycle. Lastly, the school has made a suggestion box available to help pupils express their grievances in a discreet manner.

Finally, final year pupils made an excursion and visited the BUDECA coffee factory. In addition, for the first time, the school participated in inter-school sports competitions and other friendly sports encounters with neighbouring schools. The school also participated for the first time in competitions of the "Génie en Herbe" club (an oral-aural competition of talented pupils to answer questions about world knowledge) organised by "Alliance Française" (French Alliance Centre) and came out first.

3.3.6 FAMILY STRENGTHENING GITEGA

The year ended with the programme supporting 2,000 OVC (Orphans and other Vulnerable Children). After some families exiting the programme, there remained 1,987 children participating in the programme and 156 siblings, all in 655 active families.

School performance was satisfactory. Indeed, the success rate of children participating in the programme, which was 73.6% the previous year, is 86.5%; that is 1,309 successes out of 1,512 children/young people attending school. It should be noted that 203 children are not enrolled in school for various reasons, including dropping out, youth rural-urban migration and lack of school fees.

SOS CV intervention activities supported 9 Community Based Organisations (CBOs) grouped in networks: 3 in coaching, monitoring and supervision, 3 in the setting up of local mini-bakeries while the other three are involved in soap manufacturing units. Partner CBOs have set up agricultural fields to increase production and family income. Coaching and support of Community Savings and Loans Associations (ACEC) have contributed in household economy progress, a striking example being that of a caregiver, a single mother of 3 children, who bought a plot of land worth BIF500,000 and built a house for her family. Each family participating in the programme has undertaken an individual income-generating activity and is participating in the implementation of 51 collective ones.

The programme has provided 55 families with decent houses, of which 43 have received doors and windows, 9 received iron sheet only while 3 got a complete kit (iron sheets, doors and windows). In collaboration with the Provincial Department for Agriculture and Livestock, all 655 families participating in the programme have established kitchen gardens to improve household nutrition.

The programme emphasizes on the promotion and protection of child's rights within and by communities. It is within this framework that 25 school clubs on child's rights have been set up. In addition, capacity-building workshops on child's rights and duties were organised for 432 children.

In partnership with the Burundi Red Cross, the programme is implementing a collaboration plan defined for 2019 on family strengthening. In collaboration with the Centre for Family and Community Development, the programme has facilitated quarterly coordination meetings of the Provincial Child Protection Committee and organised Child Dedicated Days. On this occasion, competitions were organised and the two top-ranked groups were children from school clubs that the programme follows.

It terms of staff capacity building, the programme organised a training on digitalisation and on the use of "Kobo Collect" for the FS social staff and users of PDB/PDB2 from other programme units. Two workshops were held for the programme's staff on community advocacy and exchange of good practices as well as harmonisation of interventions. Finally, the programme welcomed FS children from Walungu and Uvira in DRC for exchange of experience on establishment of child rights clubs and their functioning.

3.3.7 MEDICAL CARE GITEGA

It is a great pleasure to point out that the Medical Centre (MC) signed, in November, a document renewing the partnership agreement between SOS Children's Villages Burundi and the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS (MSPLS) was signed in November. In this renewal, the Ministry promised to support the MC in terms of personnel, equipment and medicines as well as the continuation of the performance-based financing.

During 2019, access to health care for children in general and pregnant women in particular has been improved. The MC received 21,459 patients, including children aged 0-17 years; that is an achievement rate of 85.8% compared to estimates.

Capacity-building sessions to provide ongoing support and quality care were organised for 20 SOS mothers and aunts & 21 foster parents. They focused on techniques to assess children's health state. In addition, 5,726 people including FS young people and caregivers benefited from capacity building on disease prevention. There was also a peer-to-peer group discussion for 28 young people living with HIV/AIDS and a therapeutic weekend for 42 women undergoing mother-child prevention as well as parents of young people under 15 years, living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, two training sessions on the child protection policy were held for eight local leaders and 20 health care providers.

The MC has concluded operational synergies with FHI 360 and the District Hospital Kibimba, respectively in the framework of monitoring care for people living with HIV through the (Reaching an AIDS-free Generation -RAFG) Programme and that of performance-based financing second generation through a contract between the MC and the District Hospital Kibimba.

In the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the MC has carried out HIV laboratory tests for 142 people living with HIV/AIDS. Thus, 68 people including 3 children, 13 spouses and 52 sexual partners of people living with HIV have known their HIV situation and have been put on antiretroviral treatment. In addition, 782 people were freely screened and 90 were HIV positive; that is an HIV prevalence of 11.5%.

