

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

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

This year, families in Nyaruguru were better able to prepare for climate disaster. At-risk households were able to retrofit and rehabilitate their houses, with the help of 900 iron sheets, 120kg of roofing nails and the manual labour needed to improve disaster preparedness in the community.

In addition, the construction of 5 classrooms and an Early Childhood Development Centre reduced the long distances that children had to travel to and from school. This increased the retention rate of pupils in the area.

**Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Nyaruguru.**



# 200

Families supported with climate-resistant seeds



# 45

Village Savings and Loan Groups supported



# 3467

People have access to improved, clean water



## 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 9,534 CHILDREN IN NYARUGURU**

# OUR PROJECTS IN NYARUGURU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## INVESTING IN EDUCATION



New and improved school buildings and Early Childhood Development Centres make it easier for more children in rural areas to access their right to an education.

**Children living in rural areas like Nyaruguru must walk long distances to school.** Often, they are so tired from their daily journeys, they're unable to learn well in class.

By improving the accessibility of children—especially girls—to schools and early learning through Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs), communities are better able to provide children with their right to an education.

Now, the Nyaruguru community has access to three new or refurbished ECDs, plus five classrooms and an office. These facilities provide education and learning services to 1,941 children. As 11-year-old Nadia says, “When I started school, I used to walk a long distance to the neighbouring community for school. Today I walk for about 45 minutes to the primary school that Plan International constructed for us; in addition to that Plan International Rwanda also constructed an ECD where my mother told me that my younger brothers will attend classes. I am so happy that I can easily walk to school for classes.”

## BUILDING ON EARLY EDUCATION



**Children learn through play, a vital activity for establishing a foundation for growth.** This year, the Let's Keep Playing project helped the community to ensure that play is encouraged in the early lives of children ages 3 to 9.

The programme focuses on parents affected by immediate or long-term emergencies. Through play-based exercises, the project helps parents and caregivers support children's healthy development and well-being, as well as helping parents learn coping mechanisms and developing social support networks.

As a result, parents are engaged in the cognitive growth of their children from an early age, education workers have an improved ability to facilitate learning through play, and children experience the benefits of a play-based learning foundation.



“I am one of the local leaders in our community where I am in charge of the education division. We are hopeful that our young children's brains are being awakened and they will be able to grow up in a holistic manner.”

**-Jean Bosco (32) from Nyaruguru**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



18%

Of young Rwandans are unemployed



50%

Of average household income is from agriculture



49%

Of households lack access to sanitary toilets



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

·Patriarchy is one of the key factors behind sexual and gender-based violence in Rwanda. We will organise high level, national workshops on policy frameworks and strategies on issues related to girls' and women's rights.

·Primary school completion rates stand at 65%. We will continue to support community initiatives to upgrade educational facilities through partnerships with local leaders to help more children access and complete school.

·Poverty rates in Nyaruguru are high. Supporting new income-generating activities with business coaching and mentoring will help families create economic stability.

·We will continue to assist families in disaster-prone areas with disaster mitigation and agricultural support.

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



"Thank you for your continuous support ensuring that children in Nyaruguru are able to learn, lead, decide, and thrive. Plan International is committed to ensuring that children realise their full rights."

**Sharon Kiconco**

Programme Area Manager, Nyaruguru

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