

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Gatsibo. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted them.

This year, people in Gatsibo gained valuable information and resources to empower them with marketable skills for employment or entrepreneurship. Young women accessed technical training courses and 180 parents and caregivers benefitted from training on the production of locally made learning materials for Early Childhood Education.

In addition, 60 participants, including parent representatives and local leaders, attended community dialogue training on gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence.

Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Gatsibo.



420

Youth trained on work readiness



1,360

Children accessed healthier food in school



330

Parents learned about early childhood development



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN RWANDA

Hear from Marie about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.

“When COVID-19 hit, we were scared because we had to ensure good hygiene, yet water is a problem here. At school, our classes would fetch water and students would be tired from walking the long distance to and from the lake. Plan constructed water tanks so we have continuous access to clean water.”

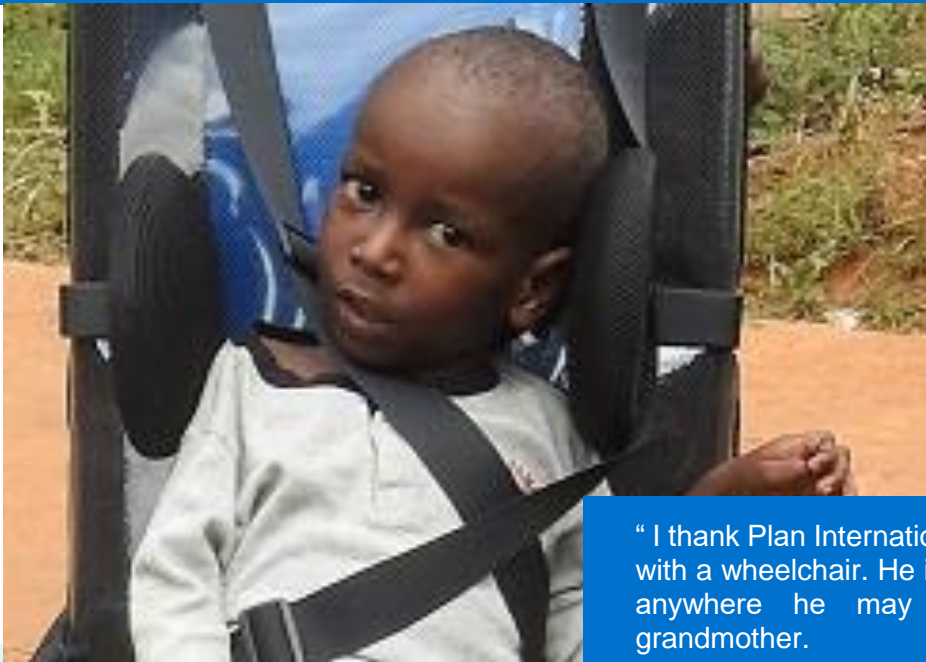
CASE STORY: A CHANCE FOR EDUCATION



NAME: FABRICE

AGE: 7

HOBBY: SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY



“ I thank Plan International for supporting my grandson Fabrice with a wheelchair. He is now able to move by himself easily to anywhere he may desire,” says Makurata, Fabrice’s grandmother.

Meet Fabrice

Like your sponsored child, Fabrice has been empowered by Plan International to change his life. Seven-year-old Fabrice was born with a neurological disorder. Because of his disability, Fabrice could not move and spent his days laying on a mat in his home. Poverty made life a struggle. His single mother left their community to look for employment while his grandmother

Subsistence farming is their main source of food, apart from his mother’s earnings.

Facing Challenges

At the national level, 5% of the resident population aged 5 years and older have a disability. The same report shows that the prevalent rate of disability is higher in rural areas of Rwanda. Children with disabilities often face challenges attending and completing school. This is due to the lack of assistive aides, as well as bullying and abuse.

“My son couldn’t go to school because I couldn’t afford to buy him a wheelchair, so he had to stay home while his friends went to school which hurt him so much. I am happy that since he now has a wheelchair he can start primary school in the coming academic year,” said Fabrice’s mother.

Aids to Empower

Plan International supports sponsored children with physical disabilities, helping to provide assistive aids to enable them to better access their rights. This changes lives for children like Fabrice who cannot sit or walk on their own. Fabrice always had to rely on his grandmother or a member of the family to lift him up to use the toilet, go for a bath and put on his clothes.

Now with a wheelchair, Fabrice can easily move within his home and outside in the community. By supporting families like Fabrice’s with mobility aids, children with physical disabilities can better access their rights to education and beyond to a better life.



Fabrice in his new wheelchair

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 8,468 CHILDREN IN GATSIBO

OUR PROJECTS IN GATSIBO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



IMPROVING FAMILIES' LIVELIHOOD



Food insecurity is a concern in Gatsibo, where traditional farming is not producing enough to satisfy demand. Water scarcity, especially during dry seasons, compounds the problem.

Plan worked in combination with the Gatsibo community to develop kitchen gardens, trained parents and caregivers with alternative income-generating activities, and supported children with educational resources.

The project supported several activities, including establishing kitchen gardens.

In addition, 180 parents were trained on the production of toys and learning materials. Seven learning spaces were established to benefit 400 skilled young people participating in the Champions of Change project.

INVESTING IN EARLY EDUCATION



Children learn through play, a vital activity for establishing a foundation for growth. This year, the Let's Keep Playing project worked with the Gatsibo community to empower local leaders, parents and caregivers with resources to provide nurturing practices for the development of children.

Through play-based exercise, the project helped 300 families support children's healthy development and well-being. The programme also empowered parents to develop coping mechanisms and social support networks.

As a result, parents and education workers engaged in children's cognitive growth. Parents gained vital skills and resources, teachers improved their ability to learn, and facilitate children learning with fun.



"I am among the mothers who received the playing materials. Playing helps my children to speak the truth and learn how to resolve problems among their fellow playmates. I am really grateful for the knowledge that we as parents are receiving from Plan."
-Sophie (36) from Gatsibo



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



18%

Is the unemployment rate among young people in Rwanda



37%

Of women in Gatsibo are illiterate



28%

Of households use drinking water from lakes and springs



Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.

A significant number of the population continue to live in poverty, posing a substantial threat to children's rights. We will support women's groups to become economically empowered and able to support their children with Early Childhood Development.

We will advocate for gender-responsive national frameworks to address violence and discrimination.

We will strengthen young people's knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including body development, sexuality, relationships, and harmful practices.

Pre-primary education in Gatsibo is improving, with 85 Early Childhood Development Centres. We will continue to support education with nutrition initiatives and teacher training.

We know the best is yet to come and together we will continue to work for a brighter future the children in Gatsibo.



"On behalf of the community and children of Gatsibo, I would like to express our gratitude for the support you provided last year. Your contribution helped in addressing issues affecting children and their families. Thank you so much."

Jacques Bakundukize
Programme Area Manager, Gatsibo