

INTORE II PROJECT

Final Evaluation Report



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Introduction

CARE Burundi implemented a project to improve the protection of children's rights called Intore II by creating recreational and educational spaces in the communes of Ntakangwa and Mukaza in Bujumbura, and Giheta and Itaba in Gitega province from May 2016 to April 2019. In order to document the project's impact on the young people and children's lives, an internal final evaluation was conducted in April 2019.

What are the project's objectives and the expected results?

The overall objective of the Intore II initiative is "To contribute to establishing a recreational and educational environment for vulnerable children in Burundi, particularly OVCs".

The specific objective of this initiative is for "Children and youth in Buyenzi, Itaba, Giheta and Kinama¹ to enjoy a friendly environment for their human development through socio-cultural and sports activities in schools and youth centers".

Three immediate results were expected:

- **R1:** Youth centers (YC) have increased their capacities to allow children, particularly OVCs, to fully enjoy YC services through socio-cultural and sports activities.
- **R2:** Children & youth in schools as well as teachers are implementing kitchen gardens as an innovative source of income.
- **R3:** Community leaders are taking action to defend and promote children's rights in their community (e.g. supporting children to go to school, supporting orphans to enjoy their inherited property, etc.)

Objective of the evaluation

This evaluation was conducted at the end of the project implementation to verify the level of achievement of the objectives and achievement of the results set at the beginning of the project. This evaluation is a qualitative and quantitative assessment of induced effects or changes produced by the activities and approaches used.

¹ popular areas where parents were hosting and supporting OVCs in the first Intore project

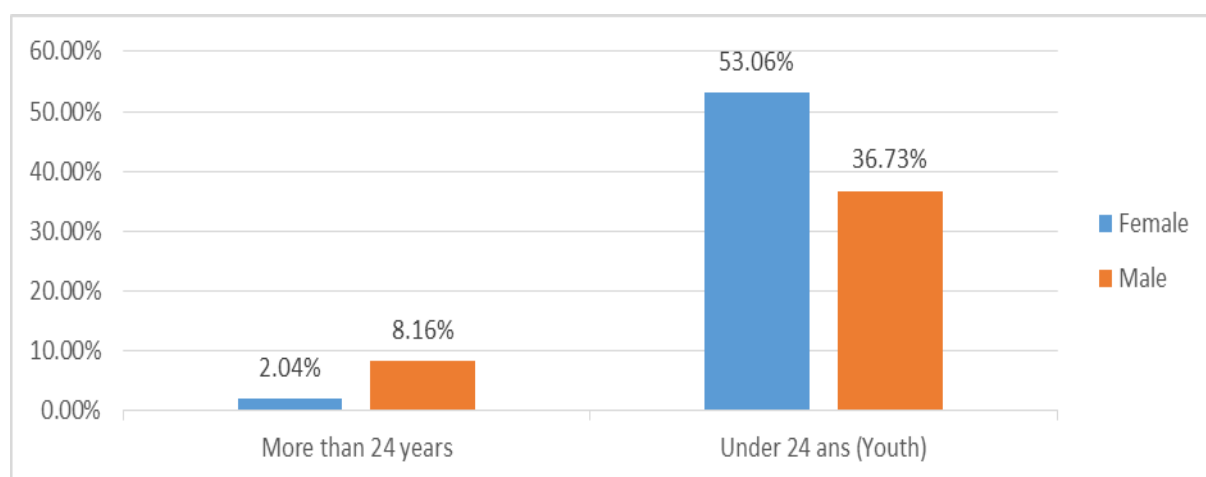
Methodology

A former CARE staff hired to conduct the Intore project closure process collected field data and change stories. The guide developed for the mid-term evaluation was used for the final evaluation. Thus, 100 respondents including youth, youth center and schools managers were targeted to provide information on the project based on this guide. The data collection was done during the holidays in order not to distract youth respondents during the exam period. Respondents were randomly selected from youth attending youth centers. The collected data was entered and processed by CARE Burundi’s Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor using the kobo data collection software.

Intore Final Evaluation Findings

The interviews reached 98 respondents in the 4 intervention zones. Below is the distribution of respondents by sex:

	Bujumbura		Gitega		Total
Interviewees	Female	Male	Female	Male	
More than 24 years	1	4	1	4	10
Under 24 years (Youth)	25	20	27	16	88
Total	26	24	28	20	98

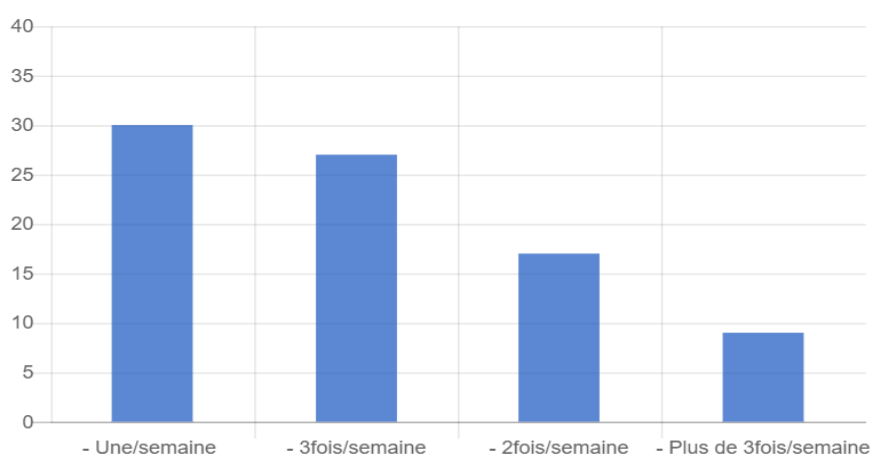


As indicated in the chart more girls than boys were interviewed in general. It should be noted that these numbers also include school principals and youth center managers, all of whom are men. A total of 88 youths, 6 directors and 4 school leaders targeted by the project participated in the evaluation.

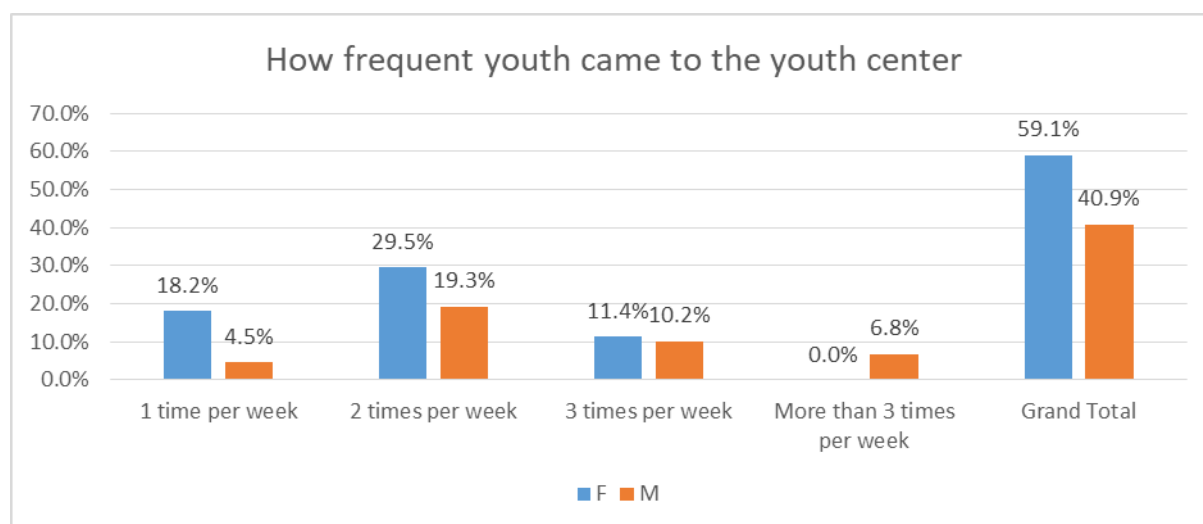
1. Weekly attendance of young people in youth centers

According to the graph with the results of the final evaluation below, the number of young people attending the youth center at least twice a week was 49% by the end of the project. This result shows that there is a significant increase in the youth attendance rate compared to the mid-term evaluation results of 17%. The number of youth attending the youth centers more than 3 times per week also increased compared to the MTE value. This shows that during the course of the project there was a significant increase in the youth's interest in attending the youth centers. This was further reflected in the testimonials collected from the young people. The graphs below with results of both evaluations allows for a comparison of the level of progress.

