



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
BURUNDI**

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ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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SECTION 1 - ANNUAL REPORT

1.1 SUMMARY OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ACTIVITIES IN BURUNDI

The year that has just ended has been characterized by a poor socio-economic situation despite the generally- improved security situation in Burundi compared to 2016. The shortage of hard currencies, already evident in 2016, went on worsening, affecting the country's ability to import basic necessities such as fuel and medicines. Thus, the exchange rate of a Euro which was BIF 1,761.9229 on 2 January 2017 rose to BIF 2,094,05 on 29 December 2017; that is an increase of 19% (Ref: BRB: Bank of the Republic of Burundi). Meanwhile, according to data available from the same bank at the end of November 2017, inflation was 16.7% against 5.55% in 2016. Actually, it was stronger than the one given. Food products experienced a price increase of 24.7% over the year.

In addition, the electricity and water sewerage company "REGIDESO" has increased electricity price up to \$ 0.20 per kW, or about 100%. To cope with this situation of widespread price increase, family allowances were increased by 28% in the budget 2018.

The country's fragile economic situation has greatly intensified pressure on the employment sector and could not allow business climate improvement. This has negatively impacted on empowerment of SOS young people who have left the programme. Thus, out of 89 SOS young people resettled in 2017, only 16 are employed; that is 17.9% while the self-reliance rate was 30.2% in 2016. To address the young people's employability problem, SOS Children's Villages Burundi encourages them to join together in associations to access micro-projects' financing from microfinance partners. In addition, SOS Children's Villages Burundi strengthens post-secondary and university skills of young people to increase their chances to get a job.

Politically, the peace talks between the opposition and the Government of Burundi, initiated by the East African Community in Arusha in Tanzania and supported by the international community to find a way out to the serious political crisis that the country has been going through since 2015, have not yet succeeded. In September, the UN drew up a critical assessment of the socio-political crisis in Burundi. Indeed, the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi has released a report mentioning violations of human rights. As a result, Judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) authorized the Prosecutor Office in October to open an investigation on the situation of Burundi concerning crimes committed from 26 April 2015 to 26 October 2017. The improved security has allowed all SOS Children's Villages Burundi projects to go about their work. Thus, a "foster care" programme started at the SOS Children's Village Cibitoke with 10 children living in 6 foster families, bringing the total number of children in the foster care programme to 137 at the national level. In addition, one SOS family from Bujumbura and one from Cibitoke have been integrated into the community. The 5 SOS Children's Villages did not welcome new children in order to reduce the child educational burden of an SOS Mother from 10 to 7 children per SOS family house. Thus, the 5 SOS Children's villages take care of 1,303 children and young people comprising 665 living in family houses and 638 in youth facilities. A diagnosis programme of psychosocial problems was implemented under the coaching of a Specialist Physician in Child Psychiatry and Psychotherapy. In addition, psychosocial support sessions were conducted for children in need.

The rapid assessment of programmes conducted in February enabled us to detect significant changes in family- like care and family strengthening programmes. Validated priorities have been incorporated in the National Mid -Term Plan 2018-2020.

In 2017, a funding agreement of the DGD for the programme SANGO 2017-2021 has been signed. Thus, the Family Strengthening Programmes Cibitoke and Gitega have been relaunched. This funding programme has been extended to FS Muyinga. All in all, the 5 FS support 5,990 children in need living in 1,667 families. The number of families having exited the programme are 232. One hundred and seventy-two (172) exited by self-reliance; that is 74%.

At the educational level, an external assessment of SOS primary schools and SOS kindergartens was carried out in Cibitoke and Rutana in April-May. Consultants recommended aligning the KG and SL1 Cibitoke and transferring KG and SL1 Rutana to partners. The 5 kindergartens, 5 primary schools and one secondary school care for respectively 571 kindergarteners including 114 SOS children; 1,851 schoolchildren including 461 SOS children and 719 pupils including 149 SOS children.

It should also be noted that an assessment of all the medical centres was carried out with the exception of the SOS medical centre Gitega, assessed in 2016. The consultants proposed to align the MC Rutana and to transfer the other MCs to partners. The 4 MCs have conducted medical consultations and preventive as well as promotional activities for children of the target group and the neighbouring population.

In 2017, the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender granted the 5 SOS Children's Villages with a ten-ton donation of rice. It is also worth noting that a donation of pupils' and teachers' books for 7th and 8th forms has been granted to SOS Primary School Rutana and SOS HG High School Bujumbura by the Ministry of Education.

Happy events have also marked SOS Children's Villages Burundi Projects. Indeed, the SOS family Burundi has grown with marriage of 15 SOS young people. Academic achievements have been particularly good. In fact, 48 degrees and 36 secondary education diplomas were celebrated. The visit of Mr. Helmut Kutin, the Honorary President of SOS-KDI, in May, is also worth being mentioned. It was an opportunity to award rings to 4 SOS mothers for their loyal service to the Organisation.

The priority of SOS CV Burundi for the current year is to align projects' activities with the Organisation's strategy 2030 and the Organisation's commitments to ensure quality care.

Finally, SOS Children's Villages Burundi deplores the passing away of a co-worker and resignation of 23 others; more than a half being SOS aunts.

SCHEDULE OF MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2018

Month	Activities
January	Preparation of the annual report
	Appraisal of Individual Work Plans 2017 and Validation of Individual Work Plans 2018
February	Meeting of the Senior Management Team (SMT)
	Handover between the outgoing and the newly- appointed CVI Reps
March	Meetings to take ownership of the document “SOS Care Guarantee”
April	Meeting of the Senior Management Team
May	Holding the first meeting of the National Management Team
June	Celebrating the SOS Children's Villages Day
	Celebrating the African Child Day
July	First review of the National Action Plan 2018
	Update of the Strategic Plan
August	Meeting of the National Management Team
	Signature of the agreement with the managing partner of KG Bujumbura
September	Preparation of the National Action Plan and Budget 2019
October	Holding the second meeting of the National Management Team (NMT)
November	Organisation of the World Peace Games for Children and Young People
	Celebration of the International Child Rights Day
December	Second review of the National Action Plan 2018
	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

Burundi security situation has significantly improved, particularly in Bujumbura, compared to that of 2016. The Village activities are proceeding as planned. However, on the economic front, prices of staple foods are steadily rising. As an illustration, the price of rice increased from BIF2,500 in December 2016 to BIF3,200 per kilogramme, the price of sugar went from BIF 2,200 to BIF 2,500, that of cooking oil (5litres) rose from BIF22,000 to BIF25,000; the family bread's price (900 g) increased from BIF 2,500 to BIF3,800 while a bag of charcoal increased from BIF 48,000 to BIF66,000. To cope with this situation, the Village regularly adjusted its expenses through wholesale purchase of basic necessities.

The Village disseminated the Strategy 2030 to co-workers, young people and children as well as guardians. A rapid assessment of the programmes was also conducted in May showing that on average ,59% of children in the Village have at least one biological parent alive. To align with the strategy2030, their progressive reunification took into account the situation of each child, their biological family and the community where the family lives. It is in this context that 15 children were reunited with their families. Thus, the 15 children were not replaced at the level of family houses so as to reduce the educational burden and the ratio of children per SOS mother and to improve the quality care. In the same way, an SOS family has been integrated into the community. Children are so happy to such an extent that they are already showing positive attitudes in their new environment.

The SOS Children's Village is currently taking care of 127 children living in 13 family houses and it is assisting 3 others in their families of reference. As for the Foster Care Programme, 12 new children were placed in 8 volunteer foster families. There are currently 62 children in 39 foster families while 5 others have returned to their biological families. In child safeguarding, 2 children who did not have birth certificates have been registered in the Registry Office. The Village also helped a young mother to get her child registered at the Registry office. In this area, 20 village children participated in data collection for the development of the national advocacy project.

Diagnostic sessions of child psycho-social problems were carried out under the supervision of a child psychiatrist. Thus, care for identified children continued through psychodrama, creativity and peer to peer discussion groups. This last activity helped 14 children talk about their concerns and find alternative solutions. A new psychodrama group was made after the diagnosis. In the same vein, an SOS mother trained by the Bible Society Burundi on trauma healing works with a team of 12 children. Through games and scriptures, she helps them to express their problems in order to overcome the latter.

What joy children felt while playing and sharing meal with "Grandfather Helmut KUTIN"! The SOS Children's Village was honored to welcome in May, the Honorary President Helmut KUTIN who, on the occasion, awarded 2 SOS mothers.

What an emotional reunion! On 23 June, during the SOS Day ceremonies, SOS young ladies and men who grew up in the family house "Banguka" together with their partners and their children paid a visit to their SOS mother and children. Presents were offered to SOS children and the SOS mother.

This year, it has been a great pride to get pretty satisfactory school performance made by children in our care. Thanks to an individualized pedagogical coaching, the success rate went from 81% to 93.75%. It is worth also noting that 2 children who sat for the national competitive examination giving access to the second cycle of secondary education passed.

