

KIGEME IWACU



PREVENTING ROAD ACCIDENTS AND OTHER FACTORS THAT CAN IMPEDE BASIC SAFETY OF RESIDENTS IN KIGEME CAMP AND ITS VICINITY

"We, the youth, uphold the culture of peace through art"

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You may contribute your idea via:
E-mail: kigememagazine2@gmail.com
Tel: +250788237690

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FOREWORD

Peace be with you dear readers of Kigeme Iwacu!

Kigeme youth are back with issue number 5 of your magazine, Kigeme Iwacu. This magazine consolidates the ongoing smooth collaboration between youth from Kigeme camp and those from areas surrounding the camp. As earlier mentioned, the youth who produce this magazine comprise of youth from Kigeme camp and the Rwandan youth living in areas surrounding Kigeme camp.

This issue will focus on different methods to prevent accidents including those occurring on roads, those caused by disasters especially lightning or occasional home fire affecting residents in Kigeme camp. Kigeme camp stretches along Huye-Rusizi road to such that there are frequent back and forth movements of many people in this area who are either refugees or Rwandan citizens living near this camp. This sometimes causes accidents in one way or another especially those involving young children.

This issue will bring you stories that help you understand better how you can behave to avoid these accidents. You will also find other stories enabling you to better understand what lightning is and how to avoid it as this can also help you know the best way to behave to prevent recurring accidents caused by lightning; you will also find other options likely to help you avoid accidents to ensure your basic security. Friends, readers of Kigeme Iwacu from Mahama camp also contributed a few articles depicting activities under way and, as youth suggested what should be done so that security especially safety for road users can be well maintained in that community.

Another issue we would like to share with you is that Kigeme Iwacu magazine has tremendously evolved because this is the last issue of its kind mainly. This is because, effective from the upcoming issue, we will be producing one larger magazine associating our colleagues from the camp of Mugombwa, Huye town and those from Mahama camp, to be released under a new name as it will be jointly produced by the youth from inside these camps and their surrounding areas.

Dear students, fellow youth and elder brothers and sisters, we wish you attentive reading of this magazine for its contents will help you better understand the best way to behave in your day-to-day life, as goes the saying that prevention prevails over treatment. We also request you to act as catalysts for peace and better relations in your respective communities, at schools and also in the areas within the vicinity of the camp (for those living in the camp and in its surrounding areas) while increasingly serving as good examples for others in your respective societies. We are grateful to the stakeholders and various organs in Kigeme camp for their ongoing collaboration to make possible the production of this magazine. Those include MIDIMAR, the refugee representative committee, UNHCR, Rwanda National Police, Kigeme Cell and other various actors in Kigeme camp, just to mention a few.

Special gratitude goes to our journalists for their sacrifice and commitment in collecting and shaping these articles.

MBONIGABA Jean Damascène

Chief editor:

MBONIGABA Jean Damascène

Assistant chief editors :

NIYODUSENGA Chantal

MUGENZI Javan

MUTABAZI Yves

Editors:

UMUHOZA Clémence

IRIBAGIZA Fasil

NIYOYIZEYE Noah

SHUKURU Alphonse

MUGISHA Willy

NYAMPINGA Marie Grace

TWIZERIMANA Innocent

IRADUKUNDA Jeanine

NKURUNZIZA Jimmy

BYAMUNGU Dieudonne

SONGA Etienne

SHYAKA Rodrigue

Photographers:

MUGISHA Willy

MUTABAZI Yves

HOW KIGEME RESIDENTS PERCEIVE THE BENEFITS OF SAFER ROAD TRAFFIC USE

Kigeme camp is located in the southern part of Rwanda in Nyamagabe District, Gasaka Sector. Typically, this camp is adjacent to the asphalt road to Rusizi District stretching on both sides of the road since the tarmac road runs through Kigeme camp.

The passage of this tarmac road through the shopping center of Kigeme makes it a place with heavy traffic due to its use by a number of people from various categories. They include people going to various workplaces, students on their way from or to school and other different passers-by.



