

Income generating group – selling vegetables on the street receiving small loan from Rema- Bujumbura

‘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 Autumn 2025

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.



Making and selling shoes

Despite a worsening economic crisis and lack of fuel, Rema Burundi continue to make follow – up visits to economic empowerment loan recipients. There are currently 29 individuals and 12 groups receiving loans, and most pay back regularly – though this is now hard for many. Diane continues to manage this programme which is appreciated.



Selling water



Sally (Trustee Rema UK) shelling beans with Run Town Ladies selling vegetables on the street.

Advocacy and lobbying

The programme continues to raise and address the needs of returnees and others facing forced displacement. They are partnering with several international NGO’s.

Rema are actively contributing to DRC (Danish Refugee Council) – led initiative on durable solutions for returnees and IDPs.

Capacity Building for church and community leaders

The programme is led by Francois Nitunga. Over 200 people are receiving training in 6 centres.



Pastoral Leadership Training and Biblical Stewardship – Nyanza-Lac and Muzye in June

Building on the spiritual formation programme, Rema Burundi has been training local church leaders in **James and 1 Peter**, emphasising perseverance, holy living, and faith in action. Through scripture engagement and group reflection, leaders were equipped to guide their congregations through spiritual and social adversity.

A transformative training also took place for church leaders in **Rutana** with an in-depth study and reflective application of the book of **Habakkuk,** with particular emphasis on embracing faith amid uncertainty.

A **women’s workshop** was also held in **Gatumba (DRC border),** led by Micheline Nizigiyimana challenging women to reclaim their place as pillars of faith and family, reclaiming their roles in: leading with courage, strengthening church life and defending family unity during uncertainty.

Environmental Degradation Advocacy and lobbying

Lake Tanganyika rose over 2 meters 2 years ago but has not gone down. This has resulted in floods around the lake with many losing homes and livelihoods. In Gatumba the issues are compounded by the war in Eastern DRC and a large influx of refugees. Rema are developing a programme to help people manage the situation, with the lack of government support and very poor infrastructure.





Francois Nitunga, who leads Rema's pastors training programme, is also pastor of Gatumba United Methodist Church. The church was flooded - now surrounded by hippos and crocs. The church now worships - still 'enthusiastically' outside under a flimsy tarpaulin.

Health and Social Protection

- Nyambuye Clinic (Rutana)

The clinic remains very busy serving a large area. With the installation of solar for the village (World Bank), a group from Mission International have been able to progress setting up the dental clinic.

Visit by Rema UK

Sally Botteley was grateful to be able to visit Burundi in August. Due to continued lack of fuel (several years now, and very expensive on the black market), and power outages, she spent valuable time in and around Bujumbura with the Rema team. It was good to have time to share, encourage and to visit some of the Income



Generating Activities. She was also able to offer some training on fundraising (for small grants), and to share God's word at Gatumba.

BURUNDI NEWS Update…

- Inflation continues to increase making costs of basic food unaffordable especially for many with no land
- Environmental degradation along Lake Tanganyika continues to affect homes and livelihoods
- The conflict in Eastern DRC has resulted in the arrival of thousands of refugees. Some come with resources - pushing prices up in Burundi.

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

Changes at Rema Burundi

There have been changes with the leadership at Rema Burundi this year. **Theo Mbazumutima** has moved from the role of Director to become Chair of the Rema Burundi Board (and legal representative). He remains very committed to Rema, though no longer an employee. **Micheline Nizigiyimana** has become the new director (from her previous role as Financial Manager).

Please pray for strength and grace in this season of transition and growth.





PRAY FOR:

1. Rema Team - for protection, unity and renewed energy especially for those working in remote, high-pressure environments. May their service be sustained by grace and purpose.
2. Vulnerable families facing economic hardship – food insecurity, fuel shortages and power outages. May God provide daily sustenance.
3. Rema projects – for guidance, wisdom strength and provision of funds.
4. Burundian refugees and returnees – for thousands awaiting safe return and resources needed for integration
5. Peace and stability in the region. – for implementation of peace agreements and protection of civilians. May there be lasting security and reconciliation.

For more information, please contact Rema UK



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