As part of capacity building, core care co-workers and foster care representatives were trained on trauma healing, child rights safeguarding, and quality care. Six (6) SOS mothers also paid visits to identified Foster Care families for experience exchange. In addition, SOS mothers and aunts participated in a national forum on exchange of good practices in family quality care. Meanwhile, the Pedagogical adviser participated in a clinical supervision in Rwanda on resilience. In addition, the pedagogical adviser and the social worker participated in the last training session on psychodrama. On this occasion, they received a certificate of psychodrama assistant after being evaluated by the child psychiatrist.

During this year, the Village has partially renovated its premises. All the family houses and the two young girls' facilities have been renovated.

In child blossoming, 3 SOS mothers organized meetings with children and young people in December. On this occasion, children and young people enjoyed riding a boat on the Lake Tanganyika.

In terms of co-worker turnover, an SOS aunt was promoted to SOS mother in another SOS Children's Village in Burundi, a cashier and finance and administration officer who got promoted, have later been replaced. An Equinox choirmaster for 24 children has also been hired.

Finally, the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender offered 2.50 tons of rice to the Village.

3.1.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES BUJUMBURA

According to the youth care and development policy of SOS Children's Villages Burundi, the maximum age of assistance for young people by the Organization is limited to 26 years. Implementation of this policy gradually reduces the number of young people assisted in youth structures. As a result, the number of young people now stands at 125 against 158 young people at the end of 2014. There are 65 young people in "Youth 1" living both in 6 youth facilities and in the boarding of SOS HG Secondary School. The number of young people in "Youth 2" is 60, including 51 living in their families of reference while 9 are studying abroad. Twenty- four (24) young people including 1 from "Youth1" have been resettled.

The Village community is delighted by young people's success rate. It has been 90% against 87% last year. The Village community is also proud of another young man who passed an Entrance Test at the International College Tema in Ghana. Finally, diplomas were awarded to 14 young people, including 10 secondary school diplomas and 4 BA degrees. It is worth mentioning that out of a total of 125 children / young people, 2 are in primary school, 76 in high school, 7 have just passed the competitive examination giving access to higher education and 36 are still attending higher education. It should be noted that 2 of young people in our care are undergoing vocational training while 2 young people with mental disabilities do not attend any training. Similarly, a youth leader was promoted to the position of Finance and Administration officer at the SOS Children's Village Cibitoke.

Fighting against HIV/AIDS also remains the Village's concern. In Burundi, the HIV positive rate is 1.4% and there is a high number of unwanted pregnancies, especially in schools. It is in this context that the Village organized a sexuality education session for young people to preserve their health. They also attended awareness sessions to fight against HIV / AIDS and get freely screened. On the same occasion, a priest spoke with young people about body protection and harmful effects of narcotics. It was at the end of the 2 sessions that all the young people opted for free screening and a comprehensive health check.

It is worth noting that the Village held a youth day to identify major problems and challenges to be taken into account during activity planning for 2018. The Village also trained and supported 10 young people in self-employment projects' drafting. A memorandum of understanding with a microfinance institution for group loans' granting has been signed for a consideration of a loan guarantee fund.

In the field of SOS youth blossoming, a football match pitted young people from SOS youth facilities against those from the boarding of SOS HG High School. The match ended with a score of 3 of 2 in favour of the SOS boarding school team.

Before concluding, the Village staff is pleased to report that young people were supported in setting up a mutual aid and solidarity association. The constitution process is underway.

Finally, the Village community joyfully celebrated marriage of 3 young girls. It was a reunion opportunity for SOS adults and SOS families.

3.1.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN BUJUMBURA.

The year 2017 ended with 203 children against 188 last year. Among them, there are 22 SOS Village children and 181 community ones, including 7 from FS families Bujumbura. This preschool year was mainly characterized by various cognitive development activities, especially child development ones.

It is a pleasure to report that children with major learning difficulties benefited from a four-hour remedial lessons a week during odd day afternoons. Grade 3 schoolchildren were given many homework assignments and they were also corrected together with the children.

On the basis of the end-of-year evaluations, it was noticed that the vast majority of kindergarteners had internalized kindergarten programmes. All kindergarteners 3 moved to the SOS HG Primary school in September.

What's more, extracurricular activities were marked by a question-and-answer competition and a child fashion show. A comedian from one of local radio stations livened up the child fashion show. The parents' committee awarded interesting prizes to children.

In the same vein, a child excursion was made on Lake Tanganyika beach. Meanwhile, Father Christmas gave the children presents and parents offered a refreshment.

As part of partnership, the KG staff Bujumbura provided a three-month training to the staff of a new kindergarten belonging to a congregation of nuns. One parent also offered five balls of foot. Likewise, four new givers were also recruited and contributed more than one million Burundi francs.

Besides, SOS Kindergarten staff Bujumbura participated in the development of early childhood programmes for East African Community Member States.

Finally, it is with regret to report that 2018 will be the last year of SOS Kindergarten Bujumbura as being run by SOS Children's Villages Burundi. In fact, the KG Bujumbura, as other educational structures and SOS medical centres, was assessed with regard to its target group and its level of self-financing in 2016. Consultants recommended its transfer to other partners and this was confirmed by SOS Villages International during the year 2017.

3.1.4 SOS HG PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BUJUMBURA

By the end of the year, SOS HG Primary School Bujumbura had 495 schoolchildren while they were 494 last year. Target group children were divided up as follows: 81 Village children and 6 ones granted a scholarship. SOS HG Secondary School had 719 pupils, including 150 from our target group.

It is great pleasure to report that both schools have recorded excellent results at the end of the school year 2016-2017. In fact, the primary school had a 94.54% success rate while the secondary school pass rate was 92.32%. In the same way, all the SOS Primary School sixth graders were received at the Secondary School and 71 secondary school laureates got their high school certificates. Likewise, all the 80 candidates who sat for the National Competitive examination giving access to the secondary education cycle passed with an average that ranked the school second at the national level. In the same way, the Economic section was ranked first, the Scientific section B second while the section of Arts was ranked third.

In order to contribute to schoolchildren and pupils blossoming and to the ranking of both schools, an educational excursion was organised in favour of the 3rd and 4th graders while the Secondary School held a fraternization cultural day in favour of pupils and teachers where they shared meals and soft drinks.

Did you know that parents are more and more involved in fundraising? Schoolchildren's parents financially participated in the project of building the Primary school's fence. They donated an amount of BIF 5,700,000 while another parent offered 3 laptops.

Regarding SOS schools' assessment, it has been decided that the SOS HG Primary school Bujumbura shall exit from international subsidies by the end of 2019 and, henceforth, shall be managed by third parties, not yet identified.

Finally, both schools participated in a spelling contest called "spelling bee" bringing together many schools of the country. A secondary school pupil was ranked among the ten pupils who will represent Burundi at the level of East African Community Member States' one. The contest will take place in Uganda in March 2018. Likewise, two pupils have won the 1st award, each in his own group of participation, in the final stage of a poetry contest. In the same way, the "Génies en Herbes" (a competition club in oral questions about world knowledge) club won the first Trophy during the final stage of the world knowledge competition, 2nd Edition.

3.1.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME BUJUMBURA

The year 2017 was more stable than 2016. FS supported families regularly went about their business. Unlike in 2016, most of these families were able to obtain seeds and fertilizers without FS support.

How pleasant to keep safeguarding the child's right to education and see them performing quite well. Two (2) beneficiary children have moved from a public school to SOS HG High School Bujumbura, a school of excellence, for having obtained more than 80% in grade 6! It is also pleasure that 16 children who had dropped out of school resumed. Of a total of 745 children assisted, 692 children are under 18 years while 53 are young adults. Of all these children, 21 are in kindergarten, 483 in primary school and 8 in secondary school. Still, a fall in the success rate of 4.6% compared to last year is regrettable.

Child's rights are still the main concern! Here, 34 members of child safeguarding committees have received training on their rights; 4 child's rights school clubs were set up in 4 partner schools. The FS staff also regularly participated in bi-weekly meetings of the Coordinating Group for the Protection of Children in Emergencies led by the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender.

With a view of increasing family and community resources, the FS Programme supports 15 savings and loan groupings. The latter have been able to make savings of BIF 15,704,250 which enabled their members to set up income-generating activities. As a positive impact, the groupings in turn supported 270 community children in need by providing them with a complete notebooks kit for the current school year. In the same way, 6 young people were trained in sewing techniques and 19 kitchen gardens were set up in 19 volunteer families.

In the area of health, an awareness day on the fight against HIV / AIDS and free screening was conducted, through SOS Medical Centre, for parents and caregivers the FS Programme is supporting. Thus, awareness was raised for 206 parents including 162 women and 44 men and 191 got freely screened. The HIV prevalence rate is 9.5%.

With regard to capacity building, 262 members of loans and savings groupings have been strengthened on associative life, resource mobilization and financial management, gender and sustainable community development. As for the staff, they were trained on the drafting of Family Development Plan according to the new version **FDP 2.0**. By the end of the year, 28 families exited the Programme, 20 families exiting by self- reliance.