NGOGA Vincent explaining the importance of the road at Kigeme (photo Willy M)

According to him, better use of the road means avoiding road accidents and scaling up development for the residents along the road and facilitating people in their different travels while enhancing relations among citizens, because regular visits become much easier for them. In his own words, he said, 'In my opinion, I think the road is very important when it is better used because it helps prevent road accidents and quickly brings about development for the person living along the road and facilitates many people in making various travels and enhances relationships among people'.

He concluded his opinion advising residents on better use of the road to avoid accidents caused by various vehicles such as bicycles and motorcars hence increasing their self-development through safer exploitation of the road.

HAVUGIMA Athanase is a player we came across in the centre of Kigeme who is 24 years old and lives outside Kigeme camp. He confided to us that when one carefully uses the road, travelling is made much easier and people get what they need on time. He continues saying that his consideration is that when the road is not carefully used no one can get money but rather they would regularly experience accidents and mutual visits would not improve.

Apart from pedestrians, this road is also used by different vehicles going to or coming from the same or different directions of this road.

These vehicles include those owned by stakeholders operating in the camp, as they head to or come from Rusizi and its various destinations not to mention bicycles especially those owned by traders and Irish potato growers of Kitabi, Mushubi and Gasarenda whosupply their products to Nyamagabe town.

These potato growers or traders often supply their products using bicycles and ride at a high speed when they reach Kigeme.

Kigeme Iwacu magazine expressed the wish to hold an interview with users of this road section and some of the residents both living inside and outside Kigeme camp to inform us of the benefits they witness and interests they expect from the better use of this road.

We came across a young man aged 21 years old who lives in the camp, named Ngoga Vincent whose job is to call passengers to board passenger buses from the camp to Nyamagabe in the town or to other parts of the country.



HAVUGIMANA Athanase who lives in the Cell of Kigeme talked to Kigeme Iwacu journalists (photo Editorial)

We did not stop there because we approached grown up people and talked to Nyirabeza Gisele who declined being taken photos. She is also a resident in Kigeme camp and is 30 years old, and she conducts small business on the roadside near the Cell of Kigeme. In a few words, this mother had this to say 'Better use of the road is important because for instance when I am going to buy the goods for retail sale; I use the road in my various travels. She continued telling Kigeme Iwacu magazine that the road helps her to easily get customers"

A road is an infrastructure used by various people to facilitate movements of people and transport of goods therefore making easier the relations mainly based on mutual visits between people. The road plays another crucial role in facilitating business, tourism, and other activities, in a few words, the road is very important because it has greater importance in people's interactions.

Article by SHUKURU Alphonse and IRIBAGIZA Fasil

HOW SHOULD A PEDESTRIAN BEHAVE IN THE ROAD TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

Generally , the road is used by both people and vehicles in different ways, however, you find that some pedestrians are not aware of some of the basics in order to be able to better use the road in a way that does not cause accidents. Before delving deep into the story itself, we felt necessary to give you some definitions of a pedestrian and a road and we consulted the official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda in the section on general traffic police and road traffic and prepared for you the following definition. A pedestrian is any person who walks on the roadside, walks without encroaching the lane usually used by vehicles and on a slow speed compared to that of the vehicle since a road is a public highway used by vehicles, and which is wide enough for vehicles to pass by crossing or overtaking much easily.

How is the road used in Kigeme?

We approached BIGANIRO Isaac, the in-charge of security in Kigeme camp who told us in general that the road is not carefully used as it should be but he also advises road users in Kigeme. In his own words, he said: 'I advise users of this road of Kigeme to use the side walk intended for pedestrians because people still have the mindset of walking in the middle of the road instead of walking on the roadside as this causes them to be hit by vehicles mainly composed of bicycles which do not have engines to the extent that even when there is no motorcar nearby the bicycle can run into a pedestrian without the latter knowing the bicycle was riding closer".

One of the bicycle riders we talked to revealed to us that movements of residents in Kigeme are frequent. This mainly happens especially in morning or evening peak hours. Circulation on this road is not safe because people are often seen walking in the middle of the road thus making it difficult the passage, he added that road users especially those from the camp should avoid walking in the middle of the road bearing in mind that there are risks of being hit by vehicles.