Mid-term evaluation



Final evaluation



The evaluation also showed that there is a difference related to the accessibility of the centers for young people. In Bujumbura, the neighborhoods where the youth live are close to the centers whereas in Gitega, youth mostly live in remote areas and therefore need more time and resources to

reach the centers. Finally, we observed that the attendance rate of youth centers varies over time with higher attendance during the holidays and a decrease during exam periods.

2. Motivation of young people attending youth centers

The chart below shows that 63.27% of young people are motivated to attend the youth centers, especially to be trained, to interact with others and to learn games, to avoid delinquency and to receive more information about sexual and reproductive health. In addition to these training areas, young people are very keen on receiving training on children's rights, life skills, kitchen garden layout and peer exchanges.

Row Labels	Frequency
Exchange with others/Avoid delinquency/Awareness on sexual and reproductive health (SRH)	3.41%
Being trained / learn the game/ Exchange with others/avoid delinquency	14.77%
Being trained/ learning games/Exchange with others/ avoid delinquency - Other (please specify)	1.14%
Being trained / learning games/Exchange with others/avoid delinquency/awareness on SRH	70.45%
Being trained/ Learning Games / Exchanging with Others/Awareness on SRH	5.68%
Being trained/ learning games/avoid delinquency	1.14%
Being form / learning games Avoid delinquency awareness on SRH	3.41%
Total	100.00%

There is not much variation between the mid-term evaluation data and the final evaluation data on the reasons why young people go to the youth centers.

It is clear from the results that young people also significantly improved their living conditions by attending the centers. In fact, youth respondents shared that it allowed them to initiate income-generating activities through the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) or by selling the vegetables produced in the kitchen garden.

8 children of the Intore project in Kibogoye hill in Giheta commune started a collective potato farming income generating activity and 12 children from the same hill saved money together and bought 3 goats for collective breeding.



Other young people were able to continue their studies following their change of behavior, as illustrated in the testimony: *“After joining the clubs of the young center I gained a lot of things. I will mention, for example, friends, exchange ideas with other young people, themes on environmental protection, patriotism, and the fight against delinquency, sexual and reproductive health and AIDS. I like reading books on entrepreneurship and after sports activities, I was interested in talking with my friends about entrepreneurship. While I was planning to drop out of school before joining the Intore project with all these opportunities I changed this bad idea and continued my studies with courage. Currently I graduated, I have*

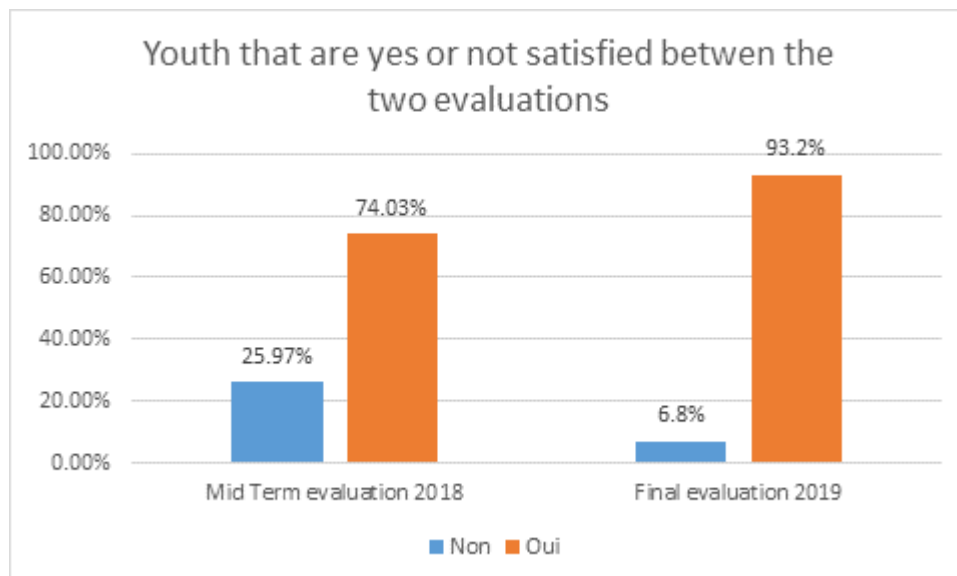
completed my studies of the secondary school. Long live the Intore project. »