3.1.6 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE BUJUMBURA

Twenty-fifth anniversary, such a coincidence! The year 2017 coincided with both Medical Centre's 25th anniversary and the decisive year of what the future holds for it. The Medical Centre officially opened on 4 July 1992. In February 2017, a team from the Regional Office carried out an assessment on the implementation level of the SOS policy based on reaching out to the target group and self-financing. The conclusion was to exit the MC from SOS international subsidies and transfer its management to another partner.

It was within a difficult economic context marked by inflation and population impoverishment that the Medical Centre's activities took place. It is particularly worth pointing out a medicines' and reagents' supply problem with widespread outage at the market. This obviously impacted negatively on the achievement of expected results, as prices so increased accordingly. As an illustration, a 500 ml bottle of G5% serum has been increased from BIF870 to BIF1,800 and a box of 1000 tablets of 500 mg Quinine has been increased from BIF164,000 to BIF250,000. At the same time, the price of a 400 ml blood glucose reagent kit has been increased from BIF300,000 to BIF500,000 while that of a 250 ml creatinine kit has been increased from BIF30,000 to BIF50,000.

In terms of statistics, twenty-six thousand eight hundred and fifty-four (26,854) people have been received in curative consultation, including 1,457 SOS young people by 31 December 2017 while there were 27,418 people in 2016 and 773 people inward patients among which there were 39 SOS children and young people against 708 hospitalized people in 2016. In laboratory, fourteen thousand one hundred and forty-two (14,142) people were received for 30,955 laboratory analyzes against 13,463 people for 31,415 laboratory analyzes in 2016.

In the preventive field, three thousand nine hundred and sixty-four (3,964) infants were immunized according to the immunization schedule and 1,245 childbearing women received antitetanic vaccine. Three thousand four hundred and sixty-seven (3,467) pregnant women were received in antenatal consultation while 1,085 women were put on contraceptive methods. It is worth noting that 99 obstetric ultrasounds were also made. The Medical Centre also served as a distribution site for insecticide-treated mosquito nets during a campaign organised in September.

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, 460 people living with HIV of whom 457 are on antiretroviral treatment were regularly followed at the Medical Centre and 31 mother-child couples benefited from the Medical Centre's services in the context of Mother to Child HIV Protection. Three thousand four hundred and sixty-seven (3,467) people were screened with 39 HIV positive cases; that is an HIV-positive rate of 1.12%. Among the screened people, there were 62 SOS girls and 79 community young people screened as part of targeted screening. In addition, in collaboration with the FS, 191 caregivers were screened for HIV and those whose diagnosis was positive were received to the care service for people living with HIV.

In terms of infrastructure and equipment, the Medical Centre has repainted both the hospitalization and the curative consultation blocks. In order to comply with hygiene standards and standards in medical settings, a placenta pit and an ash pit were built. It is worth mentioning that computerization of the Medical Centre services is not yet complete even though related equipment has already been installed.

3.2 CIBITOKÉ

3.2.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE CIBITOKÉ

The province Cibitoke where the Village is located ends the year 2017 in a calm atmosphere. However, the insecurity that prevails in the Democratic Republic of Congo bordering Cibitoke, results in Congolese refugees' movement to a transit camp set up about 5 kilometres from the Village. In addition, the rainfall delay has caused a slight disturbance of the crop season A, which may lead to a decrease in agricultural production.

Like all other Villages, SOS Children's Village Cibitoke has undergone a rapid assessment of its programmes. The objective of this assessment was to analyze whether the Organisation's actions are directed towards its target group, namely a child who has lost total parental care or at risk of losing it, effectiveness and relevance of other programmes in the location. One of the findings was that in average, 79% of children in care at the Village have at least one biological parent alive, although upon admission they were in a strict need of being assisted.

As a result, SOS Children's Village Cibitoke has decided to gradually reunite these children after analyzing the situation of each child, his family and the community where the family lives. It is in this perspective that 29 children and young people have been reunited with their biological families since 31 August 2017. It should be noted that these children and young people keep on receiving support from the Organisation.

The Village currently takes care of 161 children, 132 of whom are cared for in family houses and 29 are reunited with their families of origin. Among them, 34 are studying at Kindergarten, 77 are in primary school, 42 are in secondary school, and 8 are not yet of school age. Their school results are satisfactory. The high school success rate is 81% while in primary school, it is 80.5%.

SOS Children's Village Cibitoke started, in September 2017, the new alternative care programme "Foster Care" with 10 children who have totally lost parental care placed in 6 foster families. Social surveys for child and family identification are jointly conducted by SOS Children's Village staff and local administration. Before placing children in families, the latter are oriented on quality care and respect for child's rights. It should be noted that 3 children attend primary school and 7 are not yet of school age. For a better child care, volunteer foster families are assisted by the Organization in accordance with established guidelines.

As part of the Village's alignment with the Strategy 2030, an SOS family has been integrated into the community since September 2017. Children are positively adjusting to their new environment.

The core care co-workers have been trained on family care and child-centered approach from 29-31 May 2017. All core care co-workers received adult trauma healing training from 10-14 July 2017. Mothers, aunts and guardians received guidance on the reintegration of children into their families of origin in June 2017.

In the perspective of more and more improving child's safeguarding against abuse, 7 volunteers and 8 chairpersons of Child Safeguarding Committees of the area where the Family Strengthening Programme Cibitoke operates were trained on 18 December 2017 on the topics: "Child safety is everybody's business" and "child safeguarding investigations". Participants,

according to their expectations, became aware of abuses perpetrated against children, people in charge of child safeguarding as well as the reporting process of abuses witnessed in the community. The Family Strengthening Programme provided them with mobile phones to allow them to work in secret.

In addition, the Social Worker, the Director of the SOS Primary School, the SOS mothers' representative and an SOS aunt have benefited from a training session from 15 May to 09 June 2017 on psychosocial support of children with psychosocial problems. It is in this context that psychodrama sessions are conducted for children identified as having psychosocial problems. The Finance and Administration Officer has also participated in a clinical supervision in Rwanda on resilience from 10 to 13 December 2017.

It is worth noting that SOS mothers and aunts participated in a national forum for exchanging experience from 31 July to 2 August in Bujumbura. The SOS Children's Village Cibitoke driver was also trained from 28 November to 1 December on maintenance and management of vehicles. Meanwhile, the sponsorship officer participated in a national sponsorship workshop on video editing in December.

In recognition of the impact of SOS staff action, the Government offered a 2.45-ton- rice donation and the communal administration gave 90 kgs of red and white onions.

The Village personnel is delighted with the connection to a new water supply line by the Electricity and water sewerage stated-own company "REGIDESO". However, this does not definitively solve the problems related to water shortage because it persists especially during less rainy seasons. To overcome this challenge in a sustainable way, the construction of a borehole within the Village is underway. This will provide water for family houses, other services and over 50 neighbouring families.

It should finally be noted that the Village has assisted children / young people in setting up their association called "ASEJ SOS Cibitoke". After drafting the regulations on 27 December, these young people decided to open a bank account for the association so that anyone who would like to support them gets a way to do it.

3.2.2 SOS KINDERGARTEN CIBITOKÉ

SOS Kindergarten Cibitoke reaches its ninth year of existence as of 31 December 2017. Meanwhile, 780 children who are attending SOS KG received quality training preparing them for the primary cycle. This number includes 81 children who are currently under our care, of whom 24 are Village children, 3 FS beneficiary children, 1 granted with of the KG Scholarship and 53 from the neighbouring community.

Pedagogically, the level of child awareness in all kindergarten activities is satisfactory in terms of French speaking skills and their level of participation in games and psychomotor activities. Educators have reinforced individualizing methodology; lego toy kits have been purchased since February to develop child's concentration, attention and reflection. In order to prepare children for the basic cycle, the Kindergarten has introduced into the programme of Kindergarten 3 a lesson of "word writing".

In May-June, children with learning difficulties participated in a Basic Learning Test in partnership with a Child Psychiatrist to increase their preschool performance and resilience. Subsequently, 4 children of Kindergarten 3 with psycho-emotional problems observed in their learning were identified and assisted.

Concerning partnership with other Kindergartens, SOS Kindergarten Cibitoke has supported "Stella Maris School", newly- created by priests in listing a kindergarten material needs.

As part of capacity building, the staff participated in training on manual creativity organized by SOS Children's Villages Burundi and conducted by a Haitian educator. In the same context, the Head of Kindergarten participated in a workshop in October on integral human formation in Rwanda.

In April, the SOS Kindergarten Cibitoke was assessed as part of the overall policy of the Organization to align SOS Schools and Medical Centres. Assessors recommended that the kindergarten should be kept under SOS international subsidies for at least 4 years, taking into account the high rate of children of our target group (42% of all the enrolled children) and the lack of credible alternative in the area.

