

# Burundi **Refugee** Children

## Graduate **Life Skills** Course



**Save the Children**



## ***Building resilience through building life skills***



Burundian refugee children have had their unfair share of social and political catastrophes that have forced them and their families to flee to Tanzania, seeking refuge and security in refugee camps. The camps however offer limited opportunities and services, as well as expose children to several risks including communicable disease, sexual violence, lack of basic needs, child labour and limited social services. Formal education available is oriented towards developing academic skills, whereas development of life skills is crucial to face life, challenges and building resilience.

Save the Children commenced Life Skills course in Nduta and Nyarugusu in December 2017 for Burundian refugee children (9-17 years) to develop their competencies and skills to lead fulfilling lives and gain the ability to protect themselves from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. The course covered 6 modules, developing children's communication, decision making, problem-solving, critical thinking, responding to emotions and others to holistically prepare children for their future.

To celebrate the achievement of 290 children completing the life skills course, a graduation ceremony was held on 16th March 2018 in Save the Children's Facilitation Centre in Nduta Refugee Camp. It was a joyous event, attended by parents, community leaders, Community Mobilization Committee members. The event kicked off with children performing a comical sketch about how children can get involved in Save the Children activities in the Child Friendly Spaces and Schools, followed by an energetic dance performance. After speeches were given by representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Save the Children, and Community Leaders, the name of each child who completed the course was ceremoniously called out to come up to the stage to receive their certificate. Some children were accompanied by proud parents to receive their certificate, a true achievement for children who face risks and issues every day. It is the first graduating class of many that Save the Children strives to reach in the refugee camps in Tanzania.