Others shared that benefiting from reproductive health knowledge has had an impact on the reduction of unwanted pregnancies. For example, in Giheta commune, there was only one case of pregnancy among young people who were supervised by Intore throughout the project, whereas there were 6 cases of pregnancies during the first quarter of 2019 for girls who are not beneficiaries of the Intore project.

Finally, young boys shared that changing their behavior (prostitution, drug use) allowed them to help their sisters and mothers with domestic activities, which increased the confidence and harmony within the family.

3. Youth satisfaction with services offered in youth centers

The graph below shows that young people are satisfied with the services offered by their centers. The overall level of youth satisfaction in both provinces has increased significantly (93.2% at ETE) compared to mid-term evaluation data of 74.03%.



4. Reasons for youth satisfaction with services offered to youth centers

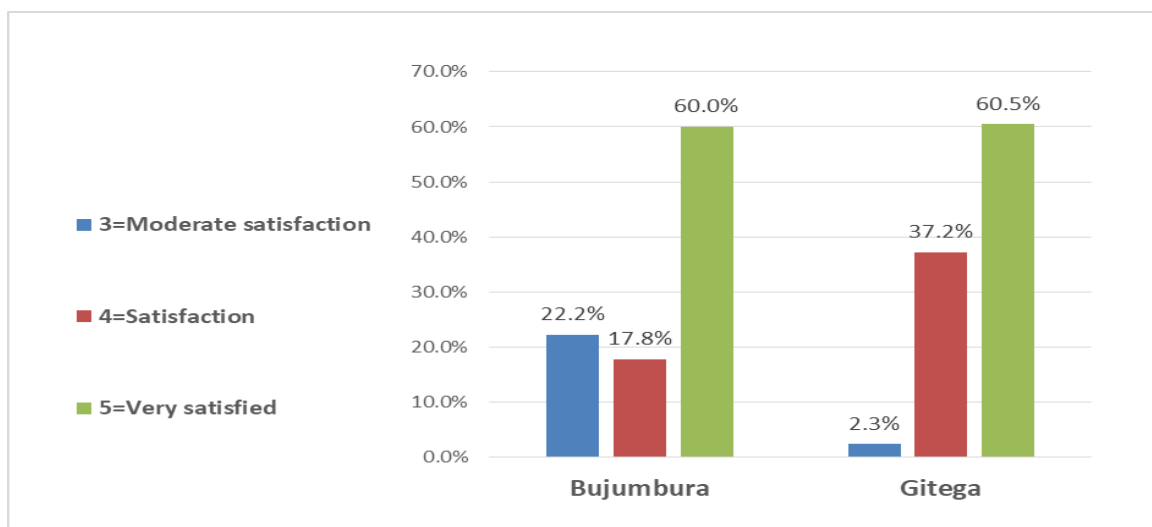
The reasons for the satisfaction of the services offered in the youth centers is similar in the two provinces. The youth centers contributed to the following aspects:

1. Acquiring knowledge to deal with future problems such as kitchens gardens, entrepreneurship, Income Generating Activities, sexual and reproductive health, unwanted pregnancies, STDs and HIV/AIDs, the disadvantages of early marriage, etc.
2. Acquisition of knowledge through socio-cultural and sports activities organized at the youth centers such as the benefit of school, gender equality, or the harms of gender-based violence, and how to deal with sexual violence.
3. Learning various games.