Isaac BIGANIRO, in-charge of security in Kigeme camp(photo: editorial)

In general, users of Kigeme road consider that in order to curb road accidents, adequate public awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate people on the better use of the road so that their mindset in connection with road use can be enhanced especially for youngsters. This could be also better enough if appropriate signposts were put along this road especially to indicate road humps, sufficient sidewalk for pedestrians and road signs for speeding down.

As we read from the website of Rwanda National Police, it is important for the pedestrian preparing to cross the road to first look on his/her left and right side, to see whether no car is approaching. Then he/she can cross safely without running into a car in the middle of the road, then he/she can cross, quickly enough to avoid staying in the middle of the road and should not answer any phone call nor text any SMS to any person.

In addition, he/she could look at the traffic lights that give the right to cross (a flashing picture of a man crossing the road usually displays on a green background).

Ms. UWAMBAYIKIREZI Rosette, Kigeme camp Manager , in her interview with Kigeme Iwacu magazine, also reiterated this. She requested users of Kigeme road to carefully use this road section and whenever they are about to cross the road, they should first look on both sides of the road to ensure there is no vehicle approaching nearer and then decide to cross.

Article by SHUKURU Alphonse and IRIBAGIZA Fasil

WHEN AN ACCIDENT OCCURS, WHAT CONFLICTS ARE LIKELY TO HAPPEN AMONG KIGEME RESIDENTS?

The asphalt road at Kigeme is mainly used for various activities that are usually beneficial to residents of Kigeme camp and residents in its vicinity.

This allows Congolese refugees residing in Kigeme camp and Rwandan citizens living in the neighborhood of this camp to meet in their day-to-day activities. These include trade exchange, business, and students going to or coming from school. There are also leisure activities making this road to be crowded with lots of people, due to their movements. What we have just said leads to recurrent accidents leaving some people seriously injured and eventually claiming their lives. This also results into conflicts whereby some Rwandan citizens and refugees are regularly blaming each other for responsibility in any incident. This causes a rather bad atmosphere between them. More often, residents of the camp accuse Rwandan citizens especially bicycle riders carrying Irish potato for supply to Nyamagabe town saying that their bicycles ride at high speed.

However, on the other side, local Rwandan residents also say that some of the refugees in Kigeme camp do not carefully cross the road and they do not even show any fear when crossing.

They further say that very often when an accident occurs, rescuers rush to arrest the author of the accident as the defaulter, while in some cases, the victim could be blamed for causing the accident.

Mugenzi Emmanuel, a resident of Kigeme Cell, Gakoma Village, says that this occurs regularly. For him, cases of accidents have considerably reduced. "I am in charge of security; my view is that accidents have reduced compared to past days because even if currently they do occur, we collaborate with authorities in the camp to bring defaulters to security organs".

NSHUTI Augustin, one of the residents in the camp also a tradesman in Kigeme small market, confirms that actually, there are instances of disagreements whenever an accident occurs, causing misunderstanding. He adds that the issue is no longer so serious because authorities have worked hard to deter the situation that currently prevails. He asserted that, truly, people are regularly at odds whenever an accident occurs. For instance, when a Rwandan citizen hits a refugee but these days the situation has normalized thanks to the vigilance of the Police and other authorities'.



MUGENZI Emmanuel, a resident near Kigeme camp in Gakoma Village (photo: Editorial)

MUNYAKARAMBI Edison is a representative of refugees in Kigeme camp. He confided to us that Rwandan citizens criticize refugees for not using the road carefully. Instead of fearing accidents, refugees in Kigeme camp fear the rain. He had this to say, 'It's true that Rwandans and refugees blame each other, however, on the side of the camp, we keep educating refugees by sensitizing them on responsible behavior when crossing the road. Further, we have a team comprised of leaders inside and outside the camp that meets on a monthly basis to discuss and address these issues'.



KANGENEYE Alodie, Economic Development and Social Welfare Officer in Kigeme camp (photo: Editorial)

Usually, the Groupe Scolaire Kigeme B accommodates close to four thousand students (4,000) comprising of refugees and wandans and almost all of them use this road section at Kigeme when going to or coming from school.

The Police and other organs whether inside or outside the camp are doing everything possible to educate residents of Kigeme to better understand how to use this road section especially through discussions held in different schools neighboring this camp of Kigeme and at different meetings organized both inside and outside the camp.