3.2.3 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL CIBITOKÉ

The SOS Primary School HG Cibitoke has been operational since 2009 and currently has 220 pupils, including 64 village children, 6 granted with scholarship and 150 children from the neighbouring community.

By the end of the school year 2016-2017, pupils have succeeded at 90.6% while the previous school year's success rate was 89.5%. It's worth mentioning that it is 96.4% with the end of the first term 2017-2018.

Three pupils who did the national test giving access to 7th form of the country's schools of reference have been among the first 15 pupils selected from all schools in Cibitoke Province.

In partnership with the child psychiatrist, the school Director participated in detecting SOS children's learning difficulties in order to improve their school performance and resilience.

The board of children participating in decision-making has been strengthened through elections, replacing members who had been oriented to other schools after the primary school's grade 6.

SOS Primary School Cibitoke has organized an oratory contest in December where children demonstrated their intellectual talents through games, recitations, poems as well as answers to questions of world knowledge chosen from all the subjects taught. Prizes were awarded to winners.

In October, the school staff conducted a workshop assessing the level of child's rights implementation in 3 neighbouring schools. During this session, it was noticed that relationships between teachers and learners is improving thanks to integration of the "Child right" concept in daily teaching.

In April, the SOS Primary School HG Cibitoke was assessed as part of the overall policy of the Alignment of SOS Schools and Medical Centres. Consultants recommended that it should be kept under SOS International subsidies for at least 4 years considering the rate of our target group children (42% of all the enrolled children) and the lack of a reliable alternative in the area.

Finally, pupils have planted 70 eucalyptuses in the SOS Primary School Cibitoke vicinity in November so as to contribute to the protection of the environment.

3.2.4 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME CIBITOKÉ

It is a great pleasure to report that the Family Strengthening Programme, which had closed on 31 December 2016 due to the end of the funding 2015-2016, resumed on 1 April 2017. For the moment, a new Programme called “SANGO” brought hope not only to the community Cibitoke but also to 6 SOS staff members who had lost their jobs with the closure of the 2015-2016 Programme. The new Programme has increased the number of beneficiaries to 1,500 children and young people while the staff has increased from 6 to 9 people. In addition, the intervention area has been extended from one to two communes.

In Cibitoke province, the dry season lasted longer; it started raining late and insects and rodents destroyed fields. Staple food prices have increased. This has undermined empowerment of FS beneficiary families and the promotion of child's rights. In this case, the new Programme raised awareness of 409 families in partnership with 10 Community- Based Organisations (CBOs), on their self-development and effective quality care of children in need through their Family Development Processes.

Eighteen (18) farmer- field -schools and kitchen gardens of 6.48 hectares 48 of rice, beans, maize and peanuts have been rented by the programme so as to build capacity of families and community-based organizations on child quality care. They also received 617 kg of rice seeds, 4 boxes of eggplant, 18 kg of amaranth, 8 boxes of leek, 4 boxes of pepper, 1900 kg of chemical fertilizers, 8 pumps and 8 watering cans.

There are 129 community savings and loan associations on all 8 intervention area hills, with a start-up capital of BIF 35,695,000. This has allowed the associations' members (2,607 including 718 men and 1,889 women) to engage in agriculture, livestock and small business as income-generating activities.

At the same time, 30 caregivers and 40 young people were provided with a six-month vocational training in sewing, ladies' hairdressing and carpentry. Laureates benefited from a start-up kit. It should be noted that one young person did not complete the training as he moved to live in a new area during the training period. A literacy training of 263 caregivers, including 189 women and 74 men, was provided by 25 community volunteers.

In child rights safeguarding, the Programme has registered 130 children in the registry office while 80 couples legalized marriages. People who are in charge of tracking any abuses perpetrated to children have been trained on the reporting-response procedures before getting mobile phones for communication. Regarding access to health care, 399 caregivers were provided with medical assistance cards.

In terms of staff capacity building, the FS National coordinator attended training on the “citizen-driven change” approach. This approach involves active participation of citizens in the process of identifying their problems, looking for solutions to implement for positive social change. Three social workers and the FS National coordinator participated in the official launch of the Programme Sango and a national workshop on adaptation and ownership of management tools.

3.2.5 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE CIBITOKÉ

The SOS Medical Centre (MC) Cibitoke was assessed in April 2017 as it was the case for other SOS Medical Centres in Burundi. The main indicators were reaching out to the target group, self-financing and the project's relevance in the community Cibitoke. According to the assessors' report, it was recommended that the MC should be kept under the SOS International subsidies for a maximum period of 7 years. During this period, the MC is called upon to redefine its intervention strategy to effectively meet health problems of our target group children and increase its self-funding to 100%. Otherwise, it will be transferred to other partners.

In terms of statistics, the MC recorded 14,213 medical visits during this year. Over half of this number (50.1%) is made up of children. SOS children represent 16.8% against 33.3% from the neighbouring community. In laboratory, twelve thousand three hundred and fourteen (12,314) samples were analyzed. Malaria test was the most prescribed analysis and represents over 31% of the samples analyzed for diagnostic purposes. In addition, 141 people out of 245 inward patients have been hospitalized due to malaria the whole year (a hospital prevalence of 57.5%). This situation confirms the statement of the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against HIV / AIDS in March 2017 considering malaria as epidemic.

In the preventive field, community health activities have been carried out. Indeed, a campaign for anthropometric measures and a systematic deworming of SOS Village's children was conducted in October. In general, all children are well with a good height and weight growth except two children with backwardness but they are on medical and psychosocial treatment. Thirty-seven (37) information - Education - Communication sessions were held in the community with 1,525 participants, particularly on the fight against malaria, HIV / AIDS, malnutrition and dirty hand diseases. In reproductive health, 223 women freely adhered to contraceptive methods and 341 prenatal checks were made.

As part of partnership, the MC participated in four national immunization campaigns organized by the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against HIV / AIDS. During these campaigns, six thousand five hundred and eighty-seven (6,587) children were vaccinated and 351 pregnant women were given Albendazole and iron tablets. In April, the MC signed a partnership agreement with PSI Burundi as part of the project "Franchise Sociale TUNZA".

During this first year, it was about capacity building of beneficiaries and setting up work teams. Two nurses attended two training sessions respectively of 19 and 5 days on contraceptive technology and HIV / AIDS. In addition, a centre "**Amis des Jeunes**" (Youth Friends Centre) for Reproductive Health has been created. Four co-workers attended a 5-day training on contraceptive methods and customer care. A community health worker and 9 young volunteers were recruited for community outreach.

3.3 GITEGA

3.3.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE GITEGA

The year 2017 was characterized by a peaceful climate in Gitega province comparing to the year 2016 despite some theft and murder cases reported in different places. People go about their daily activities as usual. Nevertheless, in economic domain, the unemployment rate and prices increase of basic necessities remain a general concern in the community.

As of 31 December 2017, the Village has 121 children living in 13 family houses. 6 of them are not yet of school age, 19 attend SOS kindergarten, 94 study at SOS Primary School: 75 from the 1st to the 6th grade, 19 from the 7th to the 9th form while 2 attend a public school. The success rate is 87.17%. It is also worth noting that the child who was abroad for health care returned and is now attending class.

A Rapid Assessment of Programmes was conducted in May and findings show that 62% of children in our care have at least one living parent. In order to align with the strategy 2030, the decision of their progressive reunification has been made. It is in this perspective that five children were reunited with their families. Thus, in order to reduce educational burden and the ratio of children per SOS mother and also to improve quality care, those 5 children have not been replaced in the family houses.

Five (5) new children have been welcomed to the “Foster Care” Programme, increasing to 20, the number of children cared for in 15 foster families. Caregivers benefited from 2 training sessions on child needs and safeguarding at different stages of development. These trainings were supplemented by a support and coaching visit in 4 foster families by an SOS mother and a mother from the community jointly identified by the Family and Community Development Centre. During these support activities, it was realized that among 12 children in school, 11 have succeeded and that child safeguarding is assured. It was also noticed that the foster families are in good relationships with children’s families of origin. Some of their concerns were raised. It is particularly cases of medicines which are expensive and some cases of misbehaviour. Health insurance cards and family education have been suggested to address these concerns.

In order to improve child psychosocial care, 35 children and young people benefited from individualized empathic listening, 7 attended peer to peer discussions, and 21 attended trauma healing sessions. In addition, two staff members attended a one- month training provided by a psychotherapist and child psychiatrist in psychosocial care, which enabled to ensure quality care to 10 children by the psychodrama method. It should be noted that during the consultancy, children and young people benefited from some creative techniques by age group. The activity was also extended to six SOS aunts.

Different activities have been organized to help children and young people enjoy themselves and develop their talents. A cultural day was held in October and a touristic visit at the National Museum of Gitega in December. Three evenings of musical entertainment were also held in March, May and October. A football match that pitted children to young people from odd and even family house numbers, boys and girls together took place while celebrating child’s rights International Day. The team made up of children and young people from the odd family houses won the match by three scores against two. Children appreciated the match and a return match was requested.

