



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
BURUNDI**

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ANNUAL REPORT

2018

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SECTION 1 - ANNUAL REPORT

1.1 SUMMARY OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ACTIVITIES IN BURUNDI

Burundi is still suffering the effects of the political crisis that began in 2015. The suspension of financial aid from traditional donors has finally plunged the country into extreme poverty. Thus, more than 70% of Burundians live below the poverty line (less than a dollar a day) according to data from the World Bank and the study conducted by World Vision in 2018. The persistence of a fragile political and economic setting prevents economy from coming back to its pre-crisis level. Latest estimates are based on economic growth of 1.9% in 2018. Pressures on foreign exchange market have persisted with negative repercussions on imports and a more pronounced decrease in foreign exchange reserves. However, the Central Bank's involvement in currency market has stabilized Burundian currency. Indeed, the average rate of a euro in 2017 was BIF 2,094 while it was BIF 2,084 on all of our foreign exchange transactions in 2018.

Fuel became even more expensive during the year under review. Indeed, the price of petrol at filling station increased by 19.4% and that of gasoil by 16.9%. As a result, urban and domestic bus fare has also gone up to 5%. It is worth noting that other products' prices have risen for various reasons. For example, a half-litre of milk that was bought at BIF 600 in 2017 rose to BIF 800 in 2018. A kilogramme of meat that was purchased at BIF 7,000 in 2017 rose to BIF 8,500 in 2018.

The poor economic situation has had a negative and severe impact on the business environment, mainly with a slowdown in job creation. Thus, out of 61 SOS young graduates of our programmes in 2018, only six are employed; that is 10% while the autonomy rate was 20% in 2017. Faced with this youth unemployability, SOS Children's Villages Burundi promotes youth self-reliance by themselves and keeps strengthening their post-school and university skills to make them competitive in the labour market.

Politically, main events in 2018 include the temporary suspension of all Non-Governmental Foreign Organisations' activities (FNGOs) since 1 October 2018 to force them to align with a law promulgated in January 2017. It is on the general framework for cooperation between the Republic of Burundi and FNGOs, school fees cap regulation in both public and private schools in September and the decision to close the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Burundi on 6 December 2018.

The decision to suspend FNGOs activities has created a panic among our beneficiaries but it has not had any effect on the staff's morale. However, it led to field visits stoppage for 1 month and a half waiting for reopening authorisation that occurred on 13 November 2018. The decision of the Ministry of Education to regulate school fees has not negatively affected activities of SOS educational facilities either. After inspectors' assessments of the aforementioned Ministry, our kindergartens and schools were classified in two best categories with regard to their equipment and qualified personnel.

In 2018, SOS Burundi was taking care of 1,389 children and young people, including 661 in the 5 SOS Children's Villages and 164 children supported in 117 voluntary foster families. We also supported 5,964 orphans and other children in need living in 1,714 families in 5 FS and provided school support to 568 children including 87 SOS children and 20 FS ones in 5 kindergartens, 1 960 schoolchildren including 494 SOS children and 32 FS children in 5 primary schools and 767 pupils including 133 SOS children in a secondary school. It should also be noted that our four Medical Centres conducted 90,617 medical consultations as well as

other preventive and promotional activities for our target group children and the surrounding population.

In 2018, two new programmes were launched: the “FENIX” programme at school for children with learning difficulties and the “GoTeach” programme in partnership with DHL for young people to improve their employability. Children and young people of our programmes are members of Child Rights Clubs. They learn their rights from the clubs and how to safeguard the rights. In many locations, young people participated in locally organised competition games and received merit awards including a gold medal in swimming. Young people in all locations also enjoyed playing matches against SOS adults or SOS employees.

During the year 2018, we closed three SOS Youth Facilities. We also disengaged from the management of SOS Kindergarten Bujumbura. It is worth pointing out that there were no new constructions. An SOS family from SOS Children’s Village Bujumbura was transferred to the community and their family house in the Village has been renovated to become an office for the Family Strengthening Bujumbura.

During the year, we conducted regional workshops for all Provincial Governors and Communal Administrators in collaboration with the Ministry of Home affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare on fundraising for orphans and other children in need.

SOS Children’s Villages Burundi has built capacity for its staff in various areas including security. It is within this framework that it has not only trained (in October) its senior managers in risk management related to security but also collected data for the development of the national security plan.

Audit and supervision missions of programme units were carried out in all locations to improve and maintain the quality of services. In addition, the risk register has been updated and the mapping of potential partner companies for fundraising has been completed. It should be noted that funds collected in 2018 amounted to BIF 38,293,379 of BIF 35,000,000 planned.

On events side, it is worth mentioning that all SOS Children’s Villages celebrated the SOS day. This event was a good opportunity to make exhibitions and sales of products made by SOS children in their creativity workshops in some locations. A fulfilment day was also organised on 3August2018 for all SOS Burundi staff. It took place in the central part of the country. In addition, SOS families celebrated 12 SOS young people’s marriages, 55 high school diplomas and 37 graduate degrees. We deplore the passing away of two young people.

Priorities of SOS CV Burundi for 2019 are: aligning with the New Programme Structure, transferring management of the SOS Kindergarten Gitega to a partner, increasing the level of local revenues, building capacity for the staff and implementing commitments made by the Organisation to ensure quality care. We are improving child admission processes in our programmes to ensure that we reach out to our target group children.

SCHEDULE OF MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Month	Activities
January	Preparation of the annual report
	Appraisal of Individual Work Plans 2018 and Validation of Individual Work Plans 2019
February	Meeting of the Senior Management Team (SMT)
	Validation of a new pay grid with the support of the CVI-Rep and the Regional HR Director
March	Meeting between SOS Children's Villages Burundi & UNICEF
April	Meeting of the Senior Management Team
	Development of the National Strategic Plan 2020-2022
May	Holding the first meeting of the National Management Team (NMT)
June	Celebrating the SOS Children's Villages Day and the 40 th anniversary of SOS Children's Villages Burundi
	Celebrating the African Child Day
July	First review of the National Action Plan 2019
August	Meeting of the National Management Team
	Meeting of the Senior Management Team
September	Preparation of the National Action Plan and Budget 2020
October	Holding the second meeting of the National Management Team (NMT)
November	Celebrating the International Child Rights Day & the 10 th anniversary of UN Guidelines on alternative care
	Signing a contract with a management partner of the KG Gitega
December	Second review of the National Action Plan 2019
	Celebration of the World Day for the Fight against HIV/AIDS

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 CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BUJUMBURA

Compared to that of 2017, the security situation in Bujumbura has significantly improved. However, in economic terms, the situation is not much better. Imported products including fuel and medicines are sorely lacking in the country and their prices have soared. This situation is due hard currencies insufficiency following financing suspension by Burundi partners because of the continuing political crisis 2015. To address these challenges, the Village has made a small stock of “diesel” that can be used in case of emergency. The Village has also established a safety stock of non-perishable foodstuffs by making bulk purchases from wholesalers to reduce costs.

In addition, the Government has stopped paying for water and electricity bills since January 2018 while it used to be paid by them since the opening of the Village in 1985. For this reason, counters per SOS family house will be installed to better ensure monitoring and responsible use of water and electricity.

It is worth noting that an SOS Programme Director Bujumbura was recruited in September 2018 in line with the implementation of the SOS Children's Villages Programme Policy. As of 31 December 2018, the Village had 131 children in 13 family houses while there were 135 in 2017. During this year, five children have left the Programme, 4 of them being reunited with their families of origin and 1 being resettled. On the other hand, a young girl whom the Village had transferred to Buruburu Village (Nairobi-Kenya) in March 2012 for medical care was re-activated this year in the Programme Database of SOS CV Bujumbura.

In Foster Family Care, the number of children has increased from 62 to 70 with the placement of eight new children in six families. These children are divided up into 45 families.

In the field of education, school results have been satisfactory this year. The success rate was 84% compared to 81% in 2017. All children who sat for the national end-of-cycle contest passed. As for Foster Family Care children, the school success rate was 83.7% compared to 81.23% last year.

Regarding child rights safeguarding, all Foster Family Care children's caregivers have signed the code of conduct this year. After extensive social surveys, a child found his biological father, who until then was unknown to him. Procedures for his family reunification are in progress.

The Village community celebrated the SOS Day with joy. SOS adults and young people had specially been mobilized for ceremonies. Activities of the day included a march with slogans chanted in honour of the founder Herman Gmeiner. In addition, a basketball match between the SOS adults and the young people ended in the victory of the latter with a score of 52 against 37. Children were cheering their elder brothers. All participants in the celebration were invited to share a convivial meal in SOS families. This event was also a good opportunity to exhibit and sell products made by children in their creativity workshops. In recognition of the outstanding work done by SOS mothers, the Village offered them gratitude gifts.