This is actually the best occasion now that works are under way to rehabilitate and expand this road

On the side of authorities of Kigeme Cell, KANGENEYE Alodie, the Economic Development and Social Welfare Officer in this Cell maintains that there is need for social mobilization aimed at enhancing the mindset of road users. In addition, in this connection, she stressed that through collaboration between organs in the camp and the Police Force, they will continue awareness campaign aimed at educating road users to ensure accidents are reduced to avoid the likely resulting disputes when a Rwandan citizen hits a camp resident.

While addressing students from Groupe Scolaire Kigeme B, AIP Daniel NIYIBIZI, and the in-charge of Community Policing within the Rwanda National Police in the Nyamagabe District, requested students from this school to consider where to walk once they are using the road because the road is not wide enough despite for use by lots of people. This causes accidents, which often claim lives of people, mainly youngsters. The Police also requests residents of the camp and those in its vicinity that before crossing the road they should regularly look on their left and right to ensure no vehicles are approaching as a means of preventing accidents.



AIP Daniel NIYIBIZI talking to students of Groupe Scolaire Kigeme B (Photo: Yves M)

Article by NYAMPINGA Grace and BYAMUNGU Dieudonne

SOME KIGEME CAMP RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS AT FIREWOOD DISTRIBUTION

Some residents in Kigeme camp who talked to Kigeme Iwacu magazine revealed that the site for firewood distribution is cause for concern. This is due to its proximity with the road with heavy traffic of vehicles and collectors of firewood who are also in large numbers always making them fearful of possible accidents, which are frequent.

Talking to Kigeme Iwacu magazine, MUNYAKARAMBI Edison, representative of Kigeme camp, declared that it is a real problem to see firewood being distributed so close to the camp. He further suggests that there is need for advocacy to propose a new distribution site other than the one currently used.



Photo that shows firewood distribution site for residents of Kigeme camp slightly beneath the road where there is firewood stock (photo Yves M.)

Some residents who say that the firewood distribution site is cause for concern also raised the issue. When distribution is underway, there are many people moving here and there with some coming to check whether it is their turn to collect firewood. Those already served are busy adjusting firewood very close to the road for easy carrying to their respective homes as declared by MBERABAGABO Claude, we talked to and who sells phone airtime near the site and sees what the situation is like when distribution is under way.

He observed that there are many constraints especially when distribution has taken place because it is scary as sometimes bicycles may hit passers-by”.

Addressing this issue, Ms. UWAMBAYIKIREZI Rosette, Kigeme camp Manager, said that where distribution takes place is the only place where authorities of the camp secured a small plot. However, there are plans to shift from distribution of firewood to giving out cash money for people to buy firewood. Pending implementation of this option, she requests residents of Kigeme camp to be mindful during and after distribution to prevent occurrence of accidents due to movements of people present at the site.

She observed, “We are aware of this issue but this is the plot we were able to secure until now but there is a proposed way to give money instead of firewood and we hope that once this option is maintained, it will help us a lot in addressing that issue”.

On this issue, the Police requests residents of Kigeme camp to be wary of the distribution site. This is so because there are numerous people very close to the main tarmac road. The latter is sometimes crowded with children. This being the reason why the Police strongly requests parents to play their role in keeping their children from getting closer to the road but instead to stay on the roadside.



MUNYAKARAMBI Edison, representative of refugees in Kigeme camp (File Photo)



MBERABAGABO Claude talked to Kigeme Iwacu (photo Yves M.)

Article by MUTABAZI Yves

AUTHORITIES OF KIGEME CAMP REQUEST RESIDENTS TO PROTECT AGAINST FIRE

Starting from March to April, some of the homes of residents of Kigeme camp caught fire mainly caused by negligence of owners of these homes because of making fire inside their homes or forgetting to blow out the candle, which made some of the equipment inside the homes catching fire and setting the whole home ablaze as explained by those in charge of security in Kigeme camp.

Talking to Kigeme Iwacu, BIGANIRO Isaac, in-charge of security in Kigeme camp, said that burnt down homes, in those months average six (6) including some, which caught fire due to negligence by homeowners while the cause of fire in other homes remains unknown. NYIRATEGURA Solange of Kigeme camp who lives in quarter one, village 4 is one of those whose homes caught fire from a candle that she had put near the bed as she revealed to Kigeme Iwacu.



