

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This year, more students in Bugesera were able to access quality education and Early Childhood Development services despite interruptions and school closures due to COVID-19. Pupils were supplied with school materials, enabling them to more easily access their right to an education and to stay in school.

More children are safer this year, thanks to increased community efforts on child protection measures. Youth trained as mentors on the topic of child safety, led discussions and advocated for children's rights.

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



450

Students
trained on child
protection



4,000

Youths learned
about gender
equality



390

Young people
completed
technical job
training



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

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 9,094 CHILDREN IN BUGESERA

OUR PROJECTS IN BUGESERA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



PROVIDING A GOOD START TO LIFE



The existence of a healthy local community in early childhood becomes the supportive, uplifting foundation of a child's life.

Children learn through play—a vital activity for establishing a foundation for growth. The Let's Keep Playing project worked with the Bugesera community to empower local leaders, parents, and caregivers with resources to provide nurturing practices for children's development, especially during COVID-19 school closures.

Through play-based exercise, the project helped 300 families support children's healthy development and well-being. The programme also empowered 240 families with "parenting under pressure" skills and helped them develop support networks.

As a result, early childhood caregivers and community education workers have an improved ability to facilitate learning through play with children aged 3 to 9. Parents are able to give responsive care to children's needs and interact with children through playful activities that support well-being and learning, helping children develop socially, emotionally and physically, and grow their cognitive and language skills.

FEEDING THE FUTURE



Access to quality food and economic stability are crucial to strong, healthy families. This year, the THRIVE project helped promote healthier families with improved farming, nutrition, and income-generating activities.

As a part of this programme, 318 community members received goats, helping to improve their land productivity and increase family income. To fight the effect of drought, we partnered with a local organization to establish Farmer Field Schools, by engaging community members with kitchen gardens, organic manure, fertilizer, and improved seeds.



Families reported an increase in their yield from 30 kilos to 150 kilos per acre. Vegetables were served as food, with the rest sold and earnings invested in Village Savings and Loan Association.

"Traditional farming techniques didn't bring us much yield now with the changes in our climate. We were given training on modern farming methods and this year I saw an increase in the crop yield. I was able to sell some beans to be able to provide for other basic needs." - **Penina from Bugesera**

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



51%

Access water from streams, dams, or swamps



39%

Of Rwandans live in poverty



38%

Of children under 5 years old have stunted growth



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

Last year, we helped 128 at-risk children with vital medical treatment. This year, supporting children with critical illnesses will be a priority.

We will empower youth with technical skills training and resources for employment or entrepreneurship.

Training on modern farming techniques, and access to climate-resistant seeds, will help families access healthy food.

We will continue to advocate for children's rights to education and empower teachers with training and resources.

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



"Thank you for your continued support. Plan International Rwanda is committed to ensuring the voices of all children are heard and they are given a platform through which they can speak out on issues that affect them."

Peace Mukabazimya
Programme Area Manager, Bugesera

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS