

**International  
Rescue Committee  
Tanzania**

Annual Report  
2019



Students at Amitié Secondary School in Nyarugusu refugee camp  
Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC



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A Burundian child at an IRC-run Safe Healing and Learning Space (SHLS) in Nyarugusu refugee camp.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC

## A Note from the Country Director

I am pleased to introduce our 2019 annual report. As the IRC in Tanzania, we are proud to have been able to serve refugees and Tanzanians in the country for over twenty-five years. In 2019, we focused on strengthening the quality and impact of our services; we increased our cross-border links with Burundi, from where many refugees originate; and we began to build up our work beyond the camps to serve the host communities of Kigoma and beyond.

Through our research and monitoring we are determined to continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the work we do and in 2019 we launched a new Research and Innovation Hub. We also strengthened our commitment to working in partnership, recognizing that working with others is the only way to achieve the kind scale and depth of support that communities have a right to expect.

For our clients, 2019 was a challenging year: For many refugees in the camps, life is perennially tough with huge limitations. But their resilience is admirable. IRC works with almost 2,000 refugee teachers, and hundreds of other volunteers, who provide vital front-line support

across our health, protection and education programs. Without their efforts within their communities, the programs described in this report would be impossible.

I also want to thank our donors for their continued commitment; with their support, whatever the size, we were able to grow our work substantially in 2019. In particular, this included UK Aid, the European Union, US Government and our UN partners, including UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF. We also work closely with the Government of Tanzania across many levels; in every sector and program, from ward, to district to region to national levels, we are grateful for the continued cooperation and support we receive.

Unfortunately, 2020 sees further challenges ahead. As IRC we're committed to working to respond to the needs before us. We want to hear from our clients, listen to their feedback and adapt accordingly. Their responses remain our reason for being here and we'll work tirelessly to serve them well.

**Matthew Wingate**  
Country Director



## Introduction

The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their future. We have been present in Tanzania since 1993 when we responded to an influx of refugees from Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since the initial influx, we have continued to tirelessly serve the needs of both refugees and host communities in the country.

In 2019, we were active in all three refugee camps in Kigoma region—Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli—while also expanding our presence in the surrounding host community, working cross-border with Burundi and continuing to support national programs in Tanzania. Through our work across health, education and protection, we focused on:

- Providing counseling services and support to survivors;
- Ensuring that children affected by displacement and crisis have access to safe and quality education;
- Placing unaccompanied children with foster families for care and support; and
- Providing youth—particularly girls—with social and recreational activities as well as life skills training that can help them cope with crisis.

As we enter 2020, our strategy is to prioritize keeping people healthy and safe, improving education quality and enhancing peoples' decision-making power and economic wellbeing. We will continue our work with refugees and host communities, and we'll grow our cross border work in partnership with Burundi and our support for national programs with a focus on women and girls. We will continue to provide vital direct services, but will extend our focus on partnerships with local organizations and increase our focus on evidence based impact through a new research and innovation hub.

- Ensuring the most vulnerable, especially women, children, and persons with special needs, have access to health care and other critical services;
- Working with leaders of refugee communities to prevent violence against women and bolster women's empowerment;

**TOP:** Graduates from the IRC's Engaging Men in Accountable Practice (EMAP) program cooking food for women in the community.

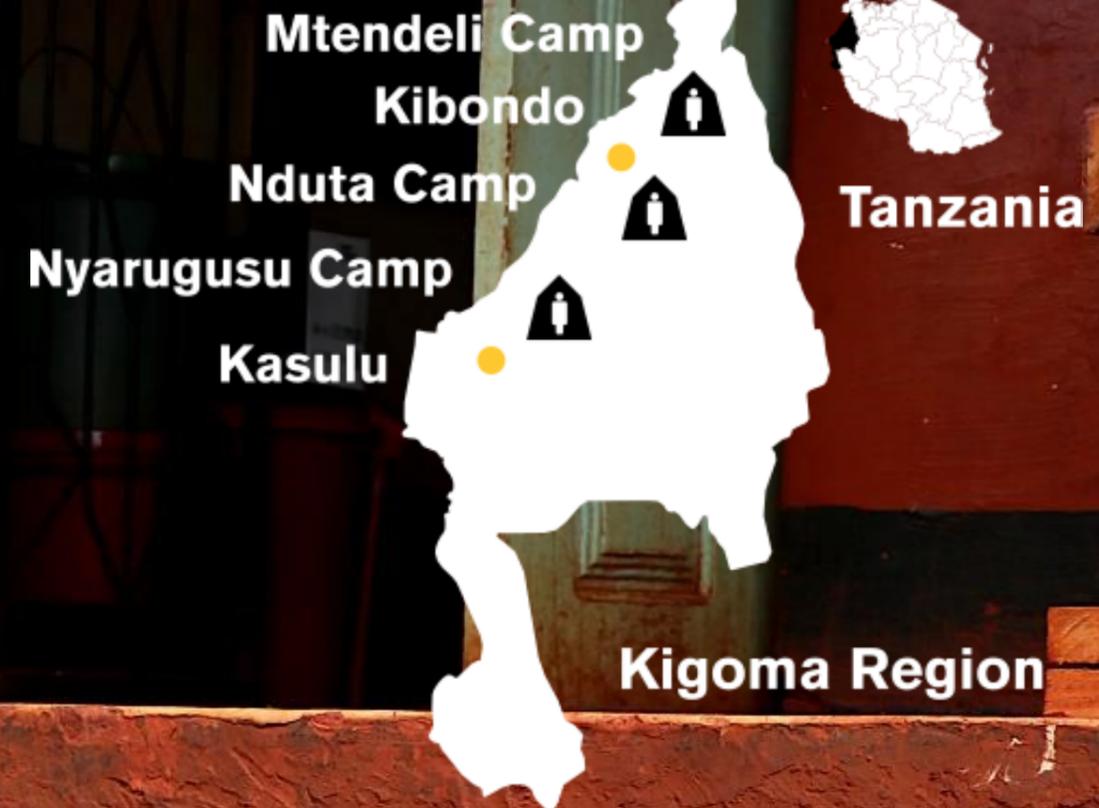
**LEFT:** A newborn delivered at IRC's reproductive health center in Nyarugusu Camp.

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## Our delivery model in 2019:

- Direct service delivery
- Building capacity
- Advocacy and influencing
- Working in partnership
- Research and innovation



## Clients Served in 2019





Congolese women dancing during celebrations for 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Nyarugusu refugee camp.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC

## Protection

*Keeping people safe in their homes, communities and schools*



Participants in the IRC's Girl Shine program singing about ending gender-based violence.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC

field-tested prevention program Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP). In 2019, the program graduated 1338 men and women participants who testified to having positive behaviour changes. We also sensitized 15,973 individuals through other prevention activities.

When women have control over resources, it enhances their status in their households and communities, providing them with more chances to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. In 2019, we used our innovative model — EA\$E (Economic and Social Empowerment) — to give 567 women more access to financial resources through participation in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). We also used our Girl Shine Curriculum to support 33 girls' groups involving over 500 girls through a mentorship model to build their knowledge and empower them to make informed choices.

In 2019, the IRC supported  
**2375**  
survivors of gender-based violence.

Nearly  
**16,000**  
individuals participated in IRC –led activities aimed at preventing violence and abuse of women

Through our EA\$E model,  
**500+**  
women gained more access to financial resources.

In 2019, our work in protection spanned three primary areas: women's protection and empowerment, child and youth protection and development, and protection and rule of law.

### Women's Protection and Empowerment

The IRC's comprehensive approach to women's protection and empowerment supports the pursuit of a world where women and girls live free from violence as valued and respected members of their community. We seek to mitigate risks and vulnerability of women and girls that are driven by unequal power dynamics and lack of economic opportunities.

In 2019, our highly experienced staff of case managers, legal officers and advocacy officers worked alongside a large team of

refugee volunteers to help families improve communication and develop positive coping strategies, reduce vulnerability by improving access to and control over financial resources, and improve access to health and social services. Through our 11 service centres across all three refugee camps, we supported 2375 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), with over 961 receiving legal assistance. 47% of these cases were reported within 72 hours of the incident and received a timely response, which is crucial to ensure that survivors receive timely and appropriate medical treatment, including post exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Additionally, we also trained 305 partner, government and agency staff on GBV prevention and comprehensive survivor-centred clinical care and case management.

We continued our efforts to prevent violence from occurring at homes and in the community through our evidence-based and

Doline, a 25-year old Burundian refugee, lives in Mtendeli camp with her husband Jean-Claude. They both participated in the IRC's EMAP program and dynamics within the family improved significantly after EMAP.

*"Before we joined EMAP, my husband was stopping me from saying anything in the family. If I wanted to run a small business at the market, he was also stopping me from doing that. But after EMAP, we now make decisions together. Previously, my husband would hide all our money. When we would get utensils from another organization in the camp, he would sell the utensils and use the money for himself. But now we are sharing the family income. We make decisions together and everything is open."*



## Child Protection and Youth Development

Over the years, the IRC has consistently worked to provide child and youth protection and development services in Tanzania by creating a safe environment for children and youth while building their resilience. In collaboration with the government and other child protection actors, and with the community themselves, we have worked to promote child rights and youth development by enhancing coordination and developing strategic approaches that prevent and respond to violence against children. We are also promoting children's participation in decisions that affect their lives through child-friendly feedback mechanisms.

In 2019, IRC assessed 259 serious child protection cases and worked with a range of agencies and partners across the camps to respond in the best interests of each child, conducted more than 2400 follow-up home visits for children under case management and provided non-food item (NFI) support to 2766 children. We also established and built the capacity of 34 community-based child protection structures, such as child protection committees, child parliaments and foster parent committees. These structures will help to increase the knowledge of child rights in the community, and to identify cases, including instances of child abuse.

Prevention interventions are a crucial element of the IRC's child protection work. This past year, our peer educators organized almost 300 Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) and HIV/AIDS prevention and care sessions through debates, group discussions, trainings, storytelling activities and meetings, with more than 8000 adolescents and youth participating in the

sessions. We also continued our work on empowering youth through vocational skills trainings, such as tailoring and computer classes, with 306 adolescents and youth benefitting from the program. Many youth who graduate from our skills training courses establish small livelihood groups in the camp, and our staff helped advise and monitor 724 such individuals who were a part of active businesses in Nyarugusu refugee camp.

Beyond prevention focused on adolescents and youth, the IRC also maintains a network of Safe Healing and Learning Spaces (SHLS)

in Nyarugusu camp to provide a child-friendly space for children to receive psychosocial support. Children who attend our SHLS's can participate in education and recreational activities, benefit from programming on social-emotional learning and also learn about hygiene and sanitation.

The final component of our prevention work is our positive parenting program, which has been proven to have a significant impact on the safety and development of children. In 2019, nearly 350 parents attended positive parenting sessions.

A 2019 evaluation of our parenting curriculum revealed that 98% of all parents who completed the 12-week program improved child wellbeing through parental care. The results also indicated a reduction in harsh violence, including a 20% reduction in the use of corporal punishment.



Activities like riding a bike and playing games are an important part of our programming at our Safe Healing and Learning Spaces.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC

## Protection and Rule of Law

The IRC's Protection and Rule of Law (PRoL) program has been operating in Nyargusu refugee camp and the surrounding host community in Kasulu District since 2015. We recognize that all people affected by crisis and disaster deserve to have their rights protected and our work with those who are in situations of extreme vulnerability seeks to safeguard their human rights and wellbeing by giving them the tools and information they need to help themselves and one another.

In 2019, the IRC supported 13,565 individuals through our PRoL program, which included persons with disabilities, older persons at risk, persons with serious and critical illnesses, persons with special protection needs, and single parents. Almost 1000 clients with heightened protection risks received case management services.

More than 3400 clients benefitted from our medical and social rehabilitation programming, which included physiotherapy, orthopedic support and provision of mobility devices. We helped increase the self-reliance of refugees in Nyarugusu camp through vocational skills training and livelihood support, and also helped improve safety at home through support for non-food items such as blankets, sleeping mats, clothes and solar lamps. Finally, in collaboration with our education programming, we facilitated access to inclusive education for almost 500 children with disabilities and learning difficulties through special needs education and community outreach support.



## PROMOTING DISABILITY RIGHTS IN THE HOST COMMUNITY



In 2019, our PRoL program significantly scaled up host community

engagement through a 30-month project funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. We conducted a comprehensive assessment of disability rights in Nyarugusu camp and Kasulu district to give us a robust baseline to tailor our activities to the most critical needs and gaps identified by our clients. We developed strong relationships with multiple levels of the

Tanzanian government, including the District Magistrate and community development officers, to increase awareness about disability rights among government officers. We recruited and trained 36 disability champions in Kasulu district to raise awareness about disability rights among the local community. We worked closely with local Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) and civil society organizations, such as SHIMWAKA, to build their capacity through trainings.



LEFT: An awareness raising event in Nyarugusu refugee camp during International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

YOP: Our work with our disability champions in Kasulu District has become a crucial element of our move towards a client-empowerment focused model of programming. Disability champions like Andrea, 36, have become conduits to raise awareness about disability rights in the community and decrease the stigma often associated with persons with disabilities.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC



A Congolese student attends a session at one of the IRC's Education Technology (EdTech) classrooms in Nyarugusu refugee camp.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC

## Education

*Helping children reach their development potential through literacy, numeracy and social-emotional skills*



"I want to be President of Burundi one day."

Sylvana is one of many students who have benefitted from the IRC's partnership with Save the Children to create a pathway between non-formal and formal education in Nyarugusu refugee camp. Having never been to formal school before, she would have been excluded from formal schooling without this bridging mechanism, making it much harder for her to follow her dreams.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC

The IRC has been providing education services for Congolese and Burundian girls and boys in Nyarugusu refugee camp since January 2014 and extended education services to Mtendeli refugee camp in March 2016. With a decision taken in December 2019, the IRC has now also expanded coverage to Nduta refugee camp.

Our services cover the full education spectrum from pre-school, through primary and secondary school, technical vocational education and training, and tertiary education applications. With the expansion to Nduta camp, we now administer the school curriculum of the country of origin for 78,398

students in 17 Congolese schools and 21 Burundian schools across the three camps.

Other than day-to-day school management, our work across the schools in 2019 included provision of scholastic materials, teacher professional development, running school clubs and protection in schools, focusing on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse among children. We also administered Congolese National Examinations for Grade 6 and Form 6 students, and implemented the National Examination Council of Tanzania Examinations (NECTA) for Burundian students. We also supported 23 students to access higher education. 11 students were

Cedrick, 20, and Alice, 19, are members of an English Language Learning (ELL) club at the EdTech classroom at Amani Primary School.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC



able to use UNHCR's DAFI scholarship to study in universities across Tanzania and 12 students benefitted from our partnership with the World University Service of Canada, enrolling in universities there to pursue their higher education.

An important and unique part of our programming is exposing students to educational technology (EdTech). With the support of the Vodafone Foundation UK, the IRC has been supporting integration of digital content into teaching and learning in the classroom since 2016. This program was limited to six Congolese schools until mid-2019 when we were able to secure additional funding to extend EdTech programming to three Burundian schools in Nyarugusu. This past year, we also extended EdTech access to parents, caregivers and community members outside of school hours to support the broader community. In 2019, our EdTech programming reached 6164 students.

## A 2-YEAR PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE EDUCATION OUTCOMES



In July 2019, UK Aid—understanding the need for further investment in education programming in the refugee camps and surrounding host community and recognizing the IRC's expertise in the field—awarded the IRC a two-year grant to improve quality access to education and increase community engagement. We are leading a consortium involving Plan International and Caritas Kigoma Diocese to implement the project, which includes increasing the quality of education in the refugee camps and host community, strengthening protection services in schools and constructing and rehabilitating school infrastructure.



A mother with her newborn baby at IRC's reproductive health centre in Nyarugusu refugee camp.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC

## Health

*Ensuring women and girls are treated for the consequences of gender-based violence while providing reproductive and mental health services*

**4425**

deliveries were conducted in IRC-managed facilities

Reached

**6435**

women with family planning services

Screened

**13,607**

women for gender-based violence

Provided individual counselling services to

**1951**

clients in need of mental health services

**1259**

refugees benefitted from group therapy and support sessions

Through 2019, the IRC's health program worked towards ensuring that refugees and other persons of concern had access to quality reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and specialized medical and surgical interventions through either external or reverse referrals. A primary focus for our health programming—in collaboration with our women's protection and empowerment program—was to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) were protected from and received treatment for incidents of violence.

As part of our reproductive health programming, 4425 deliveries were conducted in IRC-managed facilities in 2019, which represented 97% of all deliveries in the respective catchment areas. We also reached 6435 individuals, primarily women, with family planning services. Our reproductive health (RH) centres are at the forefront of our work with GBV survivors. We have created strong referral linkages between our GBV centres and RH centres, and in 2019, we screened 13,607 women for GBV, with the 10% screened as positive referred for case management.

The demand for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services among refugees and the local population continued to increase day-by-day in 2019. In a context of limited resources and every-increasing demands, we adopted cost effective strategies such as scaling-up group psychotherapy counselling to respond to the increased demand for MHPSS services. We currently deliver a range of interventions in all three refugee camps through five wellness centres and 12 mental health professionals. We use a community-based approach in the camps, where currently 91 community mental health volunteers identify and refer people in need to our wellness centres. They also provide psycho



**TOP:** Students from a school in Muzye village, Kasulu District who have been trained by the IRC to become peer educators on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) and Menstrual Health Management (MHM).

**RIGHT:** Fully mature and health triplets delivered after a complex procedure by IRC staff in Nyarugusu camp.



Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC



Francis, an entrepreneurial Burundian refugee in Nyarugusu refugee camp, has started his own support group for vulnerable men and women in the camp.  
Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC

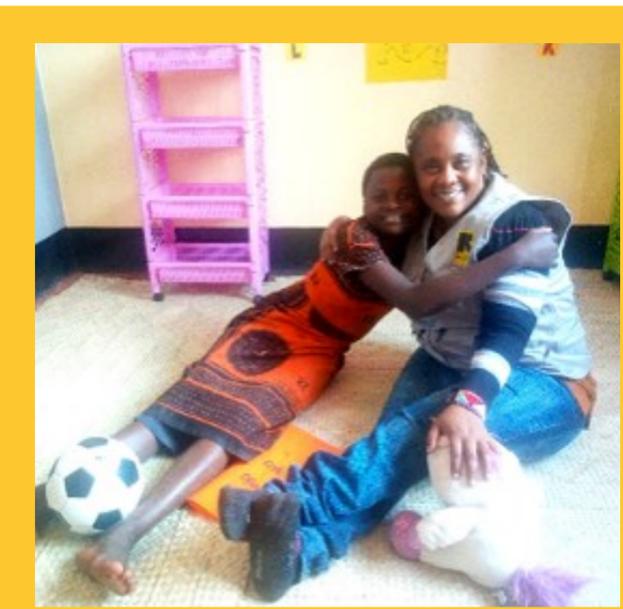


IRC mental health community workers after a training session.

education to clients in their communities as well as at their homes. These mental health volunteers are refugees themselves who are trained and supervised by IRC psychologists. Working through the community directly helps to remove the stigma on mental health issues and through this model, the team can provide treatment to those in need as well as raise awareness among the refugees. In 2019, we provided MHPSS services to 3210 individuals, with 1951 clients receiving individual counselling and 1259 benefitting from group therapy sessions.

In 2019, we also expanded our health programming into the host community. We partnered with the Kigoma Regional Ministry

of Health (MOH) to build the capacity of various district MOH authorities to respond to the local population's mental health and reproductive health needs through an institutional strengthening model. As part of our work in the host community, we supported the training of 200 peer educators across 13 schools on adolescent sexual and reproductive health with an emphasis on menstrual health management and started plans for constructing hygiene facilities with changing rooms dedicated for menstrual hygiene in all the schools. We also supported the training of mental health focal persons at six Kigoma district MOH facilities on relevant mental health competencies.



Furaha\*, a 13-year old Burundian girl, was sexually assaulted outside Nduta camp while collecting firewood. After the incident, she started displaying symptoms of PTSD and her mother, who had also received counselling from the IRC, brought her to our counsellors. After 3 months of regular Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with IRC counselor, Deborah, Furaha was able to find ways to cope with her traumatic experiences. She regained her confidence, started smiling and talking more and was able to improve her academic performance in school.

## Into 2020

As we move into 2020, the IRC is committed to putting our clients' needs at the forefront of our work, ensuring that people are healthy and safe, that they receive quality education and that they enhance their own decision-making power and economic wellbeing. We will work with refugees and the host community, with a focus on women and girls.

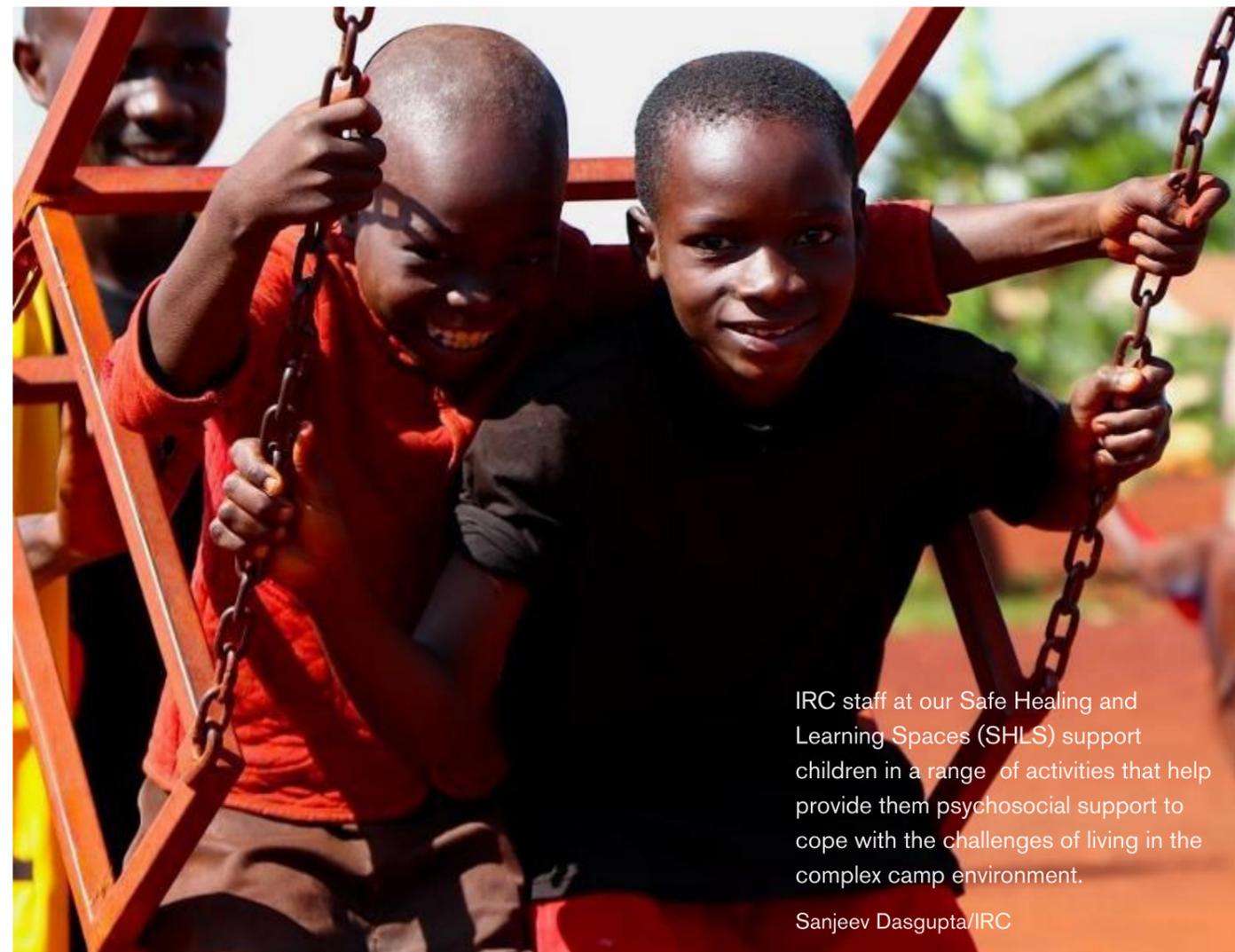
In the refugee camps, we will:

- Provide case management services and launch campaigns to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls;
- Promote social and economic empowerment for women and girls and positive parenting;
- Promote access to reproductive health services with a strong emphasis on modern contraceptives as well as comprehensive post-abortion services;
- Provide comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support across all three refugee camps, especially for survivors of gender-based violence;
- Provide modern, market-relevant entrepreneurship training to youth;
- Ramp up education programming to provide pre-school and school-aged children with classrooms that are equipped and staffed, and with the most suitable curricula; and
- Help vulnerable people to exercise power over their lives by improving access to services for persons with specific needs, such as those with disabilities.

While continuing our engagement in the refugee camps, we will significantly increase our programming in the host community where we will:

- Work in partnership with local communities to construct and rehabilitate classrooms to ensure students have a safe and comfortable learning environment;
- Strengthen our engagement in prevention of GBV by extending our EMAP program to the host community and strengthening clinical care for sexual assault survivors through trainings;
- Improve access to mental health services by creating a regional coordination platform and developing referral mechanisms for all mental health actors in Kigoma region;
- Expand our engagement on adolescent sexual and reproductive health with schools through additional trainings, peer engagement and construction of latrines with changing rooms for girls;
- Increase advocacy and awareness work on disability rights through partnerships with community leaders, our disability champions and government officials.

We will complement our programmatic work by championing innovation through our new Research and Innovation Hub. We will mainstream our work on client responsiveness to ensure that client voices inform our programs on a regular basis. We will also invest more in cross-border work with IRC Burundi to ensure that we are best placed to respond to the needs of our clients in a complex displacement crisis.



IRC staff at our Safe Healing and Learning Spaces (SHLS) support children in a range of activities that help provide them psychosocial support to cope with the challenges of living in the complex camp environment.

Sanjeev Dasgupta/IRC

### TANZANIA RESEARCH AND LEARNING HUB

In 2019, the IRC launched a Learning Hub in Tanzania, in partnership with Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and the Behavioral Insights Team (BIT). The IRC realizes that research and innovation is crucial because: (i) there is little evidence about what works to improve the lives and livelihoods of people affected by crisis; and (ii) the impact of programs is often lower than we aspire it to be, and is also not at the scale that is needed. The Tanzania Learning Hub will leverage the interdisciplinary strengths and comparative advantages of the IRC, IPA and BIT to:

- i) Accelerate the discovery of new and cost-effective solutions to some of the world's most intractable problems;

- ii) Lower the costs and time required to create evidence on what works in acute and protracted humanitarian settings; and
- iii) Take evidence-based programs and policies to scale to maximize our impact.

Following three pilot studies conducted in 2019, we will continue to design, adapt, and rigorously evaluate innovative programs to build evidence on what works in crisis-affected contexts, and engage decision-makers to use evidence to inform more effective and efficient programs and policies.

We are grateful to our donors for financial support:



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European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

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