



Francine Irakoze '07, M.S.

Program Officer
Save the Children Canada

Francine Irakoze '07 is a program officer with Save the Children in Canada. Working closely with offices in West and East Africa, her focus is implementing programs that are related to health, nutrition, education and livelihoods.

Ms. Irakoze's career began in the private health care sector at McKesson Canada, holding various positions such as team leader, program coordinator/liaison and program manager.

In 2015 Ms. Irakoze changed her path and joined in the fight for health equity worldwide. Ms. Irakoze was selected for the Global Health Corps Fellowship and moved to Kigali, Rwanda. While in Rwanda she fulfilled different jobs and helped to strengthen programming at a local nonprofit organization, Health Builders. She now works out of Toronto but still supports humanitarian projects and development.

Ms. Irakoze also has been active as a volunteer, having worked with refugees, women in shelters, Hurricane Katrina victims and Habitat for Humanity. In Canada she served multiple organizations, including the York-Durham Aphasia Center in Oshawa and the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto. Ms. Irakoze also taught English in Kigali.

"My time at La Roche helped me build strong interpersonal skills like public speaking, relationship building, communication and leadership both in class and through multiple campus activities," she said. "I'm also happy for all the different opportunities to volunteer. My strong commitment to helping others really stems from there, and now my day-to-day job is all about empowering marginalized communities."

Ms. Irakoze completed her undergraduate studies at La Roche and furthered her education at McMaster University. There she received her Master of Science in global health with a specialization in health management.