NYIRATEGURA Solange is a resident of Kigeme camp whose home caught fire (photo Yves M.)

She said, “We were already in bed and I put a burning candle on the steel suitcase which later set ablaze the home around eleven p.m. on 10 April 2018 such that all the goods inside the home were burnt except the home which was not completely destroyed by flames”.



A portion of the house of MUKANDUTIYE Mwitigure close to the door, which seriously caught fire (photo Yves M.)

On the other hand, as you will notice on the photo, MUKANDUTIYE Mwitigure, who lives in quarter one, village 2, home 27 also explained that her home burned. As of now, she does not know the source of the fire because she arrived home from her tour only to find her home under fire. She then cried for help from neighbors who put off the fire. She said, “On my way back from the health facility to seek medication for my child, I found my home under fire and till now I don’t know where the fire came from”.

For the authorities of Kigeme camp, Ms. UWAMBAYIKIREZI Rosette requests residents of the camp to avoid negligence and to ensure they leave for bed after completely blowing out candles used when lighting as well putting off fire produced by the charcoal stove they used to cook.

She also requested that whenever possible, residents should avoid lighting fire inside homes because this may set ablaze the whole home when people are not mindful.



UWAMBAYIKIREZI Rosette, Kigeme Camp Manager (Editorial)

She said, “We keep requesting residents in the camp to avoid lighting fire in their homes whenever possible. We also request them to regularly be mindful and make sure they turn off fire and any flammable objects such as firewood, candles, charcoal before going to bed. These objects could set ablaze some other equipment inside the homes eventually resulting in setting the whole home afire”.

The type of fires like the ones that destroyed homes in Kigeme camp is one of the factors that may compromise security of people and their property because very often when a home catches fire, objects inside also catch fire and even cause injuries to persons or even claim their lives. It is within this context that authorities of Kigeme camp, in collaboration with the refugee representative committee through various meetings sensitize residents to avoid anything likely to cause fire

Article by MUTABAZI Yves

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LIGHTNING WHICH MANY PEOPLE COMPARE TO A ROOSTER AND HOW TO AVOID IT

In the past days, Rwanda experienced torrential rains with flashes of lightning, heavy winds and thunderbolts which caused floods and landslides; and in some areas lightning claimed the lives of people in various parts of the country. One such example occurred in Nyaruguru District on 10 March 2018 when lightning struck over 40 people during worship, and claimed lives of 15 among them as reported by Kigali Today magazine.

Like other citizens, residents of Kigeme camp located in Nyamagabe District, Gasaka Sector, Kigeme Cell, do not know what lightning is and do not understand very well how to behave in such times characterized by lightning.

What Kigeme residents say they know about lightning

Before sharing with you what scientists say about lightning and how to avoid it, a journalist of Kigeme Iwacu talked to some residents in Kigeme camp who told him what they knew about lightning. Most of the respondents have inadequate information on lightning, its cause and its prevention.

For NGABONZIZA Damascene, a young man of Kigeme camp aged 26 years old, lightning is a source of heat from the atmosphere, which encounters earth heat, and later blasts into thunderbolts. He further says that lightning is most common in open areas and places where there are telecommunication devices and towers. When asked about how he thinks people should behave during the rains with flashes of lightning, he responded that people should use lightning conductors for those with houses connected to electricity, staying away from steel, avoiding use of telecommunication devices as well as seeking shelter under trees and staying away from electric poles when it is raining.

KANYESHURI Muyovu is an old man living in Kigeme camp, who is 62 years old. He said, "For me, I hear people say lightning is composed of gas from earth and gas from the atmosphere coming into contact, and those objects found at the place of their intersection are struck". He further said, "Lightning is frequent in desert places where there are no trees, on people's homes and where cattle are gathered". However, he says that there are methods to avoid lightning when it's raining such as staying away from trees, cattle herds and planting euphorbia candelabrum tree (he was told by his father that wherever this type of tree is planted, there will be no lightning).

What is lightning?

After discussing with residents, we compiled some information you should know about what we usually call lightning, its causing effect and how to avoid it. If lightning strikes, it can cause severe injury or even death.

