

Country strategic plan summary for 2008 -2013

This document describes how Plan Rwanda and its partners will mobilise different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2008 to 2013.

About Rwanda

Rwanda is a landlocked country in central Africa often called “The land of a thousand hills”, because of the innumerable rolling hills that cover the entire landscape. With a population of around nine million people and a total area of 26,000 square miles, Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa, with an average of around 350 people/km².

Around 75% of the population is below 30 years old and agriculture is the main source of livelihood.

Plan Rwanda’s program

Plan has been working in Rwanda since 2007 and currently is working in five administrative areas in the eastern province district of Gatsibo. Plan Rwanda expects to expand its operations to some more areas over the next five years and will continue to focus on improving girl child education, early childhood care and development services, youth empowerment and children’s rights programs.

Key issues affecting children in Rwanda

- High school drop out rate especially for girls due to poverty levels and poor school health and sanitation environment.
- Limited early childhood care and development services for children 0-6 due to unavailability of services and policy.
- Youth social and economic disempowerment as a result of inadequate employment opportunities and skills for youths.
- Children’s rights are not respected and are often violated due to weak community institutions and little awareness of children’s rights.

Map of Rwanda



Children learning in their classroom in Gatsibo district

How will Plan Rwanda address these issues?

To help ensure education for all children, especially girls, Plan will focus on:

- Raise awareness in the communities on the importance of girls' education by focussing on gender equality in the education system and performance.
- Keeping the enrolled children particularly girls in schools through support in education fees.
- Get an alternative form of education to support the drop out school children.
- Promote income generating activities for families to be able to keep their children in school.
- Improve the school environment through construction of classrooms and provision of safe water in schools.

To help promote early childhood care and development services, Plan will focus on promoting to the government and communities early childhood care and learning interventions. These will be provided through partnerships involving families, communities and community based institutions through:

- Support to the government in setting national early childhood care and development policy.
- Support communities and families putting in place structures and infrastructures for early childhood care and development program.
- Building capacity of community members in order to enable them to provide services in their communities.
- Support in improving the quality of pre-school and pre-scholar programs.
- Improve the access to health services by training health services providers and support with health centre infrastructure where it is lacking.

To help promote youth social economic empowerment, Plan will focus on developing youth's capacity to help themselves and to provide for their own income generating activities through:

- Vocational skills training.
- Entrepreneurship and business management training.
- Organising youths into cooperatives
- Organising youths into saving and credit groups.
- Encouraging youths to form/join peer groups that can provide support in life skills.



Youth in a carpentry training centre in Gatsibo

