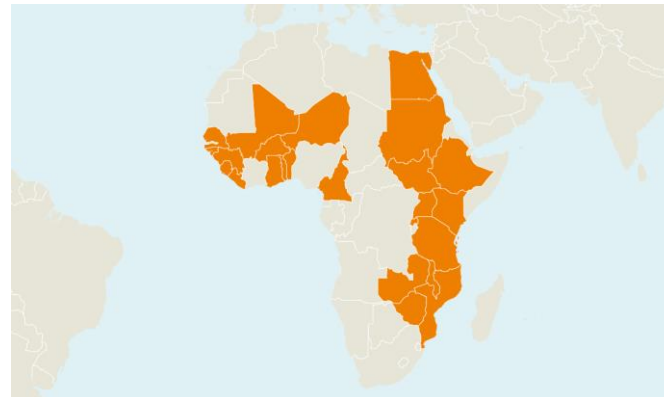


ANNUAL UPDATE

RWANDA

GATSIBO



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Gatsibo. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

Most families living in this hot, dry part of Rwanda are farmers. Climate change has led to agriculturalists facing challenges to generate enough income. We have worked with farmers on new techniques and more resilient crops for providing a more secure income and healthier families. We promoted entrepreneurship and vocational skills for young people and 8,357 young children were screened for malnutrition. Ten learning centres for young children now have mushroom gardens.



386

children are eating nutritious meals at school



1,530

young adults are saving money in Village Savings and Loans Groups



393

students received hygiene- and school supply kits

“PLAN’S CASH VOUCHER ASSISTANCE HELPED ME BUY SCHOOL MATERIALS, A UNIFORM AND A GOAT.”

Joseline, 16, Sponsored Child





NAME: ALICE

AGE: 15

DREAMS TO BE: A DOCTOR

“AFTER MY PARENTS RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO TAKE ME TO THE DOCTOR, I AM NOW ABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL AND DO MY HOMEWORK ON TIME.”

Meet Alice

Like the child you sponsor, Alice is taking steps toward achieving her goals.

5th year student Alice enjoys learning languages and playing handball with her classmates. A serious case of malaria threatened her studies – and her life.

A Dangerous Illness

Alice is the daughter of farmers, who grow crops like beans and maize and own a pig. Alice enjoys school, and especially likes practising her English.

This year, Alice became very sick with malaria. Although Rwanda has done incredible work reducing the mortality of malaria cases in recent years, Alice’s family struggled to access medical care. That’s not unusual: in areas of high poverty, like Nyaruguru, families have limited access to health insurance or health facilities, which are often far away. This isn’t just dangerous for children like Alice: it can also be life-threatening to expecting mothers. When Alice’s parents weren’t able to afford her medical treatment, we stepped in to help.

Back On My Feet

Today, Alice still has some lingering health issues after her case of malaria. But she is resilient, and has returned to school: her grades have even improved! Alice is now back in school and, like her classmates, has access to donated school supplies so that no one falls behind.

Alice’s mother is a member of Plan’s Village Savings and Loans Group, where she has saved up enough money to buy medical insurance for the whole family.



Alice with her classmates.

OUR PROJECTS IN GATSIBO ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



FROM LEARNERS TO LEADERS



Early childhood development centres in Gatsibo struggle to provide enough resources for children. Plan International works alongside educational authorities to support and to encourage parents to send girls and boys to preschool.

Between the ages of 3 and 7, children are at critical points in their education and development. Focused interventions to build gender-inclusive, positive associations with education are shown to help children on a sustained path to completing their educations and pursuing bright futures. This year, 407 parents in Gatsibo learned about the importance of early childhood education, with another 417 caregivers learning about nutrition and hygiene practices for healthy growing children. 115 girls at risk of dropping out of school received scholarships to continue their educations, while 1.920 women took on leadership roles, telling their community about educational games and positive parenting.

From vocational skills to positive parenting, the next generation of Gatsibo is creating a brighter future.



YOU CAN COUNT ON ME



Almost 30% of young adults in Gatsibo are unemployed. Enabling girls to develop key skills and investing in girls' economic empowerment is essential to achieving gender equality.

Since December 2020, we have worked with 1,200 young people in Gatsibo to improve financial literacy, build vocational skills, grow confidence and save for the future. We partnered with 25 companies, who committed to hiring Plan's beneficiaries in Gatsibo as employees or interns. 210 residents, including 150 women, received regular coaching and support to start their own small businesses, and another 32 participants connected to financial institutions to save money, apply for loans and withdraw cash.

"I'm starting to earn money through my trade, tailoring. I am able to deposit into and withdraw money from my bank account, and can easily apply for a loan."

- Lea (22) from Gatsibo



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



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

- More skilled educators are required in early education centres. With your help, we will support gender-inclusive education for educators in Gatsibo's early childhood development centres.
- Worsened by COVID-19, early pregnancies are on the rise in Gatsibo. We will work with children and youth on sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Extreme weather and climate change have led to failed crops and lack of sustainable income for many families. We will continue to collaborate with local farmers to implement new farming techniques and training.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Through your financial support, children have been able to realise their full potential. We are confident that girls are more empowered and ready to be leaders of change.”

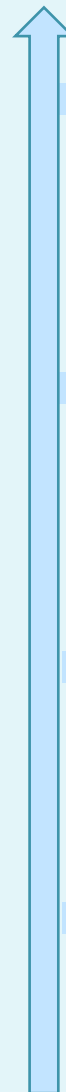
Jacques Bakundukize
Programme Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment is turned into effective long-term change – providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan's Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



JANUARY



114

vegetable gardens planted in early learning centres

APRIL



81

residents' houses were built more climate resilient

MAY



150

teen girls learn about consent and sexual health

OCTOBER



35

teen mothers were supported to return to school