

Suzanne and her son, Rwamba, are healthy and hopeful now that a clinic dedicated to treating malaria is nearby.

QUARTERLY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

How you're changing the lives of mothers and babies

Spring 2019

New Life and New Hope for Suzanne

Suzanne Kaoto has lived in the Nyarugusu refugee camp in Tanzania since its opening in 1996. She has very few memories of her home in the Congo.

Suzanne has given birth to eight children. **Every one of them has suffered from malaria.**

Their mud-brick home is surrounded by swampy fields – a breeding ground for deadly mosquitoes. They do what they can to sleep under mosquito nets, but giant holes ripped in the netting give mosquitoes easy access to her children.

And they struck her 5-month-old son, Rwamba Isaya, hardest of all. He was sick for almost a month with a high fever and diarrhea.

Suzanne took Rwamba to the nearest health clinic. At the clinic, the baby started convulsing with illness. **Even though the doctors administered medicines through a drip, it was too late. They discovered that the malaria had reached his brain.** Soon, Rwamba was gone.

Describing the scene at the clinic that day, Suzanne leapt from her chair and shook her hands in the air. She recalled that when she realized her baby was dying, she grabbed the staff, yelling “Doctor! Doctor!” She wanted to fight. Instead, she returned home with empty arms.

In her grief, she burned all of Rwamba’s little clothes. It was too painful for her to see them and remember the son she’d lost.

A year and a half later, Suzanne has a new way to remember her beloved son. She gave birth again and named the baby Rwamba Isaya in memory of his older brother.

While she delights in her son, she says, “I have reason to worry.” Her family doesn’t have enough mosquito nets. “If you stay the night, you’ll see how many mosquitoes bite.”

But there’s been a big change in the refugee camp since that tragic day when Suzanne buried her child. With support from the U.S. Government and partnering with Tanzania Red Cross Society, Medical Teams has started working there and now oversees programs dedicated to caring for children with malaria.

Mr. Kiza Bilubi Ragabu is a refugee from the Congo himself, and he’s also a volunteer with Medical Teams. He’s been trained to help improve the health of his community.

He visits Suzanne’s family regularly and has built a caring relationship with them. Mr. Kiza says that the children often have fevers, and when they do, he advises that they go to the nearby clinic for treatment.

Refugee volunteers help assure that no one falls through the cracks – that children with



You're Touching the Lives of Mothers and Their Children Around the World

Over a period of six months, you helped...

- over **16,000** mothers deliver their babies **around the world.**
- **1,725** mothers give birth through emergency C-sections in **Uganda and Tanzania.**
- **4,194** pregnant and breastfeeding mothers get screened for malnutrition in **Liberia.**
- more than **146,000** mothers and children receive food in **Uganda.**

malaria get treated fast. Thanks to your support, Medical Teams is moving quickly, helping to save lives in Tanzania.

At the clinics, nurses are now equipped with tests that diagnose malaria as soon as young patients arrive. Doctors are ready with medicines to treat a range of illnesses, including malaria. The first shipment of new, sturdy mosquito nets is on its way. They will be distributed to families with young children.

With all of these changes, Suzanne is hopeful that her children will get the life-saving care they need to survive.

Your compassion gives hope to mothers like Suzanne.