In terms of fulfilment, SOS mothers organised outings for their children to well-known touristic sites including the Lake Tanganyika beach, the “Jardin Public” and the Living Museum (zoo) Bujumbura. On Christmas Eve, an amount of nearly one hundred and seventy-two thousand one hundred francs (BIF 172,100) was collected to purchase gifts for children.

In the area of psychosocial support, therapeutic interventions have been provided to children/young people with psycho-emotional problems. In this way, eight children took part in child psychodrama, 9 others in peer-to-peer discussion groups, 21 in creativity and 12 others in trauma healing sessions. As a result, an overactive girl who was unable to concentrate in classroom activities brilliantly passed with 80.4% compared to 38% last year. In addition, core care co-workers benefited from capacity building training on trauma healing facilitated by the Burundi Bible Society.

As far as co-worker capacity building is concerned, various trainings have been also carried out. All employees received training on SOS Care Promise and child safeguarding. Members of the procurement committee and finance officers were trained on the new Procurement Procedures Manual. The Village Director and the Sponsorship Officer also benefited from evidence-based advocacy training. In addition, users of the database (PDB) have been trained on Programme Database exploitation. Other training sessions were conducted for various officers of the programme Unit, particularly on planning and management, security risk management, leadership and change management, etc.

As for the staff turnover, a mother trainee resigned and was replaced in December. In addition, the maintenance technician retired on 31 December this year.

In partnership, DHL staff visited the Village with in-kind gifts of juice, biscuits and doughnuts and a small amount of money to pay various needs related to this visit with. In a festive atmosphere, they attended a World Cup classification match 2018 together with children/young people.

3.1.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES BUJUMBURA

On 31 December 2018, “Youth 1” was taking care of 56 young people compared to 65 in 2017 following the transfer of nine young people to “Youth 2”. The 56 young people live in 5 youth facilities and in the boarding of the SOS HG Secondary School. In turn, “Youth 2” has 69 young people compared to 56 in 2017. One hundred and twenty-five (125) young people are supported by the Village, 18 of whom being resettled. A young girls’ youth facility has been closed.

With respect to education, 21 young people including 11 high school pupils and 10 university students got their diplomas and degrees this year, including two general practitioners, one master’s degree in banking and finance and one military officer. The remaining 104 young people are still attending secondary and university education, 29 of them being in higher education. Among them, five continue their studies in Rwanda and one in South Africa. Two young people with a mental disability do not study. High school pupils have achieved a success rate of 88.7% against 90% of 2017. To improve their success, remedial activities for children/young people preparing competitive examinations will be carried out.

As part of socio-professional reintegration, a partnership was signed with DHL Burundi for the implementation of a project called “Go Teach”. In this context, four young people benefited from a coaching session on employability. In addition, 12 young people took part in a youth empowerment retreat organised by SOS Burundi for SOS youth representatives from all locations and the Family Strengthening Bujumbura.

Regarding fulfilment, young people played inter youth facilities basketball and football matches. In addition, they made a picnic to the beach after a sporty walk in mountains overhanging the city Bujumbura. In addition, the Village celebrated weddings of three young people.

In the field of health, an information, education and communication session on sexuality was conducted for young people in collaboration with the Burundian Association for Family Welfare (ABUBEF). At the end of the session, all the young people were freely screened for HIV-AIDS.

In August, young people participated in identifying key issues and challenges related to their development and empowerment. The issues and challenges identified were taken into account in activity planning 2019. During this workshop, young people were also trained on SOS Care Promise. However, the village was affected by the passing away of a young girl from the family house Ramba.

Finally, the Village acknowledges that unemployment remains a major challenge for young people. Of the 18 young people who have been resettled this year, only three got a job. To increase employability chances, additional training and funding for Master studies are carried out. It is within this framework that an SOS adult continues his Master degree studies in project and quality management in Benin.

3.1.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN BUJUMBURA.

The calm security situation has allowed the SOS Kindergarten Bujumbura to carry out its main activities of caring for children entrusted to it. At the end of 2018, the SOS Kindergarten Bujumbura had 212 children while there were 203 children last year. Fifteen of them are from the SOS Children's Village, 190 from the community while the Family Strengthening assists 7 of them.

In terms of individual progress, all children have advanced in class thanks to quality work done by the KG educational team. The KG is also pleased with good school results obtained by schoolchildren received in grade one at SOS HG Primary School Bujumbura.

The Kindergarten conducted a fair jointly with other SOS School Units in Bujumbura as part of fulfilment and fundraising activities. On this occasion, Kindergarteners presented various games like a fashion show, modern songs and dances that have, in more than one way, amazed parents, educators and all the audience. In addition, a competitive games session was held in May and merit awards were offered to the most deserving children. In the same way, an excursion for all children was carried out on shores of Lake Tanganyika and in certain play areas developed at the beach, which allowed the children to have good fun.

We regret to inform you that this annual report is the last one for the SOS Kindergarten Bujumbura. Indeed, following the assessment of educational and health facilities carried out in 2016, SOS Children's Villages International decided that the Kindergarten will have to exit international subsidies on 31 December 2018. It was noticed that our target group's participation to the programme unit is too low (17%), the self-financing rate is not very satisfactory (68%) and especially that there were potential partners to take over the Kindergarten management. The SOS Children's Village Support Association Bujumbura has been proposed and agreed to take over the running of the Kindergarten. It is an association attached to the SOS Children's Village Bujumbura, pursuing the same objectives and guaranteeing children in need access to this educational facility. Whoever staff member who wishes to will also be taken back.

It is in this context that the closing of the 2017-2018 school year was an unforgettable celebration especially for the staff. In fact, during this closing day, the parents' committee had set up a guard of honour at the entrance of the Kindergarten and each staff member, crossing it, received gifts as a recognition of their commendable services to the Kindergarten.

3.1.4 SOS HG PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BUJUMBURA

In 2018, the SOS HG Primary and Secondary School continued providing quality pedagogical care for schoolchildren and pupils from our target group and community ones. At the Primary school level, the year ended with 524 schoolchildren while they were 497 last year. Among them, 82 schoolchildren were from our target group and 442 from the community.

At the secondary school level, we closed the year with 767 pupils including 133 from SOS Children's Villages. There had been an increase of 48 pupils compared to enrolment 2017, due to high parental demand while still keeping the ratio of class size balance - quality of education.

The success rate at primary level was 98.2% against 96.7% in 2017. As for secondary school level, the pass rate was 89.2% against 92.3% last year. It is worth mentioning that 84 candidates sat for the Competitive (transition from primary to secondary) examination and all passed, two of them having been awarded by the Minister of Education for being among the top ten in national ranking. In addition, we are pleased to report that four young people were enrolled to SOS HG International College Tema in Ghana; a performance that had never been achieved so far.

In 2018, primary school teachers received capacity-building sessions to strengthen their teaching abilities. In addition, pupils' parents have actively participated in the search for incentives to give to best performers the past year.

In the fulfilment area, sixth graders made an excursion to a soap, cooking oil and juice-producing factory. This allowed them to concretize lessons learnt in class. Teachers, in turn, made an outing on beaches of Lake Tanganyika and participated in a National Leadership Day organised for all SOS staff. At the secondary school level, a fraternization day was organised for sharing between teachers and pupils.

In the same respect, the school organised a fair, in collaboration with other programme units Bujumbura, to raise funds and to make the school a success, after four years of interruption due to security reasons. The fair allowed raising more than 11 million Burundi francs and it was a good fulfilment and sharing moment between children/young people, parents and staff.

The SOS Primary and Secondary Schools Bujumbura face a great challenge of reclassifying private schools in categories as stipulated by a joint Ordinance signed by respectively the Ministers of Health and Education. Fortunately, after assessments of inspectors mandated for this purpose, both schools were classified in Category A; that is schools with teachers, infrastructures and equipment of better quality.

Lastly, it is worth noting that four secondary school employees retired while two others resigned as of 31 December 2018.

3.1.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME BUJUMBURA

In 2018, intervention areas and the number of beneficiaries have not changed compared to 2017. The Programme continues to assist 745 children/young people in 187 families. Results were good in 2018, as out of 59 families caring for 245 children, which exited FS in October 51 families are self-reliant and able to provide adequate family care for their children. Families, which exited the Programme, were replaced in December.

