



More displaced people as a result of flooding - Gatumba

'Rema Burundi' focusing on sustainable reintegration of forcibly displaced people and refugees.

Programmes include: Capacity building, Economic empowerment, Health and Social protection, advocacy and lobbying, and Environmental degradation. 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.

Rema News

Rema UK Registered Charity No 1118650

Spring 2024

Environmental Degradation

Lake Tanganyika continues to rise and unseasonal weather brings flood and landslides resulting in homelessness and loss of livelihoods. Rema is seeking to find ways to mitigate the effects of Climate Change and have recently been recommended by the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) for admission as observers for the upcoming COPs!



The lake continues to claim



Roads washed away

Economic Empowerment

The Income Generation Activities – small loan scheme continues to grow – with many applicants. It is transforming lives of many individuals, families and groups.



Beatrice with her tailoring business

It was a joy to revisit 'Beatrice – one of the 1st to receive a loan, some years ago, and see how her tailoring business has survived and grown.

New projects include women's groups in Gatumba, those once again displaced by the rising lake.

Capacity Building for church and community leaders

The 3-year training programme continues in 6 locations in Burundi with over 240 trainees from different denominations.

The objectives are: 1. To increase the ability of the church leaders to preach the word of truth. 2. To enhance the ability of the churches to nurture their congregants to maturity. 3. To equip church leaders to engage in income generating activities and stop dependence on church offerings and tithes.

Teaching includes: Bible interpretation, Christianity and Islam, mission studies, expository preaching, Pastoral studies, and Spirituality. Training is based on a course from ECLEA.

While teaching in Mishiha (Cankuzo) Rema were recently invited to engage with street children relocated by the government from Bujumbura. Topics such as patriotism, peace, reconciliation and social cohesion were addressed. Rema are now prayerfully seeking guidance on how best to support these children... food, clothing, literacy...



Patrice leading prayer time with street children in Cankuzo

Advocacy and lobbying

The programme continues to raise and address the needs of returnees and others facing forced displacement.

Programme's key activities and partnerships

This year's Participatory Action Research (PAR) focuses on the role of religious actors in peace-building. Rema Burundi has just received a research grant from the University of Leeds (England) to try and understand the tangible and intangible actions of faith actors in peacebuilding.

In collaboration with World Vision Burundi, Rema has then organized a national workshop on the "Do No Harm" approach for these religious leaders so that their peacebuilding interventions may follow the do no harm principles. This workshop therefore aimed to empower faith actors to contribute to social cohesion without infringing on the values and beliefs of other community members who do not necessarily share the same faith as them. The workshop brought together 18 religious leaders representing Burundi's main denominations: Christians, Protestants and Muslims. It served as a starting point and more actions will be done as we progress with research activities planned for 2024.

- Nyembuye Clinic (Rutana)



Rema Clinic and local children keen to be in the picture!



The clinic remains very busy serving a large area. Good News! The World Bank have recently installed solar for the village which is also to be connected to the clinic enabling setting the dentistry and the lab.

BURUNDI NEWS Update...

- Inflation is increasingly making costs of basic food unaffordable for many.
- Environmental degradation, especially along Lake Tanganyika is again affecting homes and livelihoods
- The conflict in Eastern DRC continues to impact the region

'Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the fatherless, plead the cause of the widow
Is1:17

20th Anniversary of Rema – June

A big celebration is being planned for June...

The aim is:

1. to give thanks to God
2. to share achievements
3. to increase awareness of Rema as we move forward.

Invitees include: Rema Board, Rema UK, Government representatives, beneficiaries and other partners... with an opportunity for other friends to **join online for the main event on morning 6th June** – details to follow.

Rema began 20 years ago in Nairobi through the vision of Francois Nitunga – the 'father of Rema!' and we praise for God's guidance and blessing over these years...

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

Praise:

1. Protection, provision and guidance for the Rema team, their families, and projects
2. Opportunities to extend the work through new partnerships.

Prayer:

1. Rema Team - for wisdom, guidance and health as they seek to transform lives
2. The 20th Anniversary of Rema – smooth preparations and an impactful celebration.
3. Sustained flow of resources through mission funding partnerships
4. Political stability in Burundi and efforts to strengthen the economy.
5. Peace in Eastern DRC and the region.

For more information, please contact Rema UK



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