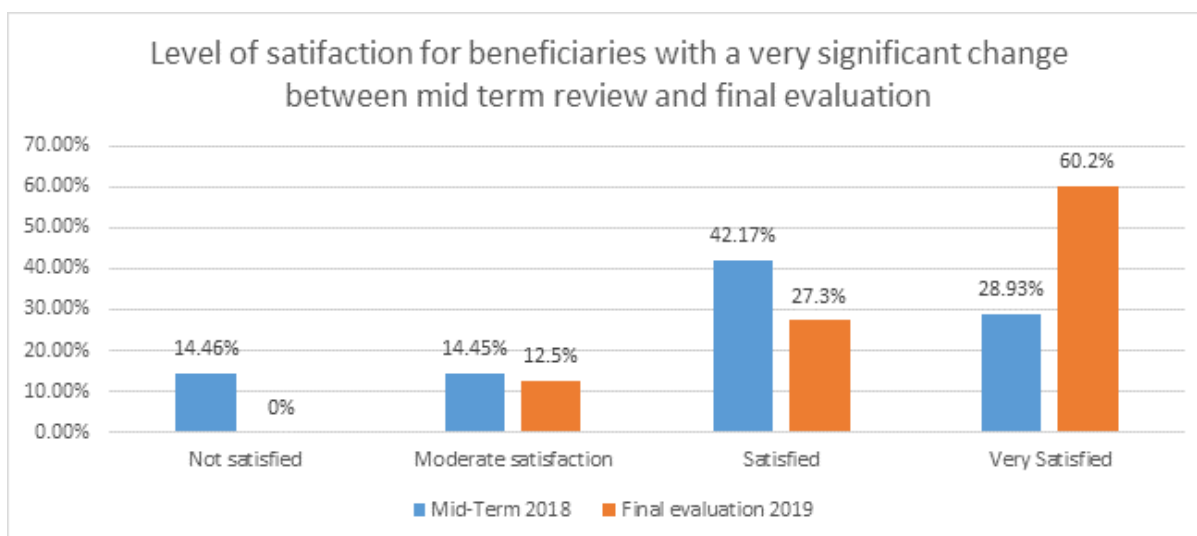
4. Young people refrain from meeting at places who are not appropriate (ligalas). The youth centers motivate young people to change and be more disciplined (respect of schedule...), and offers a space for exchange experiences/advice.
5. Access to small credit without wasting time through the VSLA approach.
6. Abandonment of drugs and tobacco following the advice given in the youth center especially with interactive theater and training on life skills.
7. Vegetable production and generating income through the sales.
8. Practice good deeds such as washing the clothes of the elderly.
9. The youth center is not only a place of awakening of consciousness and learning, but also a place of relaxation, de-stressing, fulfillment and mutual reinforcement.
10. Those who visit the center have significantly changed their behavior and vision for the future and know how to distinguish right from wrong because of the trainings organized.
11. There is no discrimination whether ethnic or religious in the youth centers – on the contrary, there is rather a consideration for free expression and open-mindedness.

5. Comparison of satisfaction level (satisfaction score) by province

Youth are generally satisfied with the services offered by youth centers. In fact, 60.5% in Gitega and 60% in Bujumbura stated that they were *very satisfied*. There is a slight difference in youth satisfaction levels in the two provinces, between the youth who said they were *satisfied* (only 37.2% in Gitega and 17.8% in Bujumbura) and those who are *moderately satisfied* (2.3% in Gitega and 22.2% in Bujumbura). With these results, it is clear that the level satisfaction in Gitega is higher than that of Bujumbura.



Comparing the level of satisfaction of mid-term and final evaluation, the rate of those who are very satisfied has increased significantly (28.93% in mid-term evaluation and 60.2% in final evaluation). It is also interesting to note that the moderate satisfaction score of 14.46% at MTE is down to 0% at ETE.