The FS contributed to payment of health care, equipment and school fees to our target group children in need. The FS has also granted iron sheets to 30 neediest families. Community-based organisations (CBOs) supported by FS, on their turn, donated school kits to 292 community children in need, not being assisted by the Programme. In addition, the Programme distributed rice, beans seeds and chemical fertilizers to 19 families and 4 CBOs during the first agricultural season in December.

Regarding school results, the success rate, which is of 70%, is unsatisfactory. This low level of school performance is explained by the fact that the Minister of Education has suspended remedial classes in all schools by, as evidenced by recorded pass rates before this measure. They were respectively of 74.6% in 2016, 79.05% in 2015 and 82% in 2014. FS plans to work with parents / caregivers to find other alternative solutions to this challenge.

As part of family capacity building, specific trainings were provided. They include, among others, training in parenting skills, child rights, initiation and membership in savings and loans associations, modern agricultural techniques, financial management, etc. In addition, families take part in community members' capacity building activities.

In 2018, community capacity building focused on the following main themes: child rights, combating neglectful treatment of children, hygiene, gender-based violence, organisational development, resource mobilization, financial management and the fight against HIV / AIDS. Community members were also informed on birth registration, marriage legalization and education for children. In addition, child beneficiaries of the Programme were trained on child rights, sexual and reproductive health, and good school learning/teaching methods.

At the end of different trainings, a change of behaviour is observed within communities. To illustrate this, community members participate in child safeguarding, reporting cases of child abuse, promotion of hygiene, etc. In addition, they join Savings and Loans Associations in which they contract small loans to start or reinforce income-generating activities, especially trade, agriculture, raising pigs, goats, rabbits and hens.

As part of partnership, six memoranda of understanding were concluded with CBOs. The FS coordinator also participated in the development of a National Child Protection Policy in Burundi. In addition, the FS celebrated, in collaboration with local actors working in child safeguarding, the African Child Day and the Child Rights International Day.

3.1.6 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE BUJUMBURA

During the year 2018, the Medical Centre Bujumbura celebrated its 26th year of existence. A temporary doctor was recruited in May 2018 to provide curative consultations that were formerly carried out by the nursing staff to improve the quality of services provided. It is also in this context that private hospital rooms were renovated.

In terms of statistics, 26,123 patients were received in curative consultation and 4,613 in minor surgery compared respectively to 26,854 and 4,292 in 2017. There were 689 in-patients for a total of 3,476 days while they were 773 cases in 2017. In laboratory, 34 771 analyses were carried out for 15,801 people compared to 30,955 analyses carried out for 14,142 people in 2017. Among these laboratory analyses, there are medical check-ups carried out for 103 Village children and 8 children living in foster families.

The Medical Centre also offered preventive care to the neighbouring population. Thus, 3,337 infants were vaccinated according to guidelines and vaccination schedule in force in Burundi. In addition, 1,246 childbearing age women were vaccinated against tetanus. Besides, the medical centre vaccinated 16,321 people aged between 1 to 29 years, during the national vaccination campaign against meningococcal meningitis organised by the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Two thousand five hundred and sixty-seven (2,567) pregnant women were received in prenatal consultations to contribute to reduction of maternal-foetal morbidity and mortality. In addition, 965 women received contraceptive methods for birth planning. In promotional health, 124 Information-Education-Communication sessions were held for 9,107 participants. Main themes included personal hygiene and food, sexual and reproductive health and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

In the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the medical centre cares for 456 people living with HIV/AIDS who are under antiretroviral treatment and 35 couples as part of the prevention of HIV mother- to -child transmission. In addition, 2,832 volunteers were screened for HIV and 41 cases were HIV positive; that is a rate of 1.44%.

With regard to partnership, the medical centre signed, in 2018, two new partnership contracts, respectively with BIC Company “Business Insurance Company” and the National Programme against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (PNLS / IST). The contract concluded with BIC consists of medical assistance with periodic payment of services offered to its affiliates. In addition, with involvement of the medical centre, a financing agreement for a three- year medical care of HIV infection was signed between SOS Children’s Villages Burundi and PNLS/IST in May.

Finally, it should be noted that the Medical Centre’s staff is regularly trained on new guidelines for comprehensive care of HIV/AIDS under PNLS/IST and the NGO “FHI 360” facilitation.

3.2 CIBITOKÉ

3.2.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE CIBITOKÉ

SOS Children's Village Cibitoke, like the neighbouring community, live in a relatively peaceful socio-political situation. Weather conditions were good and some foodstuffs such as rice, corn and others are available at good prices. However, activities of Cibitoke location were at a time disrupted due to suspension of Foreign Non Governmental Organisations by the Government of Burundi. SOS Children's Villages Burundi resumed activities after a new registration at the Ministry of Home affairs, Civics and Local Development. Despite this temporary suspension of fieldwork, the Village continued strengthening other forms of alternative care. As a result, 8 children were placed in 8 foster families, increasing the number of children to 18 in 14 foster families.

It should be noted that the work of identifying children in need has been facilitated by support of Family and Community Development Centres of the Ministry in charge of Social Affairs in the village intervention zones. For example, the village has been able to map locations with more children of the target group in Kayanza province. This constitutes a database that will be used for future admissions. In addition, six total orphaned children were admitted to two SOS families, where the number of children was reduced following reunification of children in 2017. Therefore, SOS Children's Village Cibitoke has 185 children/young people ; 139 living in SOS families, 28 reunited with their biological families and 18 taken care of in foster families.

Since September, Cibitoke location has been operating as a single Programme with a Director coordinating five units namely Family and Foster care, Family Strengthening Programme, Medical Centre, Education and Early Childhood Development.

Concerning school results, out of 64 children attending primary school, 59 have succeeded, that is, a success rate of 87.5% against 75.3% in 2017. With regard to children attending secondary education, out of 43 young people, 31 succeeded, that is, a pass rate of 72.10% against 81% in 2017. We regret the decrease in success rate for 2018 results. To improve school performance, we will put particular emphasis on remedial activities for children/young people in an individualized way and we will also recruit a youth leader.

In the objective of supporting families of reunited children and foster families towards improved child care, a close monitoring is ensured. It is in this context that in February 2018, the Village held a training workshop on child quality care for foster families' parents and got the opportunity to analyse situation of each family. During discussions, it emerged that some families are progressing well and efficiently managing received funds while others still need special support. At the end of the workshop, an action plan was developed to ensure appropriate follow-up of these families and help them carry out micro-projects, enabling them to develop and improve ability to take care of their children.

Other trainings were conducted for foster families in April and August 2018 on the following themes: model of family household, child in his family, health monitoring, use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets and nutrition. During these trainings, a special emphasis was also put on integration and future of the child in his or her foster family. Thus, each foster family is required to save at least BIF 10,000 each month in a savings account so as to prepare a development project for the family. Field assessment shows that every family needs coaching in this area.

As part of support for young people who have not completed formal school curriculum, 3 young people are being trained in food processing technologies, welding and carpentry in a vocational training centre.

We are aware that children in our care have specific needs due to their past. We train our co-workers as good as we can so that they can be of good assistance. In this perspective, caregivers have been trained in listening and accompanying children who had experienced different kinds of traumas in their past. In addition, they received training on Child Protection Policy and SOS care promise. Thus, an action plan to implement nine commitments showing how SOS Children's Villages promises better care by 2030 has been developed.

Furthermore, training was conducted for members of psychosocial support team on identification techniques for psychological disorders of children/young people and how to help overcome them. Particular emphasis has been placed on prevention of psychosocial problems to children and a plan for psychosocial support activities has been developed. Other training sessions were conducted for various village co-workers, particularly on planning and steering, leadership and change management, and so on.

As part of digitalisation of the sponsorship service, the sponsorship officer in Cibitoke location followed a training and orientation session on IG DAM (Individual Giving-Digital Assets Management) in September. At the end of the training, he got access to the platform for uploading photos and videos. The Programme Director Cibitoke and the Village Social Worker attended a training in Bujumbura on security management in November.

Regarding psychosocial support, psychodrama activities are being carried out for 12 targeted children under supervision of the Headmaster of SOS HG Primary School Cibitoke and the Social Worker. Twenty-one (21) children, who are supervised by Representatives of SOS mothers and SOS aunts, follow creativity activities. Thanks to creativity sessions, children are able to make various handicrafts such as jewels, tablecloths and so many others.

In terms of fulfilment, a programme of sport outings for all children has been set up. The village also celebrated the Christmas party for children with participation of the neighbouring community. On this occasion, an amount of BIF 246,550 has been collected and nine new regular donors have been recruited. Furthermore, a new SOS club of young drummers has enlivened festivities.

3.2.2 SOS KINDERGARTEN CIBITOKÉ

SOS Kindergarten Cibitoke has been working for ten years. It has 74 children including 18 from SOS Children's Village, one granted with scholarship and 55 children from local community. Eight hundred and fifty-four children have been trained therein since its inception.

Pedagogically, activities focused on psycho-emotional, psychomotor and psychosocial development of the child as well as basic notions of pre-reading, pre-calculating, pre-writing, etc. Educators focused on using individualisation methodology to better prepare children for primary education (extending from six to 9 years).

In June, five children from Kindergarten³ of the target group with learning difficulties participated in a learning aptitude test organised by psychosocial support team to assess their ability to start primary education (extending from 6 to 9 years). At the end of this test, two children advanced in class, as they did not present major difficulties, 2 others were proposed to repeat the grade while the last one was directed in a public school where lessons are taught in mother tongue.

As part of staff capacity building, trainings have been carried out. In June, the Head of Kindergarten and an educator were trained on psychosocial support for children and young people. On this occasion, participants learnt how to identify children with psychological problems and mechanisms to deal with these cases. In addition, all kindergarten staff have been trained on SOS Care Promise. It was an opportunity to learn about 9 commitments made by SOS KDI that we need to implement. Similarly, the Head of Kindergarten and an educator member of procurement team participated in a training on fight against fraud and corruption.

The closure of activities of the year was marked by the celebration of Christmas Day for children and their parents together with the staff. On this occasion, children showed their talents through French recitations, songs, dialogues and various games. Father Christmas offered gifts to all children before sharing a snack prepared thanks to parents' contributions.

3.2.3 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL CIBITOKÉ

SOS HG Primary School Cibitoke celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. By the end of the year, it had 232 pupils, including 67 children from the Village, 7 granted with scholarship and 158 children from local community.

The success rate of pupils has remained almost stable. In fact, the success rate at the end of the school year 2017-2018 was 95.9%, compared to 95.2% in 2017. Out of 5 candidates who sat for the National competitive test giving access to public excellence schools supervised by the Ministry of Education, SOS HG primary school Cibitoke got 3 out of 15 first selected candidates in Cibitoke province last August.

Thanks to good collaboration between the school and education authorities, the Headmaster was invited in a training organised by the Provincial Department of Education in Cibitoke on the fight against Ebola, a disease that was already present in the border area of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Subsequently, awareness sessions for educators and children were organised to prevent this disease.

In addition, the Headmaster and the 1st grade teacher took part in a training on the programme FENIX, last August. Achievements of the training allowed us to help three children with learning difficulties.

While closing the week dedicated to child rights in November 2018, SOS primary school in collaboration with 3 community schools organised competitions on child rights while celebrating the International Child Rights Day. Prizes made of school supplies were awarded to winners to motivate children. Festivities ended with a football match between mixed teams of children and educators.

In terms of partnership, aforementioned schools' teachers benefited from a training on child rights provided by SOS Primary School staff and the Family Strengthening Cibitoke.

To end, we deplore the lack of infrastructure and equipment to allow the school to open the 4th cycle of Basic School extending primary education from six to nine years in order to align with the National Policy of Education.

3.2.4 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME CIBITOKÉ

The Family Strengthening Cibitoke has been receiving DGD funding for 2 years under the Programme Sango, which will end by 31 December, 2021. FS is supporting 1,500 children living in 409 families. Families participating in the programme got good harvests in 2018 thanks to training in modern agricultural techniques and good weather conditions. In addition, the establishment and supervision of kitchen gardens allowed families to have vegetables, therefore getting balanced diet for children and fighting against malnutrition.

The surplus production enabled families to increase their income, which allowed them to carry out individual and collective Income Generating Activities (IGAs). Therefore, 94 Community Savings and Credit Associations grouping beneficiaries of the programme and other community members have been able to get a circulating capital of BIF 56,400,000; which made possible the financing of 207 agricultural Income Generating Activities (IGAs), 89 farming IGAs and 50 small-scale businesses. However, constraints related to currency devaluation, fuel shortage, as well as government's measure to suspend Foreign NGOs have hampered socio-economic family strengthening activities of the programme as planned.

FS has built capacities of beneficiary families for their self-development and quality care of their children. The main topics covered include child rights and duties, life skills, parenting skills, resource mobilisation, solidarity and mutual aid, community life, environmental protection as well as body and environment hygiene. In addition, functional literacy and awareness sessions were conducted for 215 caregivers including 165 women and 50 men. These trainings have improved parents/caregivers self-esteem that is noticed through active participation in Income Generating Activities (IGAs) such as small business, agriculture, savings and credit.

In terms of partnership, the programme signed memoranda of understanding with 10 CBOs. Although most of them are currently in consolidation phase, one has already assisted a dozen orphans and other children in need with school supplies and uniforms. In collaboration with these CBO partners, 462 community members were trained/sensitized on the same topics. They have also been trained on non-violent communication and group facilitation techniques.

Regarding advocacy, children members of child rights clubs have enlivened festivities of the child rights week. Through dances, songs, poems and sketches, they have raised awareness of parents/caregivers, educators, administrative authorities, and other community members about the value and importance of ensuring child safety and protection.

One of lessons learnt is that innovative approach of citizen-driven change implemented under the Sango programme has raised awareness of community members and their active participation in identifying and finding solutions to their challenges.

Lastly, we deplore the passing away of 2 members of a CBO partner due to an armed attack in an intervention zone of the Programme.

3.2.5 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE CIBITOKÉ

During the year 2018, the Medical Centre Cibitoke focused on aligning with standards of the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS. With this in mind, an extension project of the Medical Centre is underway. Therefore, offices that were occupied by the Family Strengthening were given to the Medical Centre.

Curative consultations that were initially performed by nursing staff are carried out by the medical director in order to improve quality of services provided to patients. Throughout the year, the MC registered 23,425 cases of medical visits including 10,167 in curative consultations, 11,665 in vaccination, 612 in prenatal consultations, 388 in family planning, 1441 in free HIV screening and 33 people living with AIDS. In addition, 232 patients were taken care of in hospital with an average of 2 to 3 days of hospitalisation per patient; that is, 612 days of hospitalisation recorded. In laboratory, 13,331 analyses were performed for 5,814 people. These analyses include medical check-ups for 123 children from the Village and 18 children living in foster families.

Community health activities have been carried out in preventive care. In fact, 40 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) sessions were held for 1390 people. During national vaccination campaign against meningococcal meningitis organised by the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against HIV/AIDS, the MC vaccinated 5,232 people aged 1 to 29 years. In the same context, two mother-child health vaccination campaigns with Albendazole and vitamin A were conducted for 269 pregnant women and 6,164 children.

Three hundred and eighty-eight (388) childbearing- age women adhered to contraceptive methods to reduce maternal-foetal morbidity and mortality, and 612 women were received in prenatal consultation.

As part of the fight against HIV/AIDS, the MC monitors 33 people living with HIV, 23 of whom are on antiretroviral treatment. In addition, 1 441 people have undergone free HIV screening and 20 cases were found positive; that is a seropositivity rate of 1.38%.

In terms of partnership, the MC has signed two service contracts with the “Mutuelle de Santé des Entreprises du Secteur Privé” (Health care Mutual for Private Sector Enterprises) and Business Insurance Company (BIC). This could increase the MC income. A nurse from our Medical Centre was trained on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) through collaboration with the Sanitary District Office while the MC Director and the supervising nurse participated in a training on management of health data in Burundi, named DHIS2. This allows the MC staff to comply with standards of the ministry of health and the fight against AIDS.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the SOS Medical Centre Cibitoke was provided with another Medical Director in 2018 after that the former be promoted to Programme Director Bujumbura.

3.3 GITEGA

3.3.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE GITEGA

The province Gitega is preparing to host the country's political capital as decided by the Government. It should be noted that the security situation has significantly improved during the year under review. However, cases of gender-based violence are regularly reported in some locations. At the economic level, fuel shortage caused price soaring. As examples, price of rice has increased from BIF 1,400 to BIF 1,800 per kilogramme and bean price rose from BIF 800 to BIF 1,300. To cope with this situation, SOS Children's Village Gitega has adopted a wholesale food purchase system.

As of 31 December 2018, the Village had 110 children in 13 family houses. Of the 110 children, only one is not yet old enough to start school, 17 are attending the SOS Kindergarten Gitega while 87 are enrolled in SOS Primary School. It is worth noting that five children are attending public primary education. The success rate is 93% compared to 87.17% for the previous school year; that is an improvement of 5.83%.

In 2018, five children were welcomed to four foster families after social surveys carried out in collaboration with local administration and the Community and Family Development Centre; bringing to 25 the total number of children cared for in 20 foster families. They receive quality school care. In fact, 15 out of 16 children who were attending school in the school year 2017-2018 advanced; that is a success rate of 93.75% while it was 91.6% last year.

In terms of fulfilment, the Village organised an outing for 21 children who stood out in school performance to keep encouraging them. It was also an opportunity for entertainment and discovery of the surrounding environment. In addition, the village women's football team brilliantly played a match, reinforcing the Village visibility. Indeed, the women's football team played with a community team during the celebration of World Peace Games and the Village team won three goals against one. Another match pitted it with the Village children's team Rutana. The match ended in a goal score for each team.

Regarding child psychosocial care, it should be noted that two Village employees have organised peer-to-peer discussion sessions for seven children. Another 11-child team participated in psychodrama sessions with the support of two other co-workers. An SOS mother is in charge of psychosocial care for 12 children through a trauma healing method. The Village has employed an external psycho-educator to help children with learning difficulties through re-education sessions. As a result, children are more fulfilled and actively participate in daily activities.

In relation to advocacy, the Village carried out additional social surveys for three children to stop spoliation of property left by their parents. In addition, the village hosted and participated in the national advocacy workshop for orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) in July. It was an opportunity to raise awareness for provincial and communal authorities on the need to vote for a consistent budget for proper care of OVC in their district areas.

Regarding the partnership area, a team from the NGO “Fort Barachel Burundi”, which works in the socio-cultural field, visited the Village to discuss about partnership. During this visit, a socio-cultural project for children and young people was submitted for funding. In addition, the Village has established a partnership with a microfinance and the latter has just granted loans to 19 young adults in need of second chance grouped into four associations.

As part of capacity building, it is worth noting that core care co-workers and heads of units were trained in January on the functioning of the sponsorship service and changes that have occurred. SOS employees at the site received training in March on SOS Care Promise and child safeguarding. Members of the local psychosocial support team were trained in May on psychosocial care of children and young people. Foster family parents received training in June on how to care for their children. In the same month, the Pedagogical adviser and the Social Worker received training on “Database”. In July, the Finance Officer was trained on NAVISION while the Sponsorship officer and the Pedagogical adviser were trained on evidence-based advocacy. SOS mothers, aunts and youth leaders were trained in September on trauma healing. The Village Director participated in safety management training in November. The latter and the Finance officer received training in December on leadership and change management.

We are pleased to inform you that we celebrated weddings of two young men and three young girls. In addition, we organised bride-price giving ceremonies for a young adult in the Village.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that a new Director has been running SOS Children’s Village Gitega since November. He was previously Headmaster of SOS Primary School Gitega.

3.3.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES GITEGA

At the end of 2018, the Village had five SOS youth facilities, two of which being located in Bujumbura to accommodate young people who study there. A total of 128 SOS young people were supported by the Village including 11 children admitted to boarding schools. The village reunited 12 young people with families of origin while 15 were formally resettled. We regret the passing away of a young girl in July while she was just finishing high school.

Academic results remained overall as excellent as those of last year. In fact, 12 young people have successfully completed high school while 10 have received degrees. In addition, another girl has just got her master's degree. It should be noted that 73 high school pupils out of 86 passed; that is a success rate of 84.9% compared to 91.25% last year. In addition, after a selection test, three young people including one having been granted a scholarship were admitted to Tema/Ghana International College. Meanwhile, we are considering measures to increase the high school success rate.

The Village supported 3 young people by granting them loans to do their master studies in Burundi, Benin and Uganda, respectively in medicine, audit-accounting- control and environment management so as to improve youth employability. They finished academic year successfully. In addition, four young people from youth facilities including two young girls and 2 young men under the age of 22 received training provided by DHL-Burundi on employability as part of the "Go Teach!"

In terms of capacity building, young people living in youth facilities were trained on sponsorship changes. Two youth leaders were trained in December on leadership and change management. In addition, young people received entrepreneurship training sessions by an external partner. These sessions were closed by an excursion after a 5km walk, which allowed young people to have fun and strengthen their fraternal relationships.

To promote young people's rights, an advocacy was carried out and resulted in registration of two girls at the registry office thanks to recognition by their biological fathers. The Village assisted another reunited young girl to renovate her home because the biological family was homeless. On the other hand, a rented house for three recently resettled young men was destroyed by fire with all their belongings. The Village and location co-workers contributed to re-equip the victims.

The Village regularly follows young people reunited with their biological families. This allows the staff to ensure their adaptation and their academic progress in their new integration environment.

Finally, it should be noted that unemployment among young people leaving the programme remains a big challenge. Thus, only one young graduate in 2018 got a job. The village encourages young people to initiate self-employment projects to alleviate this problem. Thus, two young people initiated a clothes-selling project in Bujumbura thanks to the Village support.

3.3.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN GITEGA

Activities of SOS kindergarten Gitega have been carried out as planned despite the resignation of the Head of the Kindergarten before the end of 2018. The Kindergarten had 104 children in total, including 17 SOS children and 88 community children. They are divided into 3 classrooms under the care of 4 educators: 2 at the 1st level and one for each of the other two levels.

The Kindergarten has carried on activities in 5 areas namely: Pre-numeracy, Pre-writing, Pre-reading, Language and Psychomotricity. All these activities were carried out as planned thanks to calm security situation throughout the province Gitega. During the year, an educational excursion for all children was made. They visited a shop and farm of the “Militant Sisters of the Virgin Mary” to put lessons learnt into practice.

Educators were able to make themselves 2-image lots, 1 set of numbers, 1 domino of images and 1 puzzle of numbers to diversify the educational material. They received first aid training to improve their knowledge to be more effective in their daily work.

The Kindergarten welcomed principals of three schools namely: the Kindergarten “Future Hope School” Kindergarten, the Kindergarten School of the Child Jesus of Songa and the ECOTEC Bujumbura for experience exchange within the context of collaboration and interaction with others.

In terms of partnership, the Kindergarten has received a donation from UNICEF consisting of a wide variety of items such as Puzzle, Memory Range and Building Games, useful for teaching and child games.

The kindergarten celebrated birthdays for children as part of their development. In addition, a culinary day was organised where children shared a meal prepared and served by their educators.

The year was closed with the celebration of Christmas party for children before going to holidays. On that occasion, parents were delighted to see their children demonstrate their talents and knowledge already acquired at school through games, dances and songs.

3.3.4 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOLGITEGA

The year 2018 at the SOS HG primary school ended well and planned activities were successfully carried out as shown by the school performance achieved.

In fact, class advancement rate was 95.16% compared to 96% in 2017. In addition, the school presented 35 candidates to the 9th form national competitive examination and 32 pupils passed; which is a success rate of 91.42%.

The school had 428 pupils including 99 SOS children/young people and 313 community ones, including 16 being granted the organisation's scholarships.

Sixth grade teachers and that of English took part in a workshop to evaluate and update French and English curricula in July. Subsequently, lesson planning was adjusted accordingly. In addition, English exercise booklets have been developed for grades 3 to 6.

In terms of capacity building, the headmaster and a teacher received training on the FENIX programme, which is very useful for children as it allows them to learn while playing. Four teachers have also participated in training of post primary teachers on the new "integration" pedagogy. In the same vein, the headmaster benefited from another training course on Leadership and Change Management.

Concluding, it is worth noting that the Kindergarten and SOS School became two units under the administration of a single headmaster since September 2018 after resignation of the Head of the Kindergarten.

3.3.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME GITEGA

The Family Strengthening Gitega has been funded by the DGD for the past two years under the *Sanjo* Programme, which will end on 31 December 2021. The FS supports 1,997 children living in 683 families and we deplore the passing away of three children.

In 2018, the FS continued its interventions in the same area. There are 1,377 children and young people in school, including 744 girls and 633 boys. Their success rate slightly increased; that is 73.68% thanks mainly to a system of remedial classes for grades 5 and 6 schoolchildren.

In terms of community strengthening, the FS supported three Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in setting up soap-manufacturing units. Leaders of 158 community groupings assisted by the programme were also trained on organisational development and micro-project management.

As part of mutual aid, the FS mobilised the community to build six houses for vulnerable people participating in the programme. As a result, 46 Orphans and other vulnerable children supported by community networks to acquire school supplies and four vulnerable families were supported with foodstuffs.