The Ministry of Health supports and appreciates the work done by the MC. Thus, during evaluations by its services, the MC got a quarterly average of 80% on contracted indicators and services. In addition, the Health District Gitega offered the MC's preventive service a solar fridge.

Finally, the CM's income from all sources totalled BIF225,837,231 , without receivables and stock values of medicines and reagents; which represents 54.06% of operating expenses.

3.4 MUYINGA

3.4.1 SOS FAMILY CARE MUYINGA

The village Muyinga is located in a commune and a province often marked by precarious living conditions for most households, in areas of health, food, housing, etc. Consequently, a number of families live in conditions of extreme vulnerability jeopardizing integral development of children and young people. It is in this context that the Village has welcomed 25 new children, 23 of whom are in foster families.

SOS families currently care for 144 children in 15 family houses. These children and young people are enrolled in local schools respectively 9 children at the SOS Kindergarten, 124 at SOS HG school, 5 children at a public primary school, 4 in the public secondary schools while 2 children under school age.

The overall child success rate in 2018-2019 school year was 72.30%, compared to 84.36% the previous school year. This drop would be explained by the low level of a number of children with learning and concentration difficulties. The situation could improve with the recruitment of external coaches, individualization and increased concentration through FENIX exercises (concentration exercises).

In November, an SOS family was integrated into the community to align with the strategy 2030. Neighbouring families warmly welcomed them. Children and young people got easily adapted and they feel fulfilled.

The staff massively participated in the 40th anniversary of the SOS Children's Villages Organisation in Burundi, which was celebrated in Bujumbura on 28 September 2019. The President of SOS-KDI awarded one of our SOS mothers with an SOS ring.

The Village received a colourful visit from 15 SOS adults together with members of their families, spouses and children on 14 September. It was a great joy in the Village and the little children learnt from their elders who had a successful life.

During the Easter holidays, 23 children participated in two child and youth fora organised by the Catholic Diocese of Muyinga within the framework of activities to integrate children in our care into the community. They were introduced to certain entrepreneurial activities, particularly in relation to job creation and environmental protection. One hundred and thirty-five (135) children and young people out of 144 spent holidays with their families of origin and/or God's parents in order to strengthen their relationships.

In August, a Programme Director was hired for the location of Muyinga. Other staff members were recruited, in this case, 5 SOS Aunts to replace departures and followed an orientation programme during the probation period.

Co-workers' capacity building sessions have been held in various areas. Information sessions on ongoing various changes in the Organisation and Strategy 2030 were held. Other sessions related to the International Convention on Child Rights, child abuse, time management, the SOS brand and sessions on Ebola virus were also held.

Awareness was raised for SOS Mothers and Aunts on prevention of accidents and other incidents. Signs showing some actions/strategies to be taken in case of emergencies were placed in different places.

The Village also conducted two workshops, one on the evaluation of implementing the International Convention on Child Rights and the other on the United Nations guidelines on alternative care. It is worth mentioning that the implementation of SOS care commitments has been evaluated and national guidelines on target groups and placement of children validated.

Fulfilment activities such as football and team games were carried out for SOS children and young people as well as those from the neighbouring community. The games took place on the village playground and many people from the community came to cheer on the teams. Age-appropriate games, in collaboration with “Right To Play”, were organised for children and young people during Christmas holidays.

The village also has a women’s football team that represented the province in Cankuzo and Kayanza in “Hope Tournament” jointly organised by the Government and UNICEF.

SOS families have started a dairy cow breeding activity. This activity is self-financing and is developing positively. Eight (8) family houses are already supplied with milk. Finally, two coaching and revitalisation sessions for the association supporting SOS CV Muyinga (ASVEM) were respectively held in Muyinga on the 17th and in Ngozi on the 19th of December. This enabled a collection of one million nine hundred sixty-nine thousand one hundred and eighty-eight (BIF1,969,188) representing individual cash donations..

3.4.2 FOSTER FAMILY CARE MUYINGA

The Foster Family Care (FFC) programme unit expanded its interventions to 11 new volunteer foster families caring for 23 new children, to offer more children a loving home and equal opportunities to succeed in life. These children were no longer able to grow up with their families of origin. The total number of children currently stands at 58 in 36 families.