6. Reasons that explain the difference of satisfaction in Gitega and Bujumbura

The reasons given for the province of Bujumbura of young people who are only *moderately satisfied* are the following:

- ❖ Insufficient equipment for socio-cultural and sports activities.
- ❖ No continuous access to socio-cultural and sports materials because the youth center managers are not always present or because sometimes young centers are closed.
- ❖ The opening hours of the youth center are not respected by the youth center leaders in Kinama and Buyenzi.
- ❖ Conflict between the young people supervised by the Intore project and the other young people of the neighborhood in Kinama youth center. Those who are not supported by the Intore project claim their participation in training workshops.
- ❖ Lack of library.
- ❖ Lack of suitable buildings for the activities of the center. Narrow space for games.
- ❖ Lack of musical instruments.
- ❖ Lack of computers at the youth center to learn new technologies.
- ❖ There are still children in the community who do not access the information provided at the youth center.

7. Changes observed among young people

Young people described the numerous changes taking place in their lives through the project, including:

1. Young people abandoned prostitution, drug and alcohol abuse, banditry and pornography. They show more respect towards their parents and other members of the community.

2. Boys participate in housework unlike before the project.
3. Youth developed of self-esteem and express themselves in public without fear.
4. Social reintegration. Young people no longer lead a life of solitude because they live with others. Those who lived on the street were reintegrated into their families.
5. Choosing good friends that improve the youth's living conditions.
6. Learning income generating activities and about the rational use of money.
7. Defending the rights of young people and abandoning ethnic and religious discrimination following the various capacity reinforcements received in the youth centers.
8. Young people returned to school and continued their studies following the sensitizations by the project.

The evaluation also included school directors and youth center managers, who shared their observations of the process of change through the project. They noted the following:

1. Young people improved the success rate at school. There are no more dropouts for young people who have been supported by the Intore project.
2. Youth participate in household activities and community development activities.
3. Some young people are members of savings and credit associations, with the aim of having access to credit, to finance their IGAs and thus increase their income.
4. Replication of the layout of the kitchen gardens in the households improves nutrition and access to income.
5. Appreciation of the prizes given during the socio-cultural competitions. The school material allowed poor young people to stay in school.
6. Young people express themselves freely especially for litigious cases when they expose their problems to CPCs.
7. Young people changed their behavior. Before they lost their time at the *ligala* and now they are occupied with their studies and by the participation in domestic activities, and initiation of the IGAs.
8. Learning trades for out-of-school children such as bricks and tiles, agriculture, livestock, etc.
9. Decrease of unwanted pregnancies for young people participating in the Intore project.
10. Young people have developed their talents in various fields such as the use of interactive theater in community outreach. There is more and more a relationship of trust between young people and parents.
11. Young people have adopted responsible behaviors and have become roles models in their community.

Some Recommendations

- Young people and youth center managers have expressed the wish to have another phase and to extend the Intore project in other communes and to analyse how to encourage CPCs.
- They identified a need to build the capacity of youth, CPCs and youth center leaders on the various texts and laws in Burundi.
- There is a need to have a home for children abandoned by their families and for street children.
- Since the youth center is sometimes closed because the managers work in other departments as well, it is advisable to negotiate with the youth center managers to choose other youth representatives who would work with the existing youth center committees.
- Since there were cases of incidents (cases of diarrhea after consumptions of bad food / damaged food) and a dislocation of arms during socio-cultural and sports competitions, the interviewees recommended to work with a rescue service during this kind of activities.

Conclusion

The final evaluation captured the changes achieved in creating a supportive learning environment for children and youth. The results show that attendance at youth centers has given young people a vision for the future. There were those who had dropped out of school who went back to school, there were others who had negative behaviors who became role models in the community and in school. With this evaluation, we learnt that the use of inter-active theater and socio-cultural activities are excellent strategies for community awareness in various fields. The kitchen gardens are an innovative way of teaching youth and household members about nutrition and recycling. Eventually, this project helped young people to learn about life skills (reproductive health, economic activities, development of talents, among others), increased their self confidence and improved the livelihoods of numerous families in Gitega and Bujumbura.