In collaboration with the Provincial Department of Agriculture and breeding Gitega, 526 kitchen garden in Gitega commune and 157 in Makebuko were installed in households of the programme's participants. Kitchen garden are small carrot, onion, cabbage and leek gardens in circular and terraced form. In this same way, community organisations involved in implementation of the programme set up six demonstration fields, including five potatoes fields and one of plums with 600 seedlings.

With regard to child rights promotion, 22 school clubs are functioning, capacity-building workshops on child rights and responsibilities have been organised for 492 children, school principals, 2 clubs coaches per school and caregivers. A child abuse monitoring system has been set up and functional in order to guarantee child rights within communities while 14 cases have been identified, reported and referred to competent authorities.

In terms of economic empowerment, Programme participants have undertaken 640 individual income-generating activities and 18 collective income-generating activities in collaboration with other community members using a circulating capital of BIF 145,593,600.

As part of child emulation, fulfilment outings were organised for 31 children who had been ranked first in class and 18 children heads of households.

Regarding partnership, a collaboration agreement was signed with Red Cross Burundi for mutual reinforcement of staff and community members. The programme steered and facilitated, in collaboration with the Family and Community Development Centre Gitega, a coordination meeting of the Provincial Committee for child safeguarding.

3.3.6 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE GITEGA

The NGO closure policy did not affect services provided by the Medical Centre Gitega though this political decision created panic among patients. In its daily curative, preventive and promotional activities, the Medical Centre received 27,617 patients in 2018; that is rate of 110, 46% compared to estimates. Of these, eight thousand five hundred and fifty-seven (8,557) received curative care (835 of whom were received in outreach health care centres; 775 in minor surgery; 1 858 HIV screening; 1825 in ARV supply; 255 in antenatal care and vaccination and 504 in family planning. In addition, 9 322 people were registered in promotional service. In laboratory, ten thousand four hundred and forty-three (10,443) analyses were performed. Finally, it should be noted that 562 patients were followed in hospital with an average of 2 to 4 days per patient; that is 2,269 days in hospital.

Some members of the Medical Centre have been integrated in the team that developed Communal Community Development Plan Gitega thanks to the close collaboration with local administration communal, and provincial authorities. This allowed the MC to integrate all its strategic activities.

To reinforce technical quality of care, in addition to three quality-assessments and eleven quantity-assessments carried out by the Provincial Verification and Validation Committee initiated under the performance-based financing framework, a qualitative assessment was carried out at the Medical Centre by USAID team in collaboration with the FHI360. The latter assists the Medical Centre both in transport and laboratory analyses of HIV samples collected by the Medical Centre. FHI 360 also helps to build capacity for the Medical centre's staff. In addition, it should be noted that four technical supervisions were carried out including two by the team of the National Programme against HIV/AIDS (PNLS), 1 by FHI360 and 1 by a team of the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS.

To improve care for the FS intervention area's vulnerable children, decent clinical assessments have been carried out. Six non-assisted community children and two FS caregivers received appropriate care. Among them, two were treated for free at the Medical Centre while four others were assisted in specialised hospitals. In the same context, 679 members of CBOs supported by the FS Gitega and 16 foster care parents were trained on the notions of assessing child health according to development stage and prevention of certain child diseases and disabilities. In addition, 50 awareness-raising sessions were conducted for 9,322 people on various topics to build t capacity for FS caregivers and community members in the prevention of endemic diseases and child protection.

It is worth mentioning that the new country's health policy provides a conducive framework to the Medical Centre as to its title and competence, which will make partnership initiatives easy, particularly with the Civil Service Mutual Health Insurance and FHI360 to strengthen financial and technical support. We still need to comply with the manual of procedures for health facilities' opening and accreditation that recommends all health structures to align with.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the doctor, nurses, the driver, the Administrative and Financial officer and health facilitators benefited from the Ministry of Public Health trainings on various topics within the framework of capacity building.

3.4 MUYINGA

3.4.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE MUYINGA

SOS Children's Village Muyinga has experienced a very difficult economic situation where poverty affects a large part of the population while Burundi's currency depreciates day by day. Consequently, prices for different products have risen, especially imported ones such as fuel, medicines, building materials, clothes, office supplies, etc.

During the year 2018, the Village supported 144 children and young people living in 15 family houses. Among them, a young person with acute learning difficulties was transferred, in December, to a religious congregation of "Frères de la Charité" of Bujumbura for appropriate care, via a partnership agreement. We are delighted to have improved success rate of our children. In fact, the overall success rate in primary school was 84.36% this year while it was 76.8% during the previous school year.

The Foster Care programme has welcomed six new children into five families after surveys conducted in collaboration with local administration to make a total of 35 children living in 25 families. Living conditions in Foster families have considerably improved in all aspects. With regard to this, children who had dropped out of school have returned to school and new ones have been enrolled. They also receive adequate nutrition, while before, cases of malnutrition were identified. Foster families regularly seek treatment for children they take care of through medical assistance cards provided by SOS Children's Village to make their access to health care easy. In October, following a measure by the Government of Burundi to suspend for three months (from 1 October to 31 December 2018) all foreign non-governmental organisations (Foreign NGOs), support activities to foster families were also suspended.

The celebration of SOS Day corresponded this year with celebration of the Mother's Day. Friendly matches of basketball, volleyball and football between the village and local community teams were part of main activities of the day. These activities were carried out in collaboration with the platform of provincial sports associations, aiming at mobilising/recruiting friends, potential donors, and SOS logo that was printed on jerseys of players.

The village initiated breeding of dairy cows to teach children some entrepreneurial activities. Currently, the village has three cows and already serve to milk some children.

As far as SOS child integration activities in the community are concerned, fifty SOS children and young people participated in two fora for children and young people. The fora were respectively focusing on the "Culture of love, truth, work and fraternity for a typical honest man" and the "role of Catholic Christian in the protection of environment" organised by the Catholic Diocese of Muyinga during summer and Christmas holidays. On the same occasion, the village accommodated for one night 23 children and young people who participated in these fora from farther areas.

The village organised an information session on various changes underway in SOS Children's Villages and the strategy 2030 for Muyinga location co-workers so as to take them into account while planning activities. All caregivers received training on trauma healing organised by the "Bible Society" in August. In addition, an SOS mother received training allowing her to be able

to help youth leader in guiding children during practical game sessions in order to relieve them of painful life experienced during their early childhood.

Furthermore, members of the local psychosocial support team were trained on psychosocial support mechanisms, crisis management and psychological assessment from 29 May to 1 June 2018. Coordinators of Psychosocial Support in collaboration with those of Gitega trained them. Some co-workers Muyinga attended a training session on “SOS care promise” and child safeguarding. The Village Director and Pedagogical adviser participated in a training on risk and security management.

In June, we celebrated the African Child Day in collaboration with other NGOs and Associations operating in the field of child protection. Prizes were awarded to disabled children who came up with very good school results. Mothers having welcomed abandoned children have also been awarded to encourage them.

As for fundraising, it was improved in 2018 compared to the previous year. In fact, an amount of BIF 3,245,200 was collected while it was BIF 2,334,500 in 2017. However, few potential donors have positively responded and former ones claim to have economic and financial problems.

It is finally worth mentioning that renovation work of SOS family houses like drainage, kitchens, doors, windows and renovation of ceilings were carried out.

3.4.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES MUYINGA

The care of young people at SOS Children's Village Muyinga was done, bearing in mind the "SOS Care Promise" aiming at improving care and support them towards self-reliance.

At the end of 2018, the village supported 181 young people (89 girls and 92 boys), including 91 in SOS structures: 62 in 6 youth facilities, 29 in boarding schools and 90 young people living in families of origin. Throughout this year, 26 young people were resettled.

Among 167 young people who are still carrying on their education, vocational training or university, 23 attend universities abroad. It should be noted that 28 young people, including 16 at the secondary school level and 15 at university have graduated. The overall success rate in 2018 remained constant at 87.2%. Young people with noticeable learning difficulties are trained in small professions such as hairdressing, driving and car mechanics and soap making.

SOS Children's Villages Burundi grants scholarships of excellence to young people who have got the highest score compared to others in the National Examination so as to stimulate a competitive spirit. In 2018, a scholarship was granted to a Village girl and she is now attending the University of Lille III in France in Communication Science.

The Village conducted youth training on entrepreneurship and micro-projects to maximise their opportunity to engage in self-employment activities. A youth day was also organised in December to gather young people's ideas and considerations on quality care and consider their views in the planning 2019.

Unemployment remains a serious challenge in relation to socio-economic reintegration of young people. It is in this context that we organise additional training in computer science, English, driving and entrepreneurship to increase employment chances and opportunities. Out of a total of 15 graduates in this year, only 3 were able to get a job (that is, 20%).