Of the children in voluntary foster care, 3 have not yet started school, 1 is in kindergarten and 54 are in basic schools. Lives of foster care children have significantly improved in all aspects. Four children who had dropped out of school before admission were able to return to school and 19 new children were enrolled. The overall success rate was 61.53%.

Children who had been admitted to voluntary foster families while malnourished currently have a stable nutritional state, as they receive a sufficient and balanced diet. On the health front, medical assistance cards granted to these voluntary foster families enable them to provide care for children in their care and other family members. These foster families are members of local solidarity associations.

To improve childcare, caregivers have benefited from capacity-building sessions on child rights protection and entrepreneurship. Noticed cases of violations are dealt with locally and in a timely manner. Some SOS families and those in the community have regularly carried out support and coaching visits to volunteer foster families to ensure that child living conditions are improved.

Nevertheless, there are various challenges such as vulnerable children who are in their biological families being unable to meet their needs but who do not want the children to go to other families, scarcity of voluntary foster families, families who volunteer but who are also very poor. The Foster Family Care programme unit lacks staff to carry out follow-up activities for children in voluntary foster care.

3.4.3 YOUTH CARE MUYINGA

The Youth Care Programme Unit (YC) provided more structured support in education, vocational guidance and employability for 158 young people (77 girls and 81 boys). With young people participation, considerable efforts have been made in terms of human and material resources and tools they need have been provided. All this was done to enable them to become fully independent and self-reliant in order to integrate harmoniously into society.

It should be noted that 158 young people the programme cares for are distributed as follows: 68 in SOS structures (45 in the 5 youth facilities, 21 in boarding schools and 2 who are staying in family houses) and 90 young people living in families of origin or foster families. Throughout this year, 19 young people were resettled and 24 young people were reunited with their families of origin or foster families.

Academic results of young people Muyinga are satisfactory. The overall success rate was 90.26%, compared to 87.2% in 2018. It should be noted that 22 are attending foreign universities. The village is delighted with 36 diplomas obtained by 23 young people from secondary school and 13 degrees.

In relation to young people's individual achievements, one young girl stood out first among all SOS young people in Burundi during the State Competitive Examination 2018. Consequently, she has been awarded a scholarship for excellence and she is applying to study in a foreign university.

Unemployment remains a worrying challenge in relation to reintegration of young people. Of 19 young people exiting the programme in 2019, only 6 have a job or an income-generating activity. It is in this context that additional training in computer skills, English, driving and entrepreneurship has been organised to foster the spirit of job creation and increase employment opportunities. A young person attending the International College Tema in Ghana took part in a regional workshop organised in Kigali called "Rwanda 2019 youth advocacy, entrepreneurship and leadership training" and the workshop focused on topics related to entrepreneurship, leadership and new technologies for development.

In addition, about 20 village young people and adults participated in a national forum in July to improve the follow-up of reunited young people having left alternative care programmes. They were able to identify internal and external challenges related to youth reunification and resettlement. To ensure the success or failure of reintegration, a survey was conducted among resettled young people over the past seven years to obtain their opinions and concerns regarding the preparation, training and support of resettled young people. Recommendations were made to improve the quality of care.

During this year, nine young people, including five boys and four girls, got married, a record never achieved before in a single year. A welcome of their fiancés and pride price giving ceremonies preceded the weddings.

3.4.4 EARLY CHILDHOOD & DEVELOPMENT MUYINGA

In 2019, the SOS Kindergarten has focused on activities that stimulate awakening and discovery of the environment for newly admitted children. Teaching aid such as puzzle games were put in all classrooms, image lotto installed in kindergarten1 and 2, digits and numbers in kindergarten 1 and 3 and memory, alphabets and letters. It should be noted that the kindergarten sandpit has been equipped with new material to strengthen the children's creative spirit.

The kindergarten has 91 children; 9 of them being SOS children and 82 are from the community, including 1 with an SOS scholarship. Kindergarteners are socialised and integrated into groups of their peers through games. They have improved their language skills. A session of evaluation of oral expression was carried out kindergarten 1 and 2 to assess the level of mastery of this skill. It was noticed that the children's level of expression was satisfactory.

Awareness was raised for parents, educators and children on the protection and safety of children. Educators also received introductory sessions on Excel software. Fire extinguishers and signs illustrating some of the children's rights and duties, which indicate where to gather in case of an incident, were installed within the Kindergarten.

