

Nyaruguru

Rwanda

Positive changes are happening in Nyaruguru. 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 REAL Fathers project empowers young men to take active, positive roles as parents. With community support, families invest in nurturing and protective care, and improve the safety, well-being and development of their children.

Another project focused on providing knowledge and resources on sexual and reproductive rights to young people in over 50 villages in Nyaruguru. With access to information on health, rights and discrimination, thousands of young women and men are developing leadership skills and forming healthy relationships based in equality.



The Nyaruguru community is helping children thrive.

"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

270

parents learned positive parenting techniques

120

youth peer educators received training

55

youth participated in vocational training

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 plans 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 9,663 Sponsored Children in Nyaruguru

Projects That Support Lasting Change

Tools to Support Parents

The REAL (Responsible, Engaged and Loving) Fathers project empowers men with the skills to form positive, non-violent relationships with their children.

Participants engage in ongoing activities that address child protection and early childhood development. The project addresses the root causes of gender inequality and provides men with parenting and partner communication skills.

The programme engaged local leaders and 27 Inshuti z'Umuryango (or Friends of the Family) volunteers. These mentors conducted group discussions, visited participants at home, and supported young men to create a nurturing home environment. Felix, a 28-year-old father, says, "I have undergone a significant transformation since participating in the REAL Fathers programme."



REAL Father Felix with his wife and daughter

160

**young fathers graduated
from the programme**



Leonie discusses issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Peer educator Leonie shares her skills with the local youth club.

Adolescent Health

Improving access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) empowers young people.

With knowledge and resources, young people are better able to develop healthy relationships and plan for their futures. An adolescent health project has been implemented in 54 villages in Nyaruguru— and is already changing lives.

This year, rates of early pregnancy were reduced, thanks to educated, informed peer leaders. Youth peer educators were trained on SRHR, including body development, pregnancy, sexuality, relationships, harmful practices and gender-based discrimination. In addition, 20 male Champions of Change were trained on positive masculinity. As a result, 3,000 people were reached, and have now become drivers of change within their communities.

"I have been trained as a youth peer educator. My role is to cascade the knowledge I acquired to other children, especially girls, in my community."
—Leonie (15)

You're Supporting a More Equal Future



Young entrepreneur Joseline working in her garden.

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

We will empower parents and caregivers with a solid foundation in early childhood development, and support communities to improve programmes. We will facilitate the extension of health services, including screening for malnutrition.

Through dialogue, camps and sports programmes, girls will develop agency to make independent decisions about their sexuality.

By training Village Savings and Loan Association members on financial literacy and income-generating activities, families in Nyaruguru can better plan for their futures.

Message from Plan Staff

"Your continued support to those in need will keep building in them the bright future. Our interventions for the coming years will address critical issues and ensure that girls stand strong so they can continue to learn, lead, decide and thrive!"



Pierre Ndikubwimana,
Programme Area
Manager,
Nyaruguru

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

328

teachers trained
on early
education

225

children
benefitted from 5
new classrooms

122

entrepreneurs
learned business
planning

71

families
supported with
home retrofitting