To end, the Village was happy to celebrate wedding for 3 young boys and 1 young girl and a bride-price giving ceremony. This is an exceptional opportunity to meet and strengthen bonds between SOS adults and SOS families.

3.4.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN MUYINGA

During the year 2018, SOS Kindergarten Muyinga cared for 86 children, including 12 Village children and 74 local community ones, 4 of whom are granted with scholarship.

The KG has developed small fields where children have grown beans, which allow them to know development stages of a plant. Children also use bean seeds harvested in different colours to develop their pre-calculation skills through sorting.

As part of child fulfilment, an outing was conducted at a nearby market. It was an opportunity to discover items in shops and actually notice exchanges between sellers and customers bargaining. When they were back from market, children played role of vendor and client so as to improve their oral expression. In the same vein, a speech contest was held in each class to train children expressing themselves easily in front a public.

The KG educators have made teaching materials including a didactic board on means of transport, lottos numbers, lottos images, memory games, dominoes of points helping in child attention and concentration development.

In terms of capacity building, five co-workers participated in trauma healing training in July with facilitation of the Bible Society; another co-worker took part in child psychosocial support. In December, the teaching staff was trained on oral skills in French to improve learning of child oral expression.

Activities of the year ended with celebration of Christmas where “Santa Claus” offered gifts to children in an immense joy of songs. Note that on the end-of-year eve, an excursion was organised to discover different attractive places near the KG to raise child curiosity.

3.4.4 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL MUYINGA

The year 2018 has been successful for SOS HG Basic School Muyinga. All activities were carried out as planned. The school has got a post-basic cycle open in order to continue providing child quality care.

The school has 442 pupils, including 158 Village children and 284 children from neighbouring community, 17 of whom being granted with scholarships.

Concerning school results, the school recorded a success rate of 93.69% as in the previous school year. At the end of the 9th form National competitive test, all 30 candidates succeeded, that is a pass rate of 100%. It should be noted that a fourth-year pupil granted with scholarship has been ranked first with an outstanding score of 92.9%.

Since the creation of post-basic cycle, teaching has been focusing on experimentation and putting into practice science lessons. This provides pupils with skills and know-how that will enable them to adapt to a changing world as technology advances.

However, the school does not have a laboratory. To cope with it, the school has built relationships with the seminary Saint Pie X Muyinga so that pupils can make use its laboratory. It should also be noted that tools for realising technology lessons and other sciences have been collected for use in case of need.

In terms of capacity building, six post-basic teachers have been trained in July on a new approach to methodology called “Pedagogy of Integration”, the learner being at the centre of learning. The Headmaster also took part in a similar training for post-basic head teachers throughout Northern Region of Burundi in November. In the same context, two teachers participated in a training on intellectual and sensory development of children with learning difficulties, organised in Bujumbura. Achievements of this training will enable those children to become familiar with basic notions of reading, writing and calculation based on computer use exercises.

In advocacy and child safeguard, pedagogical staff have been trained on reporting and response procedures in case of abuse or violation of child rights. In addition, signs with pictures and messages inviting children to be interested in mutual protection have been installed in the school inner courtyard.

To conclude, the school participated in national inter-school swimming championship and two pupils won two medals, gold for a girl and bronze for a boy.

3.4.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME MUYINGA.

Since 2017, the Family Strengthening Muyinga has been financed by public funds of Belgian Kingdom for 5 years, from 2017 to 2021 through the programme “Sanô”. The year 2018 is therefore the second year of its implementation. The programme activities mainly focus on supporting communities which, in turn, strengthen families so as to take care of orphans and other children in need. The major challenge in 2018 remained that of extreme poverty, which reduces impact of our efforts to empower families and community structures.

In 2018, a massive adhesion of families to Savings and Credit Associations was noticeable. Thus, awareness was raised for 288 families taking care of 1 000 children and they voluntarily joined 36 Savings and loans Associations. The latter formed a CBO on each intervention hill and saved BIF 16,625,000 from which 718 loans were given to finance income-generating activities of families. As a result, these families have improved their capacity to take care of their children, particularly in education and health.

Six caregivers and ten young people were trained in income-generating professions (soap, sewing, woman hairdressing, car mechanics and driving). In December, fertilisers were distributed to 36 Savings and Credit Associations in which most of our beneficiaries to increase family food self-sufficiency and cash income.

With regard to education, the programme counts at the end of 2018, 597 children and young people including 4 in kindergarten, 493 in basic school and 100 in post-basic cycle. The average success rate is 83.44% while it was 83.11% at the end of 2017.

Parents/caregivers and community members benefited from capacity building and awareness sessions on child rights, life skills, parenting skills, modern agricultural techniques, micro-project management, organisational development, financial management, etc. As a result of these different training and awareness sessions, all family members take part in updating family development plans.

In addition, children and young people are actively involved in protecting their rights. Child protection committees and Government institutions handle cases of child abuse which community members report.

In terms of advocacy, child rights clubs have been set up in schools of our intervention area; children and young people actively participate in defence of their rights.

Finally, to improve family households, various material supports (purchase of iron sheets, nails, poles) were financed for construction of 17 houses on 6 intervention areas. Communities have contributed to these activities following awareness session by the Mutual Assistance Programme.

3.5 RUTANA

3.5.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE RUTANA

During the year 2018, socio-economic situation in Rutana Province has improved. In fact, the population led a peaceful life, harvests were good and prices for staple food have decreased. For instance, the price of a kilogramme of rice was reduced from BIF 2,300 to 1,600 and a kilogramme of beans decreased from BIF 1,200 to BIF 800 compared to 2017. However, as of October, prices on the market have increased due to a long dry season. For example, a kilogramme of rice increased from BIF 1,600 to BIF 1,900 and that of beans from BIF 800 to BIF 1,300. To deal with this situation, SOS families have built up stocks these non-perishable foodstuffs.

The Village supports 109 children and young people against 108 last year. This variation is due to educational orientation of one young girl to a boarding school and admission of two new children to the Village. It should be noted that these children and young people attend school except one who is not yet of school age. Among them, 25 are enrolled in SOS Kindergarten, 81 in basic school, 1 in post-basic school and 1 in vocational training.

School results are satisfactory. Indeed, the success rate is 95.08% while it was 92.6% the past school year. This improvement resulted from collaboration between SOS families and schools. Furthermore, a young girl has just been admitted to Tema International College in Ghana.

The village has initiated various cultural groups to provide SOS children/young people with cultural guidance. Various groups organised a fair in December through dances, songs, poetry and sketches. It was an opportunity for children and young people to show their talents. On this occasion, an amount of one hundred and ninety-one thousand five hundred Burundi francs (BIF 191,500) was collected.

In December, the Village organised a fraternisation day to strengthen relationships between children/young people and adults. During this event, they met to discuss realities of their daily life. In addition, a football match between SOS young people and adults was organised. The SOS young people's team won the match with a score of one to zero. On the other hand, the adults' team won a basketball match with co-workers on a score of 53-49. On the same occasion, a thanksgiving mass was celebrated and an amount of three hundred and nine thousand three hundred Burundian francs (BIF 309,300) was collected.

Regarding foster family care, the number of children has increased from 15 to 16 in 13 families with admission of a new beneficiary. Besides, the Village has granted medical assistance cards to improve child health.

Furthermore, in order to help foster families to better take care of children, they received training in November on quality care and child rights. During this training, SOS mothers shared experience with foster families in taking care of children. In addition, SOS mothers carried out two coaching field visits in these families in May and November.

In terms of co-worker capacity building, the teaching staff received training on taking care of children with psychosocial problems, on "SOS Care Promise" and child safeguarding. In addition, they have been trained on trauma healing by the "Bible Society" Burundi in July. Moreover, the Social Worker and the Pedagogical adviser received training on database management in June. The Village Director and the Pedagogical adviser took part in an

evidence-based advocacy training workshop in July. Furthermore, the SOS mothers Representative received training on community-based trauma healing interventions in December. In November, the Village Director participated in security management training.

As part of partnership, SOS Children's Village Rutana welcomed a delegation from Pentecostal Church of Kayogoro. The delegation brought many gifts such as soaps, beans, rice, maize, salt and sugar costing four million three hundred and fifty-one thousand Burundi francs (BIF 4,351,000).

Finally, the Village was honored to welcome, in October, the Minister of Communication as part of launching of the project "Access to Satellite Television". During this visit, the Village received a donation of 18 satellite dishes costing one million eight hundred thousand Burundi francs (BIF 1,800, 000).