A children's excursion was organised on the "Christmas for children" party to help children develop. Parents took part in these ceremonies and shared joy with the children. On this occasion, "Father Christmas" offered gifts to children .They joyfully welcomed "Father Christmas", singing for him. Amazed, parents could not stop shooting pictures that they will keep as a souvenir.

3.4.5 PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION MUYINGA

The school has worked to ensure pupils' holistic development and quality education thanks to implementation of regularly updated curricula and the use of information, communication and education techniques to meet lesson illustration.

SOS HG School Muyinga has 431 pupils consisting of 210 girls and 221 boys, including 129 SOS children and 16 pupils granted with scholarships. At the end of this school year, the success rate was 87.9% compared to 88.6% at the end of the previous school year. During this school year, the school presented 32 candidates to the national orientation and certification competitive examination and they all obtained the required score giving access to post-basic education cycle. The school was ranked second out of 39 schools at the communal level and second out of 149 schools at the provincial level.

Participation in inter-school championships organised at the national level marked extracurricular activities. The school participated in the swimming championship and won two medals. In addition, the school has started beekeeping to introduce pupils to entrepreneurship.

A teacher and the school principal participated in a national workshop to analyse and take ownership of grade1 new curriculum introduced by the government. Advocacy and child protection activities were materialised through the installation of posters in the school's inner courtyard. They remind children of their responsibilities towards their peers and the environment. Pupils made a visit to a hydroelectric power station that provides electricity throughout the country, in order to have explanations of its operation way.

3.4.6 FAMILY STRENGTHENING MUYINGA

The Kingdom of Belgium has been financing the Family Strengthening Muyinga through the programme *Sanjo* since 2017. It aims at strengthening communities, families and children in 6 hills of the province of Muyinga, 5 of which being in the commune of Muyinga and 1 in the commune of Gasorwe.

By the end of 2019, the number of participants was 981 children and 167 siblings under 18 years, living in 285 families while there were 1,000 children and young people with 176 siblings all living in 288 families by the end of 2018. During 2019, three (3) families have exited the programme for having moved out of the intervention area. Similarly, 16 children and young people have exited the programmes for various reasons: 8 got married, 6 moved with their families mentioned above; 2 others were admitted to the Foster Care programme. Regrettably, 3 children participating in the programme have passed away this year.

The programme has raised awareness for 210 parents/caregivers on mutual aid and community life and 218 on child's rights and gender-based violence. Likewise, 465 children and young people were trained on their rights and duties while 79 young people were trained on life skills. Lastly, six demonstration kitchen gardens were set up for families participating in the programme. These families have set up 114 more gardens as a multiplier effect. The programme has supported renovation of 13 houses on the six intervention hills.

School results are satisfactory, though they have slightly fallen, with a success rate of 82.44% against 83.11% in 2018. Awareness has been raised for education partners on school coaching of children and young people through meetings to analyse school results.

Participants in the programme are members of 38 Community Savings and Loans Associations and 6 Community Based Organisations (CBOs). By 31 December, the amount collected and distributed as loans amounts to BIF 28,750,000 compared to BIF 16,625,000 at the end of 2018. During the year, these Community Savings and Loans Associations have financed 195 Income Generating Activities (IGAs), including 111 of agro-livestock and 84 of small-scale trade.

CBO members have supported 43 vulnerable children in the community by providing them with school supplies, medical assistance cards, nutritional support and clothing. In addition, members of 3 CBOs implemented a goat breeding solidarity chain.

Finally, the programme staff were trained on community advocacy and they participated in a national workshop on exchange of good practices and harmonization of FS interventions.

3.5 RUTANA

3.5.1 SOS FAMILY CARE RUTANA

The Province Rutana has experienced a surge in market prices due to scarcity of necessities resulting from climatic disturbances. For example, the price of one kilogramme of maize grains rose from BIF400 in April to BIF1,600 in December; that of rice from BIF1,500 to BIF2,000 and that of beans from BIF800 to BIF1,200. To cope with this, SOS families have built up strategic security stocks through the bulk purchasing system. For the year 2020, we plan to increase the food budget for SOS families.

Following the welcome of 5 new children, the Village is currently taking care of 105 children and young people. They are all enrolled in school except for 3 children who are not yet of school age. Among them, 17 are at the SOS Kindergarten, 84 at the SOS HG School. As for the past school year, the success rate has not changed; it has remained at 95%.

