



Nina Butera

In her own words, GenNext Fellow, Nina Butera recounts her memorable expedition to Kirehe, Rwanda with her host organization, Save the Children, for the roll out of the IYCF-E training program.

My recent trip to Kirehe, Rwanda, was an unforgettable experience that deeply influenced both my professional and personal outlook. I am working with Save The Children on the Humanitarian Nutrition team and the goal of the trip was to roll out a pilot training program focused on Infant Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF-E) for frontline workers.

Prior to the training, I was involved in creating the participants handbook with all of the resources the participants needed to follow the structure and steps of each session. Once we arrived in Kirehe, my role was a mix of various tasks.



IYCF-E training facilitators and participants gather for a group photo on the last day following the closing ceremony.

I acted as a rapporteur, taking detailed notes on how well the handbook was working and identified any areas that needed tweaks. I also kept track of time during sessions to make sure we stayed on schedule. In addition to coordinating logistics with the Kirehe Save The Children office, I oversaw registration for the participants and helped present their training completion certificates.

One of the highlights was participating in demonstrations. Acting out scenarios with the team gave me a better understanding of the practical challenges frontline workers face. It made the training sessions more engaging and provided real insights into how the IYCF-E program would be applied in the field. Watching our facilitators handle the challenges that came our way with creativity and determination was truly inspiring. It really drove home the point that adaptability is key



Nina joins IYCF-E training facilitators and participants on a visit to the Mahama Refugee Camp

in humanitarian work. Being able to roll with the punches and still deliver a quality program is essential.

A particularly memorable part of the trip was visiting the Mahama Refugee Camp. It was my first time in a refugee camp, and it was eye-opening. Seeing how nutrition and health programs are put into practice in such a setting



Nina joins training facilitator for certificate presentation at closing ceremony.

was incredibly moving. I had the chance to talk with some amazing women who lead mother groups, a key part of the IYCF-E program. Hearing their stories and seeing the positive impact of the program on their community was a powerful reminder of why our work matters.

Overall, this trip to Kirehe was a fantastic learning experience. It reinforced the importance of being flexible and meeting people where they are, no matter what challenges arise. The dedication and resilience of everyone involved was truly inspiring, and I'm taking away a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper appreciation for the work we do. I'm excited to use these insights in future projects and continue my learning of the field.