3.5.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES RUTANA

The Village is delighted by its young people's educational progress, as the number of graduates has increased from 14 to 18, including 2 degrees and 16 from high education. As of 31 December 2018, the youth facility has 130 young people against 129 as of 31 December 2017.

It should be noted that 128 young people continue their education; that is 17 in basic school, 73 in post-basic level, and 22 in higher education while 16 secondary school graduates are still waiting for higher education enrolment. On the other hand, two reunited young people do not continue their education due to a mental disability.

Concerning school results, 75 out of 92 young people have succeeded; that is a pass rate of 81.5% against 86.84% for the year 2017. We regret that the success rate has slightly decreased but we have taken actions to improve results. With this in mind, the Village has recruited external coaches to support young people with learning difficulties. In addition, two young people were reoriented in vocational schools. Moreover, 12 out of 24 young people enrolled in higher education completed academic year successfully. The rest are doing last semester catch-up examinations.

Twenty-three young people visited a financial institution where they learnt about interest-generating savings and procedures to apply for loans to finance self-employment projects towards self-reliance. They also visited two profession centres such as carpentry and a bakery. Young people gained knowledge about start-up, operation and sale of manufactured products.

Young people received training on project drafting, operation of associations and management of income-generating activities in order to increase youth employability. They will also be trained in mechanics and car maintenance, mixed hairdressing, computer science, masonry, welding and baking.

Finally, it should be noted that a youth facility for young girls was closed in July.

3.5.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN RUTANA

During the year 2018, the school renewed teaching material consisting of legos, puzzles, painting, glue, sandpit, paintbrushes, pencils, carts, doll games and carpets for psychomotricity exercises. In the same vein, the field is equipped with new playground equipment including climbing ladder, tunnel kiln and toboggan.

The KG has encouraged creativity among educators. They made teaching aids from local materials. All these activities were carried out in order to improve quality of preschool childcare in fields of activity namely: language, pre-reading, pre-writing and psychomotricity. They also helped 13 FS children do homework, as their parents are not able to.

As of 31 December, the kindergarten has 92 children, including 25 Village children, 13 from FS and 54 community ones. They are divided into three classes. Those who are in kindergarten 3 follow once a month an introductory session on child rights.

As part of staff capacity building, educators and the head of KG attended training on child psycho-emotional care, child protection, abuse reporting procedures and “SOS Care Promise” policy. Educational staff has also been informed on code of conduct. In addition, two educators were trained on the procurement manual and one of them received training on trauma healing. Finally, the head of KG received training on the fight against fraud and corruption.

All premises of the KG have been repainted. In addition, thanks to the collaboration with the NGO FLORESTA, the KG got 100 tree seedlings that were planted in its inner courtyard. The KG has developed partnership with a neighbouring kindergarten school. The latter benefited from experience of our kindergarten in terms of organising children’s playing activities.

Finally, it should be noted that 11 child parents received certificates of recognition for having contributed to local sponsorship as school partners.

3.5.4 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL RUTANA

SOS HG School Rutana had 344 pupils by the end of 2018; including 88 Village children, 32 FS children and 18 granted with scholarships as well as 206 community ones. The school is delighted to have welcomed a large number of FS children last September as 27 out of 36 newly admitted pupils to first year are from FS.

In terms of school results, the pass rate is 92.4% at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. In addition, in August, all the 5 candidates presented by our school to sit for the National competitive examination giving access to Government's schools of excellence, passed.

As part of child safeguarding, training sessions on SOS Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy were conducted for co-workers and pupils of 3rd and 4th basic cycles. Moreover, a session of popularisation of reporting and response procedures was organised for co-workers. All of these activities were carried out to provide a protective environment for children attending school. It should also be noted that "Child Rights" and "STOP AIDS" clubs initiated at school have been regularly supervised by teachers.

In terms of staff capacity building, the school principal and a teacher were trained on programme FENIX. In this perspective, 4 children of 3rd year at basic school follow the programme FENIX under supervision of trained people. Besides, teachers were trained on Microsoft WORD and EXCEL. Furthermore, teachers of science and technology were trained on the use of laboratory equipment by co-workers from SOS HG High School Bujumbura. Finally, all co-workers received training on "SOS care promise" policy.

In the objective of improving aesthetic environment of the school, 164 trees and 50 flowering plants were grown with the help of pupils attending the school's Scout movement and through the club of "Environment".

Finally, as part of Global Peace Games, the school coached and aligned a men's and a women's football teams in a tournament with other teams in the area. All two teams reached the final and won the match following penalty shootout.

3.5.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME RUTANA

Family Strengthening Rutana receives funding from SOS Children's Villages International to support 147 families taking care of 722 children. In 2018, thirty-six (36) families of 213 children left the programme. The FS is pleased that 26 out of the 36 families (72%) have left by self-reliance. However, we deplore the fact that 9 families left the programme without fulfilling commitments, including 4 families which changed the residence area. Note that one family has been transferred to Foster Care programme. Forty-eight (48) new families residing on a new intervention area replaced all families that had left the programme.

At the school level, out of 466 children/young people enrolled in school, 392 got good results, 6 were not ranked, and 68 pupils repeated class. Thus, the success rate was 84.1%.

The programme conducted capacity-building workshops for 306 children/young people on a variety of topics related to life skills. Topics discussed focused on improving their living conditions, participating in their protection, creating and adhering to associations, drafting micro-projects for self-employment. At the end of these capacity- building sessions, five youth associations have been formed and 3 of them are already recognized at municipal level.

The programme has conducted training and awareness-raising workshops for parents/caregivers participating to strengthen parenting skills and increase chances of access to family income resources. The training and awareness topics focused mainly on life skills, parenting skills, community life, children's rights, modern farming techniques, mutual aid, etc. As a result, 49 families with 265 children joined health care mutual for easy access to health care while 27 homeless families were supported in housing.

In the perspective of transferring its skills and activities to CBOs, the programme conducted training and awareness workshops for 545 CBO leaders. The programme has also led actions to supervise community structures by monitoring and evaluating reinforcement plans for 8 partner networks. As a result, these networks formed a group of associations called "TUREREREHAMWE" (Let's educate together). The latter was able to mobilise in 2018 an amount of BIF 1,331,700 from member associations having supported 262 community OVC. The programme supported process of organising into a cooperative, which is well-developed. In addition, 14 Community Savings and Loans Associations raised a capital of BIF 103,396,160 for financing individual and collective income-generating activities such as small business and small livestock breeding.

To end, it is worth mentioning that the programme helped the group of associations get an office in the provincial chief town of Rutana and obtain an authorisation at the national level.

3.5.6 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE RUTANA

During the year 2018, the Medical Centre Rutana (MC) completed 13 years serving children of our target group and the community of Rutana. The MC got permission from the National Office to use premises vacated by the Family Strengthening Programme relocated to the SOS Children's Village Rutana. Thus, the MC has renovated them so that they can serve as hospital rooms. In addition, an ultrasound scanner has been transferred from SOS Medical Centre Bujumbura to improve the quality of our services.

In 2018, the Medical Centre recorded 13,453 medical visits, including 1,431 for SOS children/young people and 5,350 for children from the community. In addition, 548 women received aftercare and/or pregnancy care and 409 new and old women who accepted family planning methods. It should also be noted that 975 free HIV/AIDS screenings were carried out. Results showed that 7 cases were positive; that is a seroprevalence of 0.7%. In laboratory, 9459 various samples for 3 022 patients were prepared and analysed. Finally, 58 patients at all ages were cared for in hospital with an average of 3 days of hospitalisation per patient; that is 216 days in hospital.

Advocacy and awareness actions for access to quality health care for OVC and/or their parents/caregivers have been conducted. It is in this context that 61 families in need obtained community health care mutual cards allowing them to help 404 OVC and/or their parents/caregivers be treated in 2019.

The MC joined other partners in celebrating World Health Days for Viral Hepatitis, Diabetes and HIV/AIDS. During these days, Information Education and Communication sessions for community members and radio broadcasts in collaboration with a local radio were conducted. It was also an opportunity to organise free screenings.

In terms of staff capacity building, the Head of Nursing Care has been trained on DHIS2 (District Health Information Statistics, level 2) while the Medical Director has just completed his IUD/HIV (HIV inter University Diploma) training. Two finance staff also received certified training in English.

Finally, It is worth mentioning that at the financial level, the MC was able to collect BIF 117,765,063, receivables and stock medicines and reagents not included, out of a target of BIF 120,000,000 that was initially set for 2018; an increase of 42.3% over the year 2017.