The number of children in Foster Care increased from 16 to 28 children in 20 foster families following the admission of 12 new children. The success rate dropped to 46.7% compared to 58.9% in the 2017-2018 school year. In order to improve the results, coaches were recruited with the first term of 2019- 2020. This decision was taken during monitoring visits made to the foster families. The coaches are paid from monthly support fees granted to these families. Compared to the previous school year, school results have improved. At the end of the 1st term 2019-2020, the success rate is 64.38%.

The village has developed creativity as part of psychosocial support. Indeed, 50 children and young people learnt how to make ornamental objects and beads, to decorate baskets and flower pots. They also learnt how to embroider, weave tablecloths and make packaging and pillows. During a fair held in December, these children and young people exhibited and sold the products they had made themselves.

It is worth noting that in August, a programme director was hired for the location Rutana in order to decentralize and integrate activities.

In capacity building, core care co-workers received training on trauma healing organised by the Bible Society of Burundi in collaboration with SOS Children's Villages Burundi. Awareness was raised for mothers and aunts on the fight against Ebola virus.

During the World Peace Games 2019, a football tournament was organised between the Village, FS and community teams. At the end of this tournament, Village teams won the tournament. In the meantime, a drawing competition and oral questions related to child rights, HIV/AIDS and sport were held. Children who correctly answered questions and the winning teams were awarded with prizes.

In September, an SOS family was integrated into the community to align with the strategy 2030. Neighbouring families warmly welcomed them. The children and young people have adapted easily and they feel fulfilled in the community.

The Village is delighted with reunion of one of the children with his family of origin. He had just spent 11 years at the Village without family contact and he has been able to spend summer holidays therein. It is worth mentioning that 4 SOS mothers were awarded with an SOS ring by the President of SOS Children's Villages International during the celebration of the 40^{ie} anniversary of SOS Children's Villages Burundi, which took place in Bujumbura on 28 September. During this year, four young girls got married.

The Village celebrated the Christmas party with children and young people. On this occasion, certificates of merit and gifts of recognition were given to 2 SOS mothers who had just retired.

The Village held a fundraising fair to enliven both SOS and community families. On this occasion, SOS children and young people presented acts consisting of recitations, sketches and dances that moved the audience. An amount of three hundred and sixty-two thousand and one hundred (BIF362,100) was collected.

Lastly, an evaluation of the implementation plan for SOS Burundi commitments to provide quality care for children and young people was carried out. During the same workshop, national guidelines on the target group and the placement of children in alternative programmes were presented and validated.

3.5.2 FOSTER FAMILY CARE RUTANA

In 2019, the number of children cared for by the Foster Families Care Programme, FFC in acronym, increased from 16 to 28 children cared for in 20 volunteer foster families, following the admission of 12 new children.

Since the start of its activities in 2016, beneficiaries of the programme are spread over three provinces namely Rutana, Makamba and recently Bururi. The number of children per commune is 20 in Rutana, 1 in Musongati, 2 in Makamba, 2 in Nyanza-Lac and 3 in Bururi.

However, schooling of children in the programme is not satisfactory. Indeed, the success rate dropped to 46.7% in the school year 2018/ 2019 against 58.9% in the school year 2017-2018. To cope with this situation and thus improve results, coaches were recruited with the first term 2019-2020. This strategic choice was taken following monitoring visits carried out in volunteer foster families and encouragement costs of these coaches come from the monthly support costs granted to these families. At the end of the first term of 2019-2020, results improved and the success rate rose from 46.7% of the previous school year to 64.38%.

Capacity building has taken place for foster parents, in particular with regard to quality of childcare and child protection. In order to strengthen their monitoring, a temporary worker has been recruited to provide coaching for foster parents.

Main challenges remain the lack of permanent staff assigned to follow up on families and children in the programme as well as unwillingness of families to join the programme as volunteer foster families. To address this challenge, an identification of potential volunteer families will be carried out during 2020.

3.5.3 YOUTH CARE RUTANA

The Youth Care programme ended the year with 132 young people, including 72 boys and 60 girls; 29 living in youth facilities, 36 in boarding schools and 67 in family reunification situations. Because of the drop in number of young people, two out of three youth facilities closed.

The Village has had some happy moments. Indeed, 4 young girls solemnly married. Three (3) young people also got degrees and 21 received secondary education certificates while 7 young people were resettled with self-reliance: four got married, two have got a job and one is taking a Master's degree and has a job.

