



**CONCERN**  
worldwide

# SOCIAL MOBILISATION TO PREVENT CHILD MALNUTRITION AND KEY CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES IN BURUNDI

Dr Aline Conayisavye, Health & Nutrition  
Adviser, 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

# ISSUES

- **Burundi** is a landlocked country in the Great Rift valley
- Estimated population: 11.8 million
- High chronic malnourished rate in children under 5: **52%** (SMART 2018)
- **Drivers of malnutrition:**
  - Extreme poverty (food insecurity, disease)
  - Lack of dietary diversity
  - Poor hygiene
  - Barriers to accessing essential services



# DESCRIPTION

- Key partner: **Ministry of Health (MoH)**
- Objective: Reduce **malnutrition & underlying causes**
- Duration: 36 months (2018 -2021)
- Intervention area: **Cibitoke province**
- **Donor:** UKAID Match
- Budget: £851,213.71
- Target population: **58,313 children under-5**

## DESCRIPTION

- Integrated approaches:
  - **Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC)**
  - **Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM)**
- **SBCC: Care Groups**
  - Project reached **47,920 households** with messages and best practices on health, nutrition and hygiene
  - **480** care groups set up and **4,792** Care Groups Volunteers (CGV) identified, trained and supervised

## DESCRIPTION

- **SBCB: Positive Deviance Hearth (PD/Hearth)**
  - 87 agriculture extension workers trained on home gardens
  - 4,291 mothers sensitised on how to grow vegetables to improve their household diet
  - 4,291 mothers received vegetable seeds and 99.2% (4,260) set up home gardens
- **Challenge:** Difficult for the poorest households to contribute to PD/Hearth session and bring food for the children.



## DESCRIPTION: SBCC



*Francine F. a CGV during home visit, Cibitoke, Photo by Concern Worldwide, March 2021*



*Euphemia I. 42 years, a CHW in the kitchen garden, Cibitoke, Photo by Concern Worldwide, Sep 2018.*



*PD/Hearth session, MAM children taking food, Cibitoke, Photo by Concern Worldwide, Oct 2020*



## DESCRIPTION

### Implementing iCCM:

- **Increased motivation** of Community Health Workers (CHWs) using Performance Based Financing (PBF)
- 529 CHWs trained and equipped
- **Total children treated:**
  - 54,289 from malaria
  - 1,752 from diarrhoea
  - 1,405 from pneumonia
- **Key challenge:** stock-outs of drugs for malaria & supplies for rapid diagnostic tests



*Jeannette I. , 52 years, CHW , with children she follows regularly, Cibitoke. Photo by Concern Worldwide, Sept 2018*

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Out of 4,291 children suffering from MAM, **3,808 improved their nutritional status**, gaining at least 200g
- **Engagement of communities** through Positive PD/Hearth approach and Care Groups is critical in the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)
- **Ensuring regular and continuous supply** of essential medicines for treatment is critical



*Charlotte N., 25 years, her daughter Kynthia N. 4 years with malnutrition, a baby (boy), 1yr Kaddy I. Cibitoke. Photo by Concern Worldwide, Sep 2018*



*PD/Hearth session, children with MAM taking food, Cibitoke. Photo by Concern Worldwide, Oct 2020*



## NEXT STEPS

Continue to:

- Support intervention that **engage and empower community** members to adopt new behaviours
- Advocate with government and key partners for **strengthening the forecasting for medicines and supplies** and supply chain management
- Support **integrated projects** that both strengthens the management of malnutrition and the management of key childhood illnesses



*Clotilde N. , 25 years old, her daughter Ines N. 4 years old, Care Group beneficiary, Rugombo, Cibitoke. Photo by Concern Worldwide, Sep 2018*

**Thank you  
for your attention**