As part of partnership, the women's football team of the Village participated in closing activities of Francophone week and the French language. Various competitive games complemented ceremonies and winners were awarded with prizes. The Village team received from the French ambassador in Burundi a ball, 16 T-shirts and 16 pens.

SOS children and young people's rights were safeguarded. The village supported 5 children and young people to recover their lands that were going to be despoiled by some members of their families and / or the community. Three other children / young people who were not accepted by their families managed to be recognized and accepted thanks to the support of the Village.

In capacity building, the Pedagogical adviser and the Social worker were trained on psychosocial care. In addition, the Finance and Administration officer and the secretary cashier were trained on the pay and Human Resources software and finance. He also participated in the launch of the programme SANGO. Core care co-workers were also trained on trauma healing. The sponsorship officer also received training on video editing and digitalization while the driver was provided one on vehicles maintenance and repair. In May, the Village Director paid an experience exchange visit to Ivory Coast. From 31 July to 2 August, SOS mothers and aunts attended a national forum. It was an opportunity to share experience, identify challenges that affect their work of educating and caring for children and suggest solutions for improvement.

It is also important to note that the Village received a delegation of the ruling party led by its Secretary General bringing a donation of 1950 kg of rice. In his speech, the head of delegation appreciated achievements of the Village and urged all co-workers to always keep on doing the good job of caring for children in need.

The Village also experienced happy events. An SOS mother was rewarded by the Honorary President, His Excellency Helmut Kutin, 6 young people got married, 11 got their university degrees and 5 others completed secondary education. SOS adults who grew up in one of the family houses also paid a visit the Village in order to strengthen relationships with their SOS family.

3.3.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES GITEGA

The year 2017 has been a year of exceptional harvest. Eleven (11) young people got their degrees, 5 got secondary school diplomas while the secondary education success rate was 91.25%. It should also be noted that 2 young people were enrolled in basic education, 62 in secondary education, including 1 at the SOS HG International College of Tema in Ghana, 28 in vocational and technical secondary education and 50 others at university, including 2 who are studying in China and 1 in Benin for master's degrees.

The Village has five youth facilities, two of which are located in Bujumbura for young people studying therein and three in Gitega. One hundred and forty-two (142) SOS young people were cared for during this year and they were divided up into 3 youth care structures, that is, 41 young people in the youth facilities, 36 in boarding schools and 65 others in reference families. It should be noted that 25 young people were resettled during this year, including 1 from her facility after getting married at the end of high school.

However, youth unemployment remains a serious problem. For instance, out of 25 young people resettled during this year, only 7 (or 28%) have jobs or other occupations allowing them to meet their needs. To cope with this situation, the Village organizes awareness sessions for young people on the creation of income-generating projects. Additional trainings are also organised. This inspired one of the young university graduates who decided to attend a driving school in order to increase chances of getting a job.

It should also be noted that the Village has started a process aiming at giving second chance to young people whose social reintegration has not been successful by enabling their access to credits. Therefore, a memorandum of understanding with a microfinance institution for granting group loans was signed with a condition of placing a credit guarantee fund.

The Village organised a Youth Day to which SOS young people and adults from the local community were invited. It was an opportunity for young people to assess services that they are provided with. During the same day, they also benefited from training on drafting of self-employment projects. A walk with their educators which ended with a reception and music was also organized. A basketball match pitted SOS young girls and a local public school and it ended with a score of 30 points for SOS team against 12 for public school team. The SOS young people from the two youth facilities located in Bujumbura also spent a day of happy moments with their educators at the beach of Lake Tanganyika.

3.3.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN GITEGA

The SOS Kindergarten Gitega provides quality education to 105 children including 19 from the SOS Children's Village and 86 from the local community. In 2017, activities focused on children's intellectual, socio-emotional and psychomotor development. Lessons taught in French are realized in groups and are concretized with an adequate didactic material.

Pedagogically, educators made 9 batches of varied educational material from local materials to complement the existing material.

SOS Kindergarten Gitega has assisted two other community kindergartens in providing a two-day training on pre-school teaching methodology to 14 educators. In order to concretize learning, SOS KG children and educators visited fields and domestic animals belonging to the congregation “Fathers Carmes” of Ruvyagira, Mushasha area.

The Head of the KG and educators were trained both on trauma healing as part of the Project “Peace and Reconciliation” in August and on creativity in pre-writing during Easter holidays. An educational day on songs learning was also organised.

In addition, SOS KG Gitega organised a school party at the end of June for child fun and bonds strengthening with parents.

SOS KG children joyfully celebrated Christmas in the presence of their parents, their educators and visually impaired children from the Centre RUMURI. Both varied fun games of the KG and visiting children made the party much more joyful.

It is worth noting that in the context of the rapid assessment of programme, a team of consultants from the Regional Office conducted an assessment of the KG and proposed that it should be transferred either to the Congregation of Sisters “Bene Bernadette” or to a teachers’ or parents’ Association within 3-4 years.

3.3.4 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOLGITEGA

The primary school's staff is so pleased with schoolchildren's performance. In fact, 37 candidates represented the school in the national examination giving access to the second cycle of secondary education, edition 2017. All the candidates passed with an overall 100% success rate. The SOS Primary School was ranked first in Gitega province and 15th out of 2,286 schools that participated in the examination at the national level. During this school year 2017-2018, the first term results are satisfactory with an overall success rate of 96%, while it was 95% in 2016-2017.

In July, teachers of 5th and 6th grades and the Director took part in a workshop aiming at assessing new English and French curricula for the 5th form and impregnation for the 6th grade's in the same subjects.

Developing skills remains the school priority. In this perspective, the Director was trained on management of a basic school while teachers received training on active and participatory pedagogy. The French teacher was trained on French spelling techniques while the one of Entrepreneurship course attended training on the computer software "Scratch" that develops creativity in games and cartoons. It should be noted that the last two trainings were initiated by the Franco-Burundian Alliance Gitega.

The Franco-Burundian Alliance Gitega also provided to 249 pupils additional training on the use of "digital library". It is made of 10 mini laptops containing over 45,000 books.

In February, a team of consultants commissioned by the Regional Office conducted an assessment of SOS Primary school Gitega. Given the target group low rate and the low level of self-financing, the consultants recommended that it should be transferred to another partner.

Lastly, the school organized a party mainly centred on poems, sketches, recitations, traditional and modern dances. Parents who took part in the party went back home pleased with talents of their children. They even suggested that the party should be organised every school year.

3.3.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME GITEGA

It's a pleasure to report that the Family Strengthening Programme, which closed on 31 December 2016 due to the end of the 2015-2016 funding, has resumed activities since 1 April 2017 through a new programme called "SANGO". The reopening of activities also elated both beneficiary communities and staff.

The start of this new programme has allowed the extension of the intervention area to a new commune, Makebuko. The number of participants in the programme increased from 1,000 to 2,000 children living respectively in 365 and 688 families. The number of staff members increased from 8 to 12. During this year, the number of beneficiary families changed from 688 to 684 due to relocation of 4 families out of the intervention area.

In partnership with the Communal Head of education, children in 5th and 6th grade receive evening classes to upgrade their French language level. Competition games on child rights have enabled the Programme to inquire about children's knowledge on their rights.

A stakeholders' analysis was conducted to target the programme's implementing partners in order to prepare community members to engage in target group child care. After this analysis, 5 training sessions were conducted for these partners on various themes.

The programme trained 688 parents/caregivers on their parenting role and family resources mobilization. Leaders of 158 community groupings assisted by the programme were trained on organisational development and micro-projects. A number of 443 people including 395 women and 58 men were trained. On-the-job training in manual soap making was carried out for 40 caregivers. 72 literacy sessions were held for 169 people, including 14 men and 155 women so as to contribute in reducing illiteracy.

To improve families' living conditions, 28 houses were renovated and medical assistance cards were granted to 1055 beneficiaries. In collaboration with the department of Agriculture and Livestock in Gitega province, 437 kitchen-gardens and 132 have been established in the Programme beneficiary households respectively in Gitega and Makebuko communes.

In child's rights safeguarding, 1 088 children in need have been trained. To assess achievements of the training, peer educators have been set up on each hill to facilitate young people's self-education.

Concerning the staff, the FS Coordinator was trained on "citizen-driven change" approach. This approach involves active participation of citizens in the identification process of their problems, finding solutions to be implemented for a positive social change. Three social workers, the person in charge of psychosocial support and the FS coordinator participated in a national workshop on the adaptation and ownership of the programme's management tools.

3.3.6 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE GITEGA

The political situation significantly reduced local technical and financial partners in 2016. The support that the Medical Centre expected to get from partners and government has consequently decreased. However, the MC received three new partners this year 2017: Red Cross Burundi, community PNLs and PBF (Performance-Based Financing). To improve patients' care, an ultrasound scanning service has been opened and is now functioning. A bacteriological culture service is being equipped and the staff has already been trained.