School results are satisfactory. In fact, 60 out of 67 young people have advanced in class; that is a success rate of 89.55% against 81.5% last year. Strategies such as recruitment of external coaches for young people in end-of cycle classes and support for young people in their school orientation have been set to improve constantly their school results.

The Village has strengthened young people's social and economic resilience. It is within this framework that empowerment training was carried out for 23 young people. At the end of this training, endogenous financial resources were mobilized to launch the legalisation process of their Association. Two (2) young people also participated in the Regional Youth Forum in Kigali on leadership, development of entrepreneurial spirit, new communication technologies and development. The Village organised training for 11 young people in resettlement phase on how to find employment opportunities and how to set up income-generating projects. In addition, 8 young people participated in the national forum of reunited and resettled young people. They were able to identify internal and external difficulties related to young people's reunification and resettlement.

In order to prepare young people for resettlement, additional trainings have been provided to 45 young people in English, driving, and the development of income-generating micro-projects to enable them to be competitive on the job market.

A tracking footprint study for SOS adults was carried out in May 2019. This study provided information on the current situation of young people resettled from the SOS CV, including professional situation, marital status, financial situation, housing and level of education.

Indeed, out of 17 resettled young people, 10 were surveyed: one is married, runs a small business and has his own house; another one is a volunteer in a private radio station, 7 are unemployed and one is taking a Master's degree in Benin. This study will be used to guide young people into job-promising fields of study and to mobilize them to join into associations.

3.5.4 EARLY CHILDHOOD & DEVELOPMENT RUTANA

The SOS Kindergarten Rutana has 94 children, 51 girls and 43 boys; 17 from the SOS CV, 24 from FS and 53 from the community.

Educational drawings have been drawn on premises' internal and external walls in order to make the kindergarten attractive. Educators have made lotto, puzzle, domino and picture games from local materials to diversify educational aids. These help develop children's concentration, attention and memory. This initiative has also helped to develop the children's spirit of creativity.

Children are regularly introduced to child's rights so that they can claim for them as they grow up. In addition, children are made aware of safety instructions and environmental education. Child-accessible taps have been set up to facilitate hand washing before they have breakfasts and when they come from washrooms.

Extracurricular activities such as excursions, school party, Christmas party and birthdays for children have been carried out with the support of parents and other partners. During the parties, children demonstrated their talents through recitations, songs and dances.

The pedagogical staff attended a 5-day upgrading workshop, during which the level of implementation of the training and support previously received was evaluated. Educators received training on the methodological approach of an empathic listening session, the evaluation of learnings at kindergarten and the development of French oral skills. In addition, they were trained on child protection and Word software. Furthermore, an educator conducted a two-day experience-sharing session at "La Clairière" school in Bujumbura. Another educator was trained on trauma healing. Finally, the Head of the Kindergarten participated in a national planning workshop on gender mainstreaming within the Organisation.

The Kindergarten has received donations from partners such as ODECO-CARITAS Rutana, the General Bursar of the Catholic Church and the Anglican Diocese, which have enabled it to offer gifts to children during Christmas celebration. Finally, the Kindergarten provided professional orientation for the new Head of the Kindergarten Bujumbura.

3.5.5 PRIMARY & SEONDARY EDUCATION RUTANA

The school has just closed the year 2019 with a total of 346 pupils, including 151 girls and 195 boys. Of these, 83 are SOS children, 43 are from FS and 17 are granted with scholarships. The school has currently an attendance rate of 41.3% for the target group children.

Furthermore, it so delightful that 9 children from the target group have been admitted to SOS HG secondary school in Bujumbura. Indeed, 3 SOS children have been admitted to grade7, 6 others including 3 SOS children, 1 from FS and 2 children granted with a scholarship have been received to the 1st year of the second cycle. It is important to mention that it is for the first time that FS children and scholarship granted children have been admitted to the SOS HG Secondary school thanks to their academic performance.

In the context of child protection, 8 pupils identified as having difficulties in adapting to school have benefited from empathic listening and behavioural changes are remarkable. To achieve this, the teaching staff received training on the methodological approach of an empathic listening session. In addition, pupils are made aware of child's rights and receive sex education sessions. In this way, pupils learn to assess risks of abuse, to prevent abuse and to report it.

In the area of capacity building, teachers participated in a 5-day workshop on the evaluation of the level of implementation of training achievements and service recommendations made. During this workshop, teachers got a good opportunity to recall and benefit from each other's experiences. A module containing recommendations, strategies, advice and suggestions was produced at the end of the workshop to ensure a better education care.

