



Sally helping with building of Maternity Unit - Nyembuye

## 'Rema' Supporting reintegration of refugees and peace building in Burundi

Programmes include advocacy, empowerment and development of 'sustainable livelihoods'. Issues for returning refugees remain great in terms of acceptance, land ownership, education, and sustainable income generation - if peace is to grow in Burundi. Rema is seeking to establish and represent needs from the grass roots to provincial, national and international levels. Much prayer is needed that through God's love, true peace may be a lasting reality. [www.remauk.org](http://www.remauk.org)

# Rema News

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## NYEMBUYE CLINIC (Rutana)

The clinic is growing with the new maternity building almost finished. With the support from Rema UK, a maternity unit is being built to help with the increase in numbers. It will replace the temporary use of one of the staff houses. We are hoping to complete the building in May.



New maternity unit - Nyembuye Clinic

**Malaria has been declared as a pandemic** by the ministry of health. 5 million Burundians have been diagnosed positive with malaria from 2016 and the government needs the international solidarity in order to combat this pandemic. Sharing Life Trust has been offering support via Rema UK to buy medical supplies for the clinic to help in this area.

**Water is life!** Rema, the local people and the communal administration have held regular meetings in order to discuss the best way to improve the health of the population living in villages near to the clinic. The meetings revealed that clean water is a big problem. With the agreement and support of donor organisations surplus water from the large tank at the clinic has been piped to the village of Bangu, one church and a neighbouring primary school. The community have helped with digging trenches for pipes and collection of rubble and sand.

There is now much rejoicing.... Women are especially benefitting in not having to travel long distances to collect water - saving both energy and time. For the school this is a double benefit as the World Food Programme are now providing food for daily meals which they could not do without a clean water supply. It is hoped other outcomes will include, a higher level of personal hygiene and cleanliness of clothing, and reduction in diseases. The clinic is now helping the beneficiaries understand the importance of maintaining the infrastructure.

### BURUNDI NEWS Update...

Prolonged drought followed by heavy rains is taking its toll. Many have fled to neighbouring countries as refugees due to famine, but there are food shortages there too. The recent heavy rains have claimed lives with houses being washed away and lives lost. The rain is bringing limited benefit with run off, and it is unsure how long rains will last. Food prices have more than doubled.



## INCOME GENERATION



Beatrice

Beatrice was about to flee to a refugee camp with her children in Tanzania due to hunger. She had had to take her children out of school and she had given up all hope. Rema became aware of her needs and she was offered a small loan. With this she 'rented' some palm oil trees for the season and made palm oil which she sold in jerry cans in the local market in Muyange. From the residual kernels she has been able to sell the seeds for soap making and used the remaining husks for fuel. She has now paid back her loan in full and is self sufficient. Her 2 children are back in school and she is showing other women how to set up similar business.

A small loan can transform lives and Rema is extending the programme to help more families.



## PASTORS TRAINING

Rema aims to build the capacity of church leaders so that they may be able to build the capacity of their followers, believers in their respective churches. Rema noticed that there are pastors who lead churches who have not been exposed to any Bible training. This gives rise to sects that have arisen out of ignorance and have broken many families.

Rema is a nondenominational Christian and not for profit organisation and is working with pastors from many churches. Rema are training 4 groups of pastors in 3 places (Cankuzo, Rutana and Makamba) over a 3 year period. The training takes place for 1 week every 2 months. Assignments are given to be completed between training sessions. At the next session each student shares the challenges and achievements encountered in implementing the new insight and knowledge they got during the training. Most testify to the achievements they have made - not only in their own lives but also in the lives of those in their churches, On a practical level some have planted trees, fruit trees, dug pit latrines etc.

One of the Rema strategies is to produce training materials in Kirundi. Topics have included forgiveness and reconciliation, biblical marriage and parenting, biblical theology and biblical stewardship and others are being translated. They have been using material from ECLEA (Equipping Church Leaders East Africa).



Rema Ministries management team

***'Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.' Isaiah 1:17***

## BIBLES IN PRISON

During Sally's visit, Kirundi bibles were distributed to Prisoners in Rutana prison (holding 228 prisoners). The governor had the first one and the others were eagerly received by those identified by the chaplain. More Kirundi Bibles are available in Bujumbura if Rema have the funds....



Theo giving out bibles in Rutana prison

### PRAISE and PRAYER

#### Praise for:

1. Aline Ndimurukindo who has joined the team as a financial assistant.
2. Sally managed to get her visa and had a very positive time with Rema Ministries in Burundi in February (She hopes to visit again in July)

#### Pray for:

1. Burundi - the political crisis has not been resolved but the country also now faces famine and malaria which are now either displacing people or claiming lives.
2. Rema team as they try to serve people during very difficult political circumstances and economic hardships.

## Contact Us:

Rema UK (working in partnership with Rema Ministries)

C/O Sally Botteley

Tel: 01213080220

10, Oaklands Rd

email: [info@remuk.org](mailto:info@remuk.org)

Sutton Coldfield

web: [www.Remauk.org](http://www.Remauk.org)

B74 2TB