The MC received a total number of 19,606 patients; which represents an attendance rate of 54.4%, while it was 57.06% in 2016. Outpatient service records 16,925 cases against 2,681 inpatient patients. Among 706 consultations of SOS children young people and FS children in need, 6 children received special care and 5 of them were referred to specialists. Their health is now improving. The MC participated in national vaccination campaigns. Out of 212 children who received immunization, 125 were vaccinated on SOS outreach-initiated posts; that is 60.38%. This year, five hundred (500) women asked for family planning care; that is, an increase of 14 comparing to the year 2016.

SOS outreach-initiated posts have led to an increase in number of people living with HIV receiving ARV medicines. They increased from 1,961 in 2016 to 2,556 in 2017; an increase of 30%. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS suffering from malnutrition and who received nutritional support increased from 2 in 2016 to 32 in 2017 thanks to the partnership with the PNLs/IST via Red Cross Burundi. As part of the outreach strategy, 2 new SOS outreach-initiated posts were set up, enabling close care of 95 people living with HIV/AIDS. Among 5 SOS outreach-initiated posts that are already functioning, 3 were provided with equipment and medicines.

The MC has initiated a skills transfer and reintegration of ARV treatment into the of activity minimum package in health centres it has been supporting since 2015. Thus, one of the health centres currently cares for 27 people living with HIV/AIDS while before it could do that for only 3 women under the mother -to-child transmission programme. Through mobile clinics and home visits, the MC has strengthened adherence and acceptance of positively living with HIV. Thus, a peer to peer discussion group and a therapeutic weekend were held respectively for 6 women under the mother -to-child transmission programme and 7 young people living with HIV.

In capacity building for FS caregivers and community members on prevention of endemic-epidemic diseases and respect for child right to health, 52 awareness sessions were conducted for 11,713 people, including 1,727 men and 9,986 women on various themes. In addition, four (4) training sessions on child safeguarding policy were conducted for 47 Community health workers, 5 administration staff and 16 nurses so as to encourage other health service providers, health administration staff and community leaders to improve community child safeguarding. Likewise, the doctor, nurses, laboratory technicians, driver, the Finance and Administration Officer as well as the secretary cashier participated in an on-the-job training.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that 2 co-workers resigned while another one was promoted to the position of Director of SOS Medical Centre Rutana. On the other hand, a health mediator was hired by Red Cross Burundi for the Medical Centre.

3.4 MUYINGA

3.4.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE MUYINGA

The Village currently has 144 children living in 15 family houses with 69 girls and 75 boys. The number has decreased because those transferred to the SOS High School boarding have not been replaced; this was not done so as to reduce the educational burden and the ratio of children per SOS mother. The overall success rate of children in our care during the 2016-2017 school year dropped from 81.37% to 76.85%. This fall is explained by the fact that grade 1 children have learning difficulties due especially to bad situations previously experienced that have left significant psycho-emotional aftereffects. Here, it should be noted that there is a young person who stays home because of acute learning difficulties. The Village is looking for another specialized centre for his full care.

A rapid assessment of programmes was carried out in May. One of the findings is that on average 58% of children in the Village have at least one biological parent alive. Thus, to align with the strategy 2030, the measure of their progressive reunification was taken. The SOS Children's Village received, for the second consecutive year, in its foster care programme, 17 new children living in volunteer foster families. They are placed in 11 volunteer foster families. Both social surveys and child follow-up are jointly conducted by the SOS Children's Village and local administration. The programme currently takes care of 30 children placed in 21 volunteer foster families.

At the same time, 10 foster family caregivers received a training from 21 to 22 June 2017 so as to get them impregnated with working principles of the SOS Children's Villages Organization and the SOS brand. A group of four SOS Mothers and two members of the community's child safeguarding committees conducted follow-up sessions from 13 to 31 October 2017 to support and these families. All the 10 foster families welcomed this initiative and they were very pleased with it.

With the help of a child psychiatrist, specific support was provided to children in April and May, taking into account the situation of each one for a better care. Since May, psychosocial support sessions have been conducted for some children: some for peer to peer discussion groups (children with the same problems are grouped together to talk about these problems) and others for psychodrama sessions as well as trauma healing.

As for blossoming activities, a football match pitted the Village children against the neighbouring community ones at the Olympic stadium "Umuco" in Muyinga. Another inter-class match was also played. Children also took part in socio-cultural and religious activities.

Did you know that happy events have also taken place? The former President of SOS Kinderdorf International together with other people from the ESAF region paid a visit to the village on 20 May 2017. In the same vein, the Village celebrated bride-price giving and marriage ceremonies of 6 SOS adults, which were preceded by visits of their boyfriends' or girlfriends' families to their respective SOS families, thus expressing lasting and reliable relationships resulting from the SOS families' spirit and quality care.

Likewise, the Village celebrated the SOS Day together with other SOS units in the location, in June. The day was organized to celebrate together end-of-year school results giving and the Mother's Day. Child parents and other members of the neighbouring community massively took part in the ceremonies. On the same occasion, presents were offered to SOS mothers and aunts as a recognition for their dedicated work.

As part of child rights advocacy, the Village together with other SOS units took the lead in organizing the African Child Day in June and the International Child's rights Day in November. In addition, the Village joined other synergy members (a local platform) to celebrate the International Women's Day in March and participated in December in the activism campaign against gender- based violence.

In the field of capacity building, main documents and policies of SOS Children's Villages including the SOS brand and the strategy 2030 were disseminated to co-workers in Muyinga location on 07 June. All SOS mothers and aunts participated in a national forum held in Bujumbura from 31 July to 02 August. All core care co-workers received training on adult trauma healing from 10-14 July 2017 and reinforcement sessions on support for child victims of abuse and violence from 30 October to 1 November 2017.

In addition, four new SOS aunts and another newly- recruited administration staff member received orientation sessions on their work. Besides, a professional retreat for senior staff which two youth leaders, three SOS mothers, one aunt and a nurse participated in, took place in December. It was about pointing out our strengths and weaknesses in staff management.

On the other side, the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender offered a 2.25 ton of rice to the Village, which constituted a two-month stock.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that anti-lightning devices have been installed and public lighting has been reinforced to ensure the protection of people and installations.

3.4.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES MUYINGA

The village now has 181 young people, including 90 young girls and 91 young men while they were 211 at the same time last year. One hundred and six (106) are still staying in YF1 structures: 67 young people are living in the 7 youth facilities; 39 others are staying various boarding schools and 75 others are reunited (YF2). Thirty-six (36) young people have been resettled throughout the year.

Such an encouraging youth education! In addition to 141 children and young people who are attending vocational, high or higher education in the country, 22 others are studying abroad: 1 is attending the SOS HG International College of Tema in Ghana, 4 are at the SOS HG technical school in Kigali, Rwanda while 1 is studying in Kenya and 16 others are in different foreign universities (China, Rwanda, USA, Canada, Hungary, India, Ghana and Benin). Twelve (12) young people have got high school diplomas, 21 others graduated from universities. The overall success rate is 87.3%, when it was 87.7% in 2016.

Regarding individual achievements, it is a particular pride to report that one of young people in our care graduated from one of the most prestigious universities in the United States of America and he was able to get a job in a big company as soon as he graduated. Besides, an SOS young girl represented other SOS young people in a Pan-African conference organized in Ethiopia by SOS Children's Villages in partnership with the African Union. It was an opportunity for meetings and exchanges with other young people on their employability issue.

Young people are raised to become role models for little children. During holidays, young people have returned to their SOS families to meet their little siblings. On this occasion, they help SOS mothers in their child care and take part in various family activities. Moreover, after leaving the SOS families, they keep lasting relationships with the former, materialized through reciprocal visits between SOS families and those of young people already resettled, including some who are married and already having children.

Before the school year starts, young people end summer holidays with sports activities. This year, they have played a basketball match against a team called "SPEEDERS" from the neighbourhood. At the provincial basketball championship, a young man from the Village team was selected as one of the best leaders for his dribbling skills.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that unemployment remains a worrying challenge regarding young people reintegration. It is with this way that the village organized additional training in computer science, English, driving and entrepreneurship to increase employment opportunities and raise a self-employment spirit.

3.4.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN MUYINGA

The SOS Kindergarten Muyinga has 90 children including 20 Village children and 70 from the community, including 4 children granted with scholarships. Last year, the KG Muyinga had 91 children.

Educational materials were purchased in order to put learning into concrete form, one on plants because there was none and the other on the means of transport while there were only 2 while for 3 classrooms. In psychomotor field, educators made sticks for relay games. A class excursion was made to Kiremba Market, 3 km away in order to see goods / items that are sold at the market and in shops. On the same occasion, children learnt how to bargain.

The end of the first term 2017-2018 was livened up by various acts presented by children and sheets of their academic evolution was given. Festivities were closed by a child excursion accompanied by their educators and parents. At that time, Father Christmas offered presents to the children.

In partnership, the KG educators trained four educators from a new kindergarten on pre-school education.