In order to strengthen the parent-school relationship, an open gate and fraternisation day was held. On this occasion, demonstration lessons were held, guided tours were given, a football match was played, and speeches were given in a friendly atmosphere. Nevertheless, parents deplored the absence of the post-basic cycle.

3.5.6 FAMILY STRENGTHENING RUTANA

Programme participants have been coping with malaria and soaring prices of basic necessities. This had a negative impact on their socio-economic life. The most common and perceptible difficulties include constraints in accessing health care, lack of school fees, food shortages, family conflicts and lack of housing.

In response to this situation, the programme conducted training and awareness-raising workshops on economic and parenting skills for 162 families caring for 745 children, young people, and their 40 siblings. In addition, 24 homeless families were provided with iron sheets to acquire decent housing. In addition, 50 caregivers received medical insurance cards and 67 received membership fees for a community health mutuality. It should be pointed out that 7 families have exited by self-reliance, allowing the admission of 8 new families with 40 orphans and other vulnerable children.

The programme conducted awareness-raising and training sessions on themes such as the rights and duties of the child, participation in decision-making and community life for 366 orphans and other vulnerable children. It should be noted that out of the 390 orphans and other vulnerable children enrolled in school, 118 who were in need benefited from school supplies. With regard to school results, 276 children and young people have advanced; that is a success rate of 70.7 % compared to 84.1 % in 2018.

The programme supported 9 partner CBOs to improve their skills in community-based care and child protection. It is in this framework that workshops for the development, monitoring and evaluation of community strengthening plans were held. The programme is happy with the creation of a CBO cooperative in order to increase their income. They have set up an office to have a physical address and have also obtained national accreditation. The collective of 9 CBOs has supported 149 OVC in school supplies and equipment.

The programme wished they should expand actions in its new intervention area. Therefore, the programme conducted workshops to raise awareness among community members on community life and networking. At the end of these sessions, 10 associations were formed.

Finally, FS staff received training on community advocacy and participated in a national FS workshop to exchange experiences and good practices and harmonise intervention strategies.

3.5.7 MEDICAL CARE RUTANA

At the end of 2019, the Medical Centre recorded 10,841 medical visits. Hospitalisation days were 630 compared to 216 in 2018. Ten thousand nine hundred and seventy (10,970) laboratory analyses were carried out against 9,459 in 2018.

The medical centre not only carried out curative activities but also promoted preventive and promotional health. Within this framework, 836 infants were vaccinated, 280 pregnant women had prenatal consultations, 447 new and regular women benefited from modern family planning methods, while 668 people underwent free HIV/AIDS screening, 9 of whom tested HIV positive. In addition, the medical centre provides care for 114 people living with HIV/AIDS as part of the follow-up of people living with HIV/AIDS. Among them, 104 have benefited from HIV viral tests. Thirty-two (32) young people living with HIV/AIDS have also attended an awareness session on sexual and reproductive health.

In addition to children granted with scholarships, the medical centre supported 13 community vulnerable families to acquire membership cards for a community health mutual insurance. Furthermore, the medical centre carried out an albendazole deworming campaign for 399 vulnerable children living in the surrounding hills. Children in the target group reached 31.6% in 2019.

The medical centre has focused on staff capacity building. For example, all staff have received training on management of biomedical waste. A nurse also received training on the new contraceptive method sayanna press. The medical director participated in a refresher session on SOS Care promise and SOS guidelines for the placement of children in the alternative programme.

The medical centre has taken the lead in aligning with standards of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS. It is within this framework that a laboratory room, meeting the standards required by the Ministry has been rearranged, an incinerator built and hospital rooms set up and equipped with beds as well as mattresses. In addition, a partnership agreement between the Ministry of Public Health and SOS Children's Villages Burundi was signed on 14 November 2019. Through this agreement, the Ministry undertakes to grant the Medical Centre with all services granted to other health structures with the same purpose. Such services include support in terms of staff, equipment and medicines as well as benefits related to the performance-based funding policy.

Finally, the medical centre has opened a bank account at the BCB Rutana in order to monitor the evolution of incomes and partner reimbursement. At the end of the year, revenue collected amounted to BIF120,088,824 with a self-financing level of 52.2% against 72.2% for the year 2018. This decrease in income is particularly due to delayed payment of invoices sent to some partners.