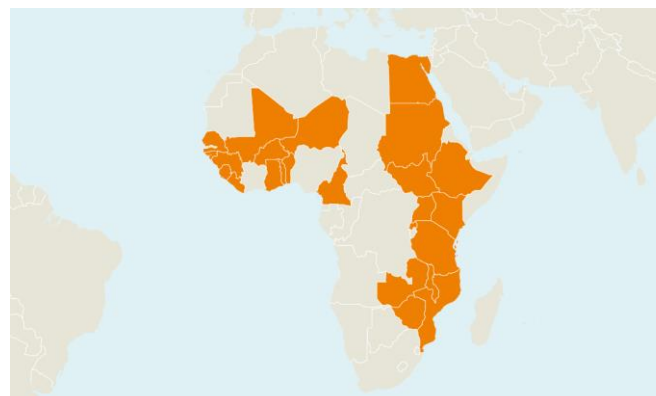


ANNUAL UPDATE

RWANDA

BUGESERA



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

Plan International has been involved in Bugesera in Rwanda since 2010. This dry, warm region is home to about 550,000 people. Health services are for many people more than an hour away, and many girls get pregnant at an early age. This year, our projects in Bugesera focused on supporting early childhood development, sexual health education and nutrition. 700 households benefitted from increased food supplies, and private restrooms in schools were built to keep girls in school.



150

girls benefit from private restrooms at school



1,465

young adults participate in sexual health education groups



100

young adults have started their own businesses

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

Joseline, 16 years old, 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 BUGESERA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Investing in girls' economic empowerment is essential to achieving gender equality.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



During the Covid-19 lockdowns, close to 3.6 million students were out of school.

For girls, students with disabilities and students living in poverty, this was a make-or-break period for continuing their educations. Today, less than 21% of children between 3 and 7 years old are enrolled in school, meaning that most children do not have formal education during critical years in their developments. This year, 300 families participated in our Let's Keep Playing project, a fun, family-centred approach to non-violent discipline, promoting education and building the confidence of children. 1,500 families received educational toys, and we created and uploaded 120 educational videos for caregivers and parents to keep the learning going at home.

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME



17% of educated young adults are unemployed. Savings groups support people who don't have access to financial services to save money and learn financial skills.

Our Child Protection and Reproductive Rights programme brings many issues under its umbrella, like gender-based violence and inequality. Our Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), where members talk about budgeting and finance – were infused with conversations about consent and pregnancy. 1,465 teens participated, and parents reported there was a clear contrast between youths who are in the VSLAs and those who aren't: the low number of pregnancies among VSLA members. Today, all VSLA participants report that they will continue to meet in groups.

“The Savings and Loans group has made me confident and proud. I am self-reliant, and can buy everything I need, including school supplies.”

- Celine (18) from Bugesera



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 Bugesera.

- Bugesera has the second-highest rate of early pregnancies in eastern Rwanda. With your support, we will implement a project dedicated to sexual health education for teenagers.
- The youth unemployment rate in Bugesera is high. Our Bike for the Future and Future is Green projects will bring together climate change resilience and jobs.
- Gender-based violence remains a key concern in Bugesera. Our Real Fathers Project will encourage positive masculinities in workshops with local dads.

Thank you for your continued support.



“We are so thankful to our sponsors for your contributions to the education, rights, and safety of children. Your support changes lives. Thank you.”

Jean Baptiste Nkundiamana
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

9.412

sponsored children receive school supplies



JUNE

147

children with fatal illnesses access medical care



SEPTEMBER

200

farmers participate in climate-resilient agriculture workshops



OCTOBER

700

households have more food to eat due to manure donations

