

Gatsibo

Rwanda

Positive changes are happening in Gatsibo. Learn more about how we're supporting children and girls' rights through our collaborative, equality-driven work.

This past year, key projects fostered skills and strengthened resources so young people and families can plan for a brighter future.

For example, the Future is Green project supported young people with climate-smart economic opportunities. Youth gained technical and entrepreneurial skills and were able to access resources to start their small businesses.

In addition, the REAL Fathers project empowered young men to take active, positive roles as fathers. By investing in nurturing and protective care, families improve the safety, well-being and development of their children.



Smart agriculture is improving health in communities.

"I am now part of sexual health and rights club at my school where I support my peers to understand their bodies." - Fabiola (16)



Impact in Numbers

1,800

youth engaged in technical and vocational training

160

fathers trained on Village Savings and Loan Associations

1,202

children accessed improved nutrition at pre-school

Education Changes A Young Life



NAME:

Elias

AGE:

12 years old

DREAMS TO BE:

A teacher

"I am now performing well at school because I am not worried of the scholastic materials."



Meet Elias

Like many children in Rwanda, Elias was faced with economic challenges in his pursuit of an education.

Elias is a year four student who lives with his father, mother and three sisters in Gatsibo. They live near the main road and he is proud that in the future, his village will become a trading centre. His favourite hobby is football, which he loves to play during school breaks and on weekends.

The Impact of Economic Resources

Elias' goal was to study and become a teacher – but without an education, his possibilities for the future are limited.

Elias' family depends entirely on agriculture. His father has a disability and his mother works hard to provide for the family.

When Elias was in year three, he fell sick and spent time in the hospital. When he recovered, he looked forward to returning to school – yet his family was unable to afford it. Elias was despondent at the thought of leaving school and says he almost gave up hope.

The Power of Education

"On the first day the schools were opening, I was surprised to see one of Plan's volunteers calling me to go and get scholastic materials," says Elias. "I almost jumped up for happiness."

Exercise books are one necessity for students – a place to study, rest and play is another. With building materials like iron sheets and nails, Elias' family was able to improve their home. "Now I can do my homework and sleep well," he says. "When it rains, I have no fear that our house can be affected by a water leakage from the roof."



Elias' family can now invest in the Village Saving and Loan Group.

We Work With 7,783 Sponsored Children in Gatsibo

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Tools to Support Parents

Fathers get REAL

The REAL (Responsible, Engaged and Loving) Fathers project empowers young men with the skills to form positive, non-violent relationships with their families. This initiative helps promote nurturing and protective family care and improves the safety, well-being and development of children.

Young fathers participate in Early Childhood Development, child protection, and youth economic empowerment programmes. The main activities address parenting issues such as play and communication, use of non-violent discipline and responsive caregiving.

28-year-old Damien enrolled in the REAL Fathers program in 2023. He says he gained vital skills to engage with his family, and that the project inspired him to join a Village Savings and Loan Association, through which he started a business that now generates income.



Young fathers gain vital parenting skills.

1,507
**children benefitted with
fathers in the programme**



Joselyne at her field garden where she cultivates different types of vegetables.



The project helps change social norms and reduce the gender gap in agriculture.

The Future is Green

“Agri-preneurship” is empowering young people in Gatsibo with climate-smart agricultural employment.

“The Future is Green”-project fosters entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and environmental stewardship for youth, especially young women. As a result, 80 youth have started their businesses. In addition, 83 youth gained access to financial services, and 71 youth-led businesses benefited from market linkage services.

Through sustainable employment and entrepreneurship, young people gain skills and opportunities, enhancing their skills and improving their resilience towards economic and climate shocks. Young people gained technical knowledge and skills on climate-smart agricultural as well as entrepreneurial know-how. Access to equipment, agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilisers), financing and technologies, plus digital innovations such as renewable energy, provided a foundation for youth to succeed.

“I acquired valuable skills in horticulture and gardening, market identification, customer satisfaction, and accessing credit.” - Joselyn (24)

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Today's children are becoming leaders of change for inclusion.

Together, we're working to create a more just world.

Children, especially girls, continue to experience sexual and gender-based violence. In the next year, we will continue to help build stronger community-based child protection structures.

Early pregnancy is a concern in Gatsibo. We will support youth with information and resources to make healthy decisions about their sexuality and reproductive health.

To address youth unemployment, we will empower young people with skills development, entrepreneurship opportunities, and knowledge to improve their access to quality employment.

Message from Plan Staff

"We have been able to support families affected by the pandemic and climate change. Youth were supported through skills development, entrepreneurship, and psychosocial services. We remain optimistic that together we will be able to challenge the concerns in the upcoming years."



Jacques Bakundukize,
Programme Area
Manager, Gatsibo

The Plan Effect

Sponsored children are at the centre of everything we do and they help plan our programmes based on what's important to them. Sponsors donations are a gateway into a community. This helps build trust and credibility to attract even more funds from new sources. This makes more sustainable programmes possible in sponsorship communities. This powerful synergy is something we call The Plan Effect.

Progress in Numbers

2,800

people benefitted
from housing
improvement

140

youth trained as
peer mentors

391

children
recovered from
malnutrition

400

youth learned
climate-smart
agriculture