The magazine Igihe.com indicated that lightning is a flash of light produced by short -duration, high voltage discharge of electricity within a cloud, between clouds or between a cloud and the earth, producing thunder and flashes. This is what causes injury or death to anything they come into contact with, and these are electric discharges with billions of megawatts, with high speed energy, electric energy that kills one in seven persons coming into contact with it or even killing all of them, all due to the scale of discharge of a lightning.

Often during rain before we hear thunderbolts, we first see a flash in the shape of a tree or tree roots with a speed exceeding an eye blink, the speed of millions of kilometers within one hour or a speed of 25 kilometers per second.

When lightning strikes, electric discharge penetrates the whole body. Since the body also contains some acid to help us live, it immediately relaxes to let the discharge flow out. Then all the blood converges into the heart, and the electric discharge concentrates in the heart causing its failure. The other part of the body where the lightning races into is the spine. The brain uses natural electricity to allow information to flow across the whole body therefore these electric discharges mix.

The resulting consequence is that the brain fails to work properly. Once hit by lightning, if you ask a person what a pen is, he/she would spend a whole minute wondering what a pen is.



Ifoto igaragaza imirabyo irabya akenshi iyo inkuba igiye gukubita (photo: internet)

How can you avoid to be struck by lightning?

We understand that lightning is extremely dangerous and has bad consequences; however, in times of lightning, scientists indicate that there are ways to behave in order to reduce the scale and consequence, which may affect us. When it is raining and there are flashes of lightning, this is what is what people should do. Avoiding to shelter under an isolated tree, avoiding seeking shelter in an area where there are public telephone facilities on top of hills. Because all this may attract lightning, avoiding manipulating and carrying objects known to be good electricity conductors these include different steel such as forks, umbrella, steel reinforcement bar and others when their height exceeds the head level of the person carrying them.

When you are on board a vehicle; remember to pull up all the windows, avoid putting fingers in windows fitted with wire netting, avoid being near or touch areas fitted with barbed wire or even other steel made objects.

When you hear thunder bolts while in a forest, it is better to stay inside the forest and avoid walking towards forest edge. Avoiding bathing, staying in or walking through water when there are thunderbolts. Children should not to play in water ponds; avoid to stepping into water while cleaning your house or washing clothes.

It is also advisable to avoid using devices that lift up people inside storied buildings such as elevators in times of flashes and thunderbolts, avoiding use of all electric devices when you are not sure your house is fitted with lightning conductor, avoiding lying down on the ground because there is a risk of attracting lightning strike. If you are riding a bicycle or a bike, it is better to step out of them because they may expose you to lightning. When using electric devices, you must use appropriate equipment.

In Kigeme camp, the Ministry in charge of Disaster Management and Refugees trained leaders of refugees on how to protect against lightning so that they too can train others by providing them with information on how to behave to protect against lightning. This is what the coordinator of Kigeme camp told us. He kept saying that they are continuing to raise awareness as part of mindset change for residents of the camp to know different methods of how to avoid accidents resulting from lightning.

Compiled by MUGENZI Javan

KIGEME CAMP REFUGEES' PARTICIPATION IN THEIR OWN SECURITY THROUGH "COMMUNITY POLICING"

Through collaboration between the Ministry in charge of Disaster Management and Refugees (MIDIMAR) and other security organs, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Huye section, is planning to launch a program for residents in Kigeme camp to play a fundamental role in ensuring their own security through the commonly known as "Community policing" in Kigeme camp.

In a few words, "Community Policing" is a new approach, in Kigeme camp though not new in Rwanda, of collaboration between Rwanda National Police and residents/refugees in solving their security issues, through their own participation. Both in solving or preventing problems before they occur. This exercise of "Community Policing" aims at reducing and preventing offences and other infringements of security of refugees, such that diligence is needed while considering factors behind insecurity and devising strategies to solve those problems through collaboration between residents and the Police.

The reason why this is an important exercise is that residents or refugees themselves should play an active role in monitoring the day-to-day welfare and security of their camp through collaboration with the Police such that they contribute in solving problems behind the insecurity in their camp.

