

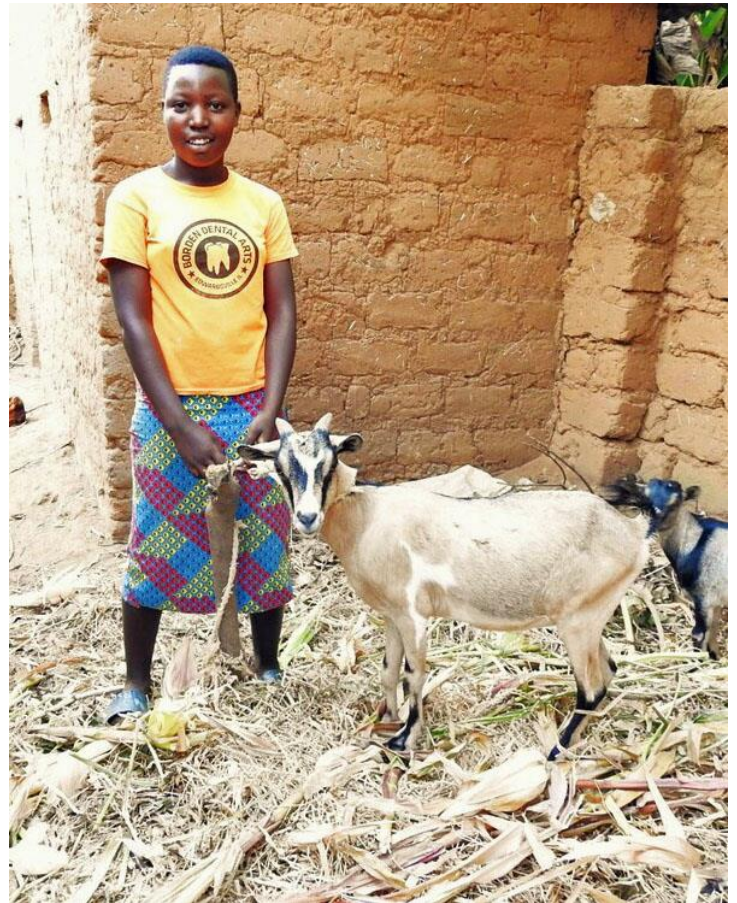
Bugesera Rwanda

Positive changes are happening in Bugesera. 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 Bikes for the Future project empowered girls and young women to advocate for their rights through sports. While some participants trained on bicycle mechanics with the goal of opening bicycle repair shops, others formed a cycling team that went on to compete throughout Rwanda – with great success.

In addition, through training and education sessions on health, rights and discrimination, thousands of young women and men developed leadership skills and formed healthy relationships based in equality.



Today, girls like Betty are on the path to a brighter future.

"I am part of the sexual health and rights club at my school. Having the knowledge about my body changed me." - Fabiola (16)



Impact in Numbers

308

**parents supported
in their small
businesses**

9,018

**students benefitted
from scholastic
materials**

100

**youth trained on
climate-smart
agriculture**

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 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 8,742 Sponsored Children in Bugesera

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Stronger Through Sport

The Bikes for the Future project empowers young women.

This year, girls and young women challenged gender stereotypes with a sports-for-change approach.

A cycling team was equipped with bicycles, cycling clothes, helmets, gloves and menstrual hygiene materials, and began participating in cycling championships – with some coming in at second and third places.

In addition, 20 girls and young women attended courses in bicycle mechanics, and will soon start up small businesses selling and repairing bicycles. “Today, I am able to repair bicycles and assemble them from scratch,” says program participant Olivia, 23. “I am able to take care of my children and have hope that they will be able to get the education I couldn’t.”



Cyclists competed—and succeeded—in competitions.

15

young women formed a cycling team



Club members raised awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Child protection from violence is a key part of the dialogue.

Protecting Children

Fostering leadership leads to positive change for youth.

With improved access to information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, young people are better able to develop healthy relationships and plan for their futures.

This year, 2,190 young women and men learned about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and learned methods for building self confidence, challenging gender roles, and the need for gender equality.

Together, the participants challenged existing gender norms and stereotypes. Through training and dialogue, young people learned leadership skills for creating positive change in their peer groups and in the larger community. As a result, these leaders shared information and influenced nearly 2,000 additional young people through peer-to-peer communication.

“I now have more accurate information. I am able to share with other children in my community to change the negative behaviours and practices.”

—Hossina (12)

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Justin's harvest enabled him to pay his children's school fees.

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

Children and young people, especially girls, experience sexual and gender-based violence both at home and in public spaces. This year, we will continue to help build stronger community-based child protection systems.

In Bugesera, 39% of children under five years old are stunted. We will empower parents and caregivers with a strong foundation in early childhood nutrition through kitchen gardens, cooking demonstrations and seed distribution.

Early pregnancy is a concern in Bugesera. We will continue to share information on sexual and reproductive health and rights with adults and youth.

Message from Plan Staff

"We achieved much. Children were able to return to school, families are more resilient through the use of climate smart agriculture, young people are taking the lead advocating for their rights; all this was made possible through your continuous support."



Sharon Kiconco,
Programme Area
Manager,
Bugesera

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

237

adults trained on
child protection

1,200

seedlings
planted

16

young people
selected as Youth
Leaders

956

booklets shared
health
information