

Rwanda



Literacy Building Futures

**Project: Non UBS
Tax Deductible**



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

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.

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 2025 the project will enhance teacher training programs and increase access to learning materials for teachers in 15 schools located in four administrative sectors of Gatsibo District. Support will be given to the community and parents to support children 's reading development at home in these sectors.

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.

Testimony

"We are grateful to be selected by the Bright Future through Improved Literacy Project. I was one of the teachers who received training and we received 290 Kinyarwanda books. Now my work is much easier, I borrow the books for use during my lessons and return them so that they are available for the students during the literacy club sessions. In the clubs, I provide individual support to those children who have more challenges reading, which is impossible to do during the regular classroom lessons." — Gatsibo District Teacher

Prayer Points

- 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.