This further helps refugee themselves to increase their confidence in the stakeholders who are the police force and consider them not only as a repressive force, but also as stakeholders in ensuring security of refugees and their property. This also helps the Police to identify day-to-day security related problems encountered by residents or refugees. This is why "Community Policing" is an efficient approach to enhancing security in general to ensure refugees enjoy decent and secure life. To improve this exercise, there is need for collaboration between the residents and refugees and the Police, because security is everyone's concern. Each one should be careful to ensure the place they live in remains peaceful.

In addition, this exercise can improve through its implementation and participation of refugees or residents themselves.

Because implementation of this exercise in one area is not the same as in another area, this is the reason why refugees should play a major role in its implementation.

As for Rwanda National Police, its command in the District of Nyamagabe encourages refugees and Rwandans in this program to play an active role in collaboration with the Police mainly by sharing information on suspected source of insecurity in order to prevent an offence before its commission and by giving timely and quick information. The Police also commends the refugee leadership for its regular collaboration in various programs to fight against offences and ensuring their own security in general.



RWABIGWI Emmanuel, In-Charge of Security at UNHCR, Huye section

On the side of officers in charge of security at UNHCR (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), Huye section, they also say that they think collaboration of refugees, Rwandans and police officers in this exercise could play a crucial role in ensuring security of refugees and their property in Kigeme camp.

RWABIGWI K. Emmanuel (UNHCR)

STREETS SAFETY IN MAHAMA CAMP, CHILDREN ARE PROHIBITED FROM CLINGING ON VEHICLES

The Mahama refugee camp is a large camp located in Eastern part of Rwanda in the District of Kirehe, Mahama Sector. More often, it is necessary for road users to take vehicles for stakeholders to be able to leave their place to other places (inside the camp).

Usually, there are other vehicles carrying construction materials such as stones, fired bricks, sand etc. There are also motorbikes and bicycles normally used especially by some refugees in their day-to-day life. In Mahama camp, in various quarters, it is very familiar to see many children, when a vehicle is passing, trying to run after it and cling on it. This may cause accidents to these children.

KARERWA Emelyne, mother of three young children, and who lives on the side of the road with heavy traffic of vehicles, explained: "We are always worried for our children because the vehicles are exceeding the normal speed allowed through a camp. More road humps should be built on the road. "On this idea, authorities of the camp in collaboration with stakeholders especially those dealing with child rights protection, in conjunction with leaders of refugees have devised strategies to curb the rate of accidents due to road traffic for vehicles and motorbikes. There is quite a long time since a decision was adopted that the speed should not exceed 20 kilometers per hour. For bicycle riders, the latter are required to stop and get off the bicycle in front of the camp, and continue pushing the bicycle.

However, despite these measures taken, further efforts are needed to prevent and educate parents so they can also be able to educate their own children, to avoid playing in the middle of the road as observed by Eduard GAHUNGU from the refugee committee, who is in charge of education and culture. He observed "Even if a series of measures were taken, apparently there is over speeding for vehicle drivers, motorbike and bicycle riders." He further said, "Accompanying measures should be taken to ensure implementation of those measures earlier taken, and put up signposts to remind or educate on prohibitions for those transport vehicle drivers. It is also appropriate to provide for sanctions against those people violating these measures".

For security in Mahama camp to keep being stabilized on the streets, representatives of refugees in collaboration with refugees in general should continue their struggle to educate bicycle owners/riders to avoid riding their bicycles while inside the camp. Children should also be warned against playing in the middle of roads used by vehicles. Mahama camp should be restructured such that its areas fit with current relationships amongst its villages. Pedestrians, bicycle riders, motorbike riders, use those streets much as vehicles can use them. In general, apparently there are movements of vehicles and people especially on working days.

Article by NTAKIRUTIMANA Fiacre, reader of Kigeme Iwacu in Mahama camp

USERS OF MAHAMA CAMP STREETS ARE REQUESTED TO RESPECT INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN

Mahama camp is a large camp, very vast because it accommodates many Burundian refugees. It is located in Mahama Sector, Munini Cell. It is a very large camp because it is divided into two parts known as Mahama I and Mahama II. It is generally composed of 9 quarters and 18 Villages.

In this camp, various associations are operational, and they use light and heavy vehicles in performing activities in the camp. Bicycles and motorbikes continue circulating at night and daytime.

This shows that there are very many streets and which are frequently used, streets bordering the camp not to mention those cutting through all the villages because both light and heavy vehicles use these streets. These are for instance latrine waste disposal trucks and many other various vehicles.



Mahama camp accommodates Burundian refugees and is the largest camp in Rwanda.

For purposes of protection for camp dwellers, the Ministry in charge of Disaster Management and Refugees (MIDIMAR) in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and representatives of refugees have taken the following measures:

- It is strictly forbidden to ride a bicycle throughout the camp. Bicycles should be pushed
- No single vehicle is allowed to run at a speed exceeding 20 km/h
- No person is allowed to ride a motorbike at a speed exceeding 20 km/h or without a safety helmet,
- Road humps were constructed in the streets around this camp in a bid to reduce the speed so as to protect the lives of residents,
- Low speed near health posts (ARC, Save the Children International), children school sites especially during hours of joining lines and going home, food distribution sites at MAHAMA I and MAHAMA II, market places, at street junctions and at various office facilities where many people gather when seeking service delivery.

Requirements for refugees and workers in the camp

To improve security in the streets throughout Mahama camp, the authorities of the camp advise residents to do the following:

1. To respect and enforce measures regularly taken in order to safeguard the lives of people,
2. To punish exemplarily those who violate these measures,
3. To all drivers, speeding down at a pace of 5 to 10 km/h in public places such as health facilities, schools, marketplaces, food distribution sites ...
4. To plan rehabilitation and expansion of streets to allow circulation of vehicles going into opposite directions,
5. To construct as many road humps as possible throughout the camp especially at places mentioned under point 3

Article by KUBWIMANA Alexis, reader of Kigeme Iwacu from Mahama camp

UPGRADING THE LARGE ROAD TO MAHAMA CAMP CONNECTED TO THE TARMAC ROAD TO RUSUMO

As you walk towards Mahama camp located in Eastern Province, Kirehe District, Mahama Sector, Munini Cell past Nyakarambi municipality up to an area called Rusozi, this is where you leave the tarmac road to take a long distance mud road heading to Mahama camp.

In summary, this road stretches over a distance of 13 km long from Rusozi on the main road up to Mahama camp, which is home to lots of Burundian refugees since 2015. On average, this road is 7.5 meters wide.

This road is used by cars carrying food to Mahama camp, vehicles carrying construction materials, motorbikes, bicycles and ambulances and also many Rwandan pedestrians as well as refugees who live in Mahama camp.

Nevertheless, due to heavy traffic of both vehicles and pedestrians, there may sometimes be accidents at any time as a result of road degradation in case of heavy rains which dig ravines and make the road slippery.

Residents living all along this road also think something needs to be done for this road to be upgraded so as to help prevent occasional accidents for both students and users of this road. Some of the ideas they contributed at a cell general meeting to discuss the issue of this road indicate that residents understand very well the importance and their role in safeguarding the road. This happens during umuganda community works. Even those with plots of land adjacent to this road should remove waste from drains, and level cracked areas on road due to erosion.



NZABAMWITA Yowasi, a resident of Mahama Sector (photo Antony M)

In his own words, NZABIRINDA Aimable said, "That is true of course, but experts need to be consulted for advice on how this road could be upgraded"

When you are halfway this road, you see another feeder road connected to it heading to Mahama Sector head office which is sometimes used by vehicles when the large Rusozi Munini road is seriously damaged. This is the very road used by lots of children mainly from the camp and Rwandan host community when going to or coming from school.

NZABIRINDA Aimable and NZABAMWITA Yowasi whom I talked to concur on the idea that if this road is upgraded it would help prevent accidents once and for all, this would require ownership by every citizen so that residents understand that upgrading the road is their responsibility. Nevertheless, NZABIRINDA adds that experts should intervene to assist residents in maintaining the road. NZABAMWITA Yowasi suggested that: "Citizens should safeguard the road as it is very beneficial to them".



NZABIRINDA Aimable, a resident of Mahama Sector (photo Antony M)

Article by MINANI Anthony, reader of Kigeme Iwacu, who lives outside Mahama

