



# **Summer 2023 Update**

This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

Mark 4: 26-27

# **SEEDS AND SHOOTS**

Many of the refugee families that we visit are involved in agricultural work. Driving into their camps often means going off-road, onto bumpy tracks, passing fields of ripening tomatoes or other crops. The generosity of the families who welcome us means we sometimes get to taste tomatoes, fresh from the field, or bananas straight from the tree. We hope that as we visit these camps, we will be planting seeds of God's words into the lives of these children and families, which will ultimately grow and produce fruit of hope, peace, and a knowledge of God in the lives of those we serve.

This month, we have had the joy of witnessing some of these seeds growing.

#### **BUILDING TRUST**

We have been in the new set of camps long enough to begin building deeper relationships with the families and for them to trust us. The families that we work with have experienced war and are still living in challenging circumstances. As we wash clothes, teach, and have fun with the children, we have conversations and share spiritual truths that bring benefits beyond the immediate ones of clean clothes and learning together.



### **CHANGING LIVES**

In one of the camps, after we had told the story of Jacob and Essau, one of the boys told us that he and his sister argue all of the time and that, usually, neither apologizes to the other. However, after hearing the story, the boy decided to apologize to his sister, who forgave him. He told us that they will not quarrel anymore and that they will show each other more love.

In that same camp, a father told us he could see the change in his children since they had started attending our program. He expressed that they have grown and learned academically, and their personalities have strengthened. We were most touched when he shared that his son had told him: "I am not afraid anymore because I know that God is with us and protects us."



# Over the last three months, there have been:



57
Camp Visits



#### THE MOBILE COUNSELING UNIT

In this past quarter, the Mobile Counseling Unit continued its active presence, reaching out to areas where counseling is not just essential but often scarce. Witnessing the positive impact of this initiative on both children and parents has filled us with deep gratitude. It's been heartening to see how people have felt comfortable to openly share about their challenging experiences. The presence of our skilled psychologists has provided a source of guidance and comfort.



We've had the privilege of hearing from parents who have told us about the changes they've seen within their households. One example is the story of a woman who initially sought counseling for her son, who was struggling with learning difficulties and other mental issues. During her interactions with our team, she learned that she too could benefit from counseling. Embracing this opportunity, she eventually encouraged her husband to join as well. This beautiful ripple effect has led to the entire family receiving the vital support they needed for healing and growth.

We are grateful that God is working through the small seeds we sow to grow peace, joy, and strength in those we serve. Thank you for partnering with us in this work.

### PRAISE AND PRAYER

## **Praise God For:**

- The opportunities we've been given to be a listening ear.
- The changes parents are seeing in their children's lives as a result of our program.
- God's provision that enables us to continue this work.

## **Please Pray That:**

- The team members will have the strength and energy to continue serving the children with love and compassion through the hot months of summer.
- The brother and sister who learned about forgiveness will continue to love one another well.
- The father who has seen a change in his children would come to know the God who
  is bringing that change.