



Literacy Building Futures

Overview

Bible Society Australia is partnering with African Enterprise Rwanda in implementing a literacy project seeking to improve literacy among students and ensure a brighter future for all Rwandans.

The Need

Rwanda's education system, hosting 3.6 million students, boasts a 98.8% primary school enrolment. Yet despite government commitments, challenges persist, especially in early literacy.

The 2018, Early Grade Reading Assessment revealed 70% of Primary 3 students struggle with reading, hindering progress and contributing to high dropout rates. Gender disparities and insufficient support for children with disabilities worsen the issue.

The 2022 census indicates a 22.3% illiteracy rate, with a notable gender gap. Rural districts, like Gatsibo, face a higher illiteracy burden, including spillover effects such as teenage pregnancies. Essential improvements involve improving the curriculum, providing teacher training, upgrading school infrastructure, and increasing community engagement in education.



3.6m+

students in Rwanda's education system

70%

of students haven't learned to read by the third grade of primary school

22.3%

illiteracy rate

"For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end;"

2 Corinthians 1:13, NASB

Goals

This project aims to enhance literacy and numeracy, reduce school dropouts, and to instil optimism and dedication in both students and parents by building their future with a good education. Focused on improving early childhood education in Gatsibo District, the project aims to cultivate well-educated individuals valuable to Rwanda's education system.

Emphasising teamwork, the project aims to build inclusive classrooms which teach practical literacy skills. The project aims to help Rwanda keep up with global education standards, and strives for outcomes like improved Kinyarwanda literacy, enhanced pre-primary learning, strengthened education management, and coordinated literacy activities.

In 2024, the project will identify partners, hold initial meetings with leaders, head teachers, and Heads of Schools, conduct needs assessments, and develop materials for improved teaching practices.

Impact

This project will be implemented in 45 schools located in 14 sectors of Gatsibo District, impacting 36,090 students and 785 teachers over three years.

The impact of this project will be threefold: making learning easier for students by using a simple curriculum that matches their abilities; helping teachers by enhancing their skills and confidence; and getting the community involved to encourage school attendance.

The impact of this project will be seen in students in grades one to three showing better reading skills in their mother tongue, Kinyarwanda. Also, in pre-primary, young children will improve their learning using an assessment tool.

Finally, the management of Rwanda's education system will get stronger. This includes making early-grade reading assessments sustainable and inclusive, relying on data for decisions, and building resilience to challenges. The coordination of literacy activities at local levels will also improve for better literacy outcomes.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the hearts of teachers, parents, and administrators, that they may be open to embracing new approaches to the existing education system.
- Pray that God would grant wisdom and resilience to the teachers as they adapt to new methodologies and technologies, that they may navigate these changes with confidence and effectiveness.
- Pray God would soften the hearts of the students, that they may be receptive to new learning methods and remain engaged in their education.