In terms of staff capacity building, the KG staff was trained on the first aid concepts in order to act in case an incident arises both at school and elsewhere. In October, 6 KG co-workers and 5 Primary school teachers were trained on Bible-based trauma healing. Last, in December, KG educators attended a training on the development stages of children from 3 to 6 years in order to detect possible defects that could hinder their development.

Finally, it is worth recalling that the Kindergarten was assessed in 2016, mainly on its level of self-financing and the proportion of the target group children in comparison with the total number of children attending the KG. The Consultants recommended its transfer to a partner to be agreed upon later. During the year 2017, reflections aiming at finding the best possible option for the continuation of its activities, if it were to stop receiving international subsidies from SOS Kinderdorf International were conducted. Up to now, no final decision has yet been made on its future.

3.4.4 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL MUYINGA

In 2017, the SOS HG Primary School carried on its alignment with the new National Education Policy (extending primary education from 6 to 9 years) by opening the third year of the basic education's fourth cycle which lasts for 3 years.

In terms of statistics and academic performance, the SOS HG Primary school Muyinga had 418 pupils, including 119 SOS children and 299 from the community, including 16 granted with scholarships. The total number of pupils was 428 the previous school year. This drop is due to the non-admission of FS children since activities were taken over by another donor. The success rate was 95% while it was 96.6% the previous year.

Sessions of "Genies en herbes" club (oral competition about world knowledge) were also conducted to prepare pupils for such competitions in the future.

In addition, keeping partnership relationships with other schools has remained the central concern. Indeed, the 5th grade teacher has trained the teaching staff of the primary school "Espoir de Kirundo" on the French teaching methodology in grade5.

Grade 5&6 teachers and English teachers took part in a national evaluation workshop of the English and French curricula for grade5 in July so as to update our teachings. On the same occasion, they got impregnated with English and French curricula for the grade 6. In August, teachers took part in an impregnation training on curricula taught in grade 7, 8 and 9, field by field. In order to put into concrete forms some of entrepreneurial lessons, fourth cycle pupils have grown 60 avocado plants in the school courtyard.

Finally, the school was assessed in February 2017, like other educational structures and medical centres in terms of its target group and its level of self-financing for 2016. The consultants recommended the transfer of the school to partners because of the 29% target group and 62% level of self-financing while standards are respectively 30% and 70%.

3.4.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME MUYINGA.

It is a great pleasure to inform that the FS Muyinga received, during the reporting year, public funding from the Belgium Kingdom through a new programme called "Ŝanĝo" which covers 2 other similar programmes in Burundi (Cibitoke and Gitega) and 3 in the Democratic Republic of Congo for a five-year period (2017-2021). The programme will now work on 6 hills including 4 old and 2 new ones. In addition, the new funding made it possible to recruit 3 additional staff members to better service the programme beneficiaries and thus get closer to the standard of 150 beneficiary children per employee.

As of 31 December 2016, there were 1,038 children living in 208 families. In early 2017, 31 families caring for 246 children exited the programme; 28 by self-reliance and 3 others without success. The programme has then phased in 52 new families of 208 children divided up on 2 new hills in the intervention area as agreed with the new donor; this brought the target group to 229 families with 1,000 children.

It's a pleasure to have achieved a pass rate of 83.11% against 78.7% in 2016; that is a positive improvement of 5%. In fact, the FS Programme has 573 children in school, 18 of whom are in pre-school, 510 in primary school (extended from 6 to 9 years) and 45 are attending secondary education. Efforts made to establish focal points responsible for education, brainstorming sessions with partners on child education care have produced very positive school results.

To strengthen families and communities in child quality care, training and awareness sessions were organised on various topics such as mutual aid and association, child's rights and gender-based violence. Twelve caregivers received training in sewing, manual soap making and carpentry. Communities were strengthened: fertilizers were distributed to 32 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), training on resource mobilization, financial education, organizational development, micro-project drafting and on loans and savings.

The capacity building approach for family strengthening and child well-being is producing its impact. In fact, 32 Community-based organizations have supported families of 450 children who were not the Programme's direct beneficiaries by providing them with school supplies, medical assistance cards and nutritional support.

In addition, members of community-based organizations were able to make significant savings equivalent to FBU 13,127,950 (more or less EUR 65,000) to initiate income-generating activities including goat breeding, small scale business and agricultural intensification. through the acquisition of fertilizers. The ultimate goal is to improve family nutrition of and to increase their income.

The FS Coordinator trained the staff on training of trainers techniques. The FS Coordinator has been trained on the "Civic Driven Change" approach. This approach involves citizens' active participation in the process of identifying problems, looking for solutions to implement for positive social change by themselves.

3.5 RUTANA

3.5.1 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE RUTANA

The economic situation in Rutana province has not much improved in 2017 comparing to last year. Prices of basic necessities have increased. For example, on local market, the price of maize flour increased from BIF 900 in December 2016 to BIF 1400 per kilo, that of beans from BIF 800 to BIF 1200 and that of rice from BIF 1900 to BIF 2300. To deal with that situation, SOS families made adjustments to family savings to prevent children from being affected.

A Rapid Assessment of Programmes was conducted in May and findings show an average of 62% of children with at least one living biological parent. To align with the strategy 2030, the measure of their gradual reunification has been taken. It is in this context that 9 children were reunited with their families. Thus, the 9 children have not been replaced in their family houses in order to reduce the educational burden and the ratio of children per SOS mother and therefore improve the quality care.

The Village currently has 109 children and young people; that is, 29 enrolled at SOS Kindergarten, 73 at SOS HG Basic School, 4 at a public basic school and 1 at vocational school. Note that 2 children are not yet of school age. The success rate is 92.6%, while it was 92.8% in the previous school year.

The psychosocial support team is pleased with the help provided to 31 children with psycho-educational difficulties through listening and psychodrama sessions. Only six cases were referred to specialists for care guidance and their health has significantly improved. Twelve (12) children also benefited from 5 de-traumatization sessions to prevent and heal trauma.

Taking into account the ever-increasing number of children in need in family care, the Village welcomed in the Foster Care programme, 5 new children placed in 5 volunteer foster families. This programme includes 15 children placed in 12 foster families. The Village has built capacity for these families on child care, safeguard and rights. SOS mothers and a communal assistant from the Family and Community Development Centre paid a coaching visit to two foster families to exchange experience and good practices. It was an opportunity to discuss about themes such as respect for child rights and participation of children in taking decisions about their life. SOS mothers provided pieces of advice to children under care.

Regarding staff development, the Pedagogical Advisor and the Social Worker received training on care of children with psycho-educational difficulties from 13 to 17 February in Bujumbura. At the same time, the Finance and Administration Officer was trained on payroll and human resources management software. The secretary cashier and the Finance and Administration Officer took part in a national workshop on experience exchange and the harmonization of management tools in Bujumbura. An SOS Mother and 2 SOS Aunts were also trained on artistic creativity. Care co-workers received training on classical trauma healing.

In the same vein, SOS mothers and aunts participated in a national forum from 31 July to 2 August. It was an opportunity to exchange experience, identify challenges that affect their daily work of education and child care and propose solutions for improvement. The driver of the SOS Children's Village Rutana was also trained on vehicle maintenance and management from 28 November to 1 December. Meanwhile, the Sponsorship Officer participated in a national sponsorship workshop on video editing in December. The Finance and Administration Officer and the Pedagogical Advisor participated in a clinical supervision in Rwanda on resilience.

It is worth noting that the Village awarded 3 SOS mothers and 1 aunt for having excelled in their work. In the same vein, 3 children were also awarded for their model behavior at school and in family during the celebration of the SOS Day and Mother's Day on 7 July. The Team of Children's Creativity got the opportunity to give presents made of aesthetic objects and decorations they have to SOS mothers. SOS Mothers were very pleased to get such presents.

It should finally be noted that the Village got food support from the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender consisting of 1,800 kg of rice in June. In addition, a delegation from the ruling party donated 285 kg of potatoes, 75 kg of maize flour and 120 kg of rice to the Village on 26 August 2017.

3.5.2 SOS YOUTH FACILITIES RUTANA

During this year, the Village has experienced happy events. The Village community celebrated 14 diplomas, including 2 degrees, 11 secondary education diplomas and 1 vocational training certificate. It's an exceptionally delight to report that one young person who succeeded with a "high pass" during the National Examination giving access to higher education is now studying Computer Science in a foreign university.

SOS Youth structures Rutana comprises 131 young people. Sixty-six (66) young people live in the youth facility and 25 are in different boarding schools. It should be noted that 40 young people are supported in their families of reference. As far as education is concerned, 98 young people attend secondary and technical schools, 14 pursue university studies throughout the country while 5 study abroad. Currently, 11 young people who have completed secondary school studies are waiting for the opening of a new academic year and 3 reunified children are not enrolled at school this year due to learning problems. The success rate of young people is 86.84% while it was 93.75% last year. During the year 2017, the Village resettled 4 young people.

During holidays, young people benefited from 3 trainings on first aid, sexuality education and employability. In addition, on the occasion of the celebration of the Youth Day, they got the opportunity to assess the quality of their care through the following subjects: child's rights, medical care, education, reunification and resettlement process as well as blossoming. In general, young people appreciated the way they are cared for. It should be noted that the reunited young people were trained on job hunting techniques and drafting of reliable projects.

To prove their integration into the community, SOS young people played two matches of Football and Volleyball pitting them against Basic School Rutana I. SOS young people won the matches and received a cup and balls from the Catholic Diocese Rutana, sponsoring this activity.

To end, it should be noted that youth leaders were trained on sexuality education, project drafting, healing of classic trauma and on youth delinquency.

3.5.3 SOS KINDERGARTEN RUTANA

In 2017, educators updated the collection of recitations, role plays and songs used as teaching aids in language so as to strengthen child pedagogical care. In addition, images on different topics of teaching have been multiplied.

To make pre-reading activities easier, educators made play materials from local objects to help children improve their attention/concentration. Moreover, educators supervised children doing homework: 3 children were granted with scholarship and 4 from FS whose parents are unable to ensure education care. Furthermore, educators facilitated 9 introductory sessions on child's rights for kindergarteners³.

In addition, the SOS KG made an excursion to a local school "Levain du Savoir". Children from both schools shared biscuits and sweets. In December, children also celebrated Father Christmas with the support of parents.

Educators were trained on various topics such as the development of oral skills in French, conflict settlement, positive pedagogy and learning difficulties detection techniques. This was so as to develop skills of the teaching staff in child care. The Head of KG and 2 educators received training on trauma healing. The Head of KG also was trained on integral human training in Rwanda.

The Head of KG trained educators of a local school "Levain du Savoir" on school management and preschool care methodology. In the same vein, the Head of KG carried out a training on child safeguarding for 3 Heads of local kindergartens and 2 School officials of the Communal department of Education Rutana. The KG staff conducted these trainings to strengthen co-operation with other schools and local school administration.

In April, SOS KG was assessed as part of the overall policy of the Organization to align SOS Schools and Medical Centres. The latter proposed its handover to a partner within 3 to 4 years.

To conclude, it should be noted that preschool care on 31 December 2017 involved 92 children, including 29 from the Village, 4 from FS, 3 granted with scholarship and 56 from the local community.

3.5.4 SOS HG PRIMARY SCHOOL RUTANA

At SOS HG Basic School Rutana, the year 2017 ended with 302 students including 82 from SOSCV, 6 from FS and 16 granted scholarships.

Regarding school results, SOS Basic School Rutana recorded satisfactory results during the 2 consecutive years. In fact, it recorded success rate of 94.7% in the exams of June 2017 while it was 95.7% in 2016. The success rate of children in our target group was 94.2% in June 2017 exams against 95.1 % in June 2016.

These results are encouraging thanks to some strategies which were implemented: recruitment of 4 coaches for children granted with scholarship and from FS whose parents/caregivers are not able to ensure their education care, teachers' capacity building workshops on topics related to their profession.

Despite the implemented strategies, it is clear that the success rates of June 2017 were slightly lower than those of June 2016. This is because the school had admitted 22 new children in the beginning of 2016-2017 school year. To succeed, these new pupils had to benefit first from a particular help to adapt to the teaching system.

In the context of child safeguarding, the school has carried out the following activities: training of teaching staff in first aid, conducting empathic listening sessions for children with adaption difficulties, holding sessions of "Child's Rights" and "STOP AIDS" clubs, assessment of activities of the Club dealing with child's Rights initiated in schools operating in the intervention area of the Family Strengthening Programme and which take in children of our target group.

In addition, 3 competitions "Génies en herbes" (competitions based on Question-response about world knowledge) and 3 competitions on oral expression in the foreign languages were done in order to develop pupils' thinking twice spirit, concentration, retentive memory, eloquence and self-esteem.

With regard to staff development, the secretary cashier took part in a national workshop in Bujumbura on experience exchange and harmonization of management tools.

Moreover, the school administration got in contact with the Provincial Department of Education Rutana and got a donation of 551 pupils' books for 7th and 8th grades, 15 teachers' books for 2 classes as well as 12 World maps. This donation is estimated at BIF 9,000,000.

Furthermore, 9 parents who contributed to the local sponsorship for a minimum of BIF 10,000 per school year received certificates of recognition in June.

Finally, a group of consultants commissioned by the Regional Office conducted an assessment of the school in April. Assessors suggested that it should be transferred to another partner within 2 to 3 years, although it is the only school of excellence in the province.

It is important to note that the assessment included the level of self-financing, the percentage of our target group children and the quality education of other local schools.

3.5.5 FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME RUTANA

The year 2017 was marked by malaria epidemic that affected many families in the area. In fact, family development projects and the community solidarity spirit have particularly been affected. To address these challenges, the programme has carried out family strengthening and community-based organizations (CBOs) activities concerned with child well-being. There is a gradual improvement in household living conditions thanks to their membership in savings groupings which grant them loans for income-generating activities. This has enabled CBOs committed to sustainable development and child safeguarding to organize funds mobilization for the support of children in need.

The programme has exited 24 families taking care of 177 children. Twenty-three (23) families became self-reliant. With the admission of 40 new families caring for 178 children in need, the programme is currently supporting 745 children / young people living in 150 families in need. It has implemented its activities in partnership with service providers and community structures. These include educational leaders, Red Cross, Child safeguarding Committee, CDFC, CEPRODILIC, IRC, etc. which each contributed in their area to access and protect children of our target group.

The programme also carried out 2 capacity building sessions for 40 peer educators and 23 educational leaders on the right of child participation and child safeguarding. In addition, 34 awareness sessions were held for 1,186 stakeholders on the following themes: community care for children in need, management of community associations and networks, health mutuality, collective income-generating activities and peaceful conflict settlement.

It is thanks to all these capacity building activities that 95% of FS families are self-reliant, 108 out of 134 caregivers do income-generating activities, 206 children know their rights and participate in their dissemination. Ten husbands who had abandoned their families returned and live in perfect harmony with their wives and children. It is worth noting that 586 children / young people are attending school; 36 of them are enrolled in kindergarten, 557 in primary school and 29 in second cycle of secondary education. The success rate was 80.5%.

As for capacity building of community partners, the programme carried out 10 training for 134 caregivers, 198 CBO leaders, 20 focal points, 40 peer educators and 20 child safeguarding committee members on the following themes: community solidarity, child's rights and child participation as well as fundraising. Thus, 40 CBOs were able to mobilize BIF 113,159,160; their grouping "TUREREREHAMWE" was able to identify and provide 455 children in need with school supplies, food, and health care.

In the same way, the FS Coordinator participated in a training on the "citizen-driven change" approach. This approach involves citizens active participation in the process of identifying their own problems, looking for solutions to implement for positive social change by themselves.

3.5.6 SOS MEDICAL CENTRE RUTANA

The external assessment of SOS Medical Centre Rutana carried out in April 2017 shows that there is no health facility in the area that can do better than the Medical Centre Rutana in caring for children and families in need. According to the consultants' report, it was proposed to keep the Medical Centre under international subsidies and to develop an alignment strategy for the Medical Centre to achieve 100% self-financing within 3-4 years.

Compared to other non-SOS health facilities in the region, the Medical Centre Rutana went further to address health care of children and families in need. Thus, it has been a pilot and pioneering center for HIV care since its creation in 2006. In 2017, 22 new HIV cases were put under ARV treatment.

The CM care for 115 people living with HIV, including 10 children under 15 years old. It is the only health centre that deals with pediatric HIV in the South region of the country, as this type of care has so far been restricted to district hospitals. A reflection workshop on the issue of access to quality health care for the population in need of Rutana and surrounding areas was conducted in November with all local stakeholders.

One of the recommendations made at the end of the workshop was to raise this same population wide awareness to join already existing community-based mutual health networks that work with existing health care structures. In this context, the Medical Centre signed in December a health care partnership contract with a local community mutuality.

In terms of statistics, the Medical Centre has recorded 12,299 medical consultations (118 more than in 2016), including 4,938 children in need (1,459 SOS children / young people and 3,479 community children). Three hundred and eighty-one (381) pregnant women and 410 women received FP care. One thousand eight hundred and two (1802) children including 550 in routine vaccination and 1252 in national campaigns organized by the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against HIV / AIDS were immunized. In addition, 4 community awareness sessions on health promotion activities (right to health, sexual and reproductive health, prevention of endemic diseases) were held for 365 participants including 196 members of FS community networks.

In addition, free HIV screening for 746 people was conducted after individual and / or community counseling sessions.

A hospitalization service was set up at the end of August to particularly make SOS children's and young people's care easy. Fifteen (15) cases of hospitalization at the end of December, that is 42 days of hospitalization in a single self-contained and equipped available room. The CM intends to receive an ultrasound device from the SOS Medical Centre Bujumbura. The use of this device will solve the serious problem of most pregnant women who were obliged to go to Bujumbura and / or Gitega for lack of ultrasound service in health facilities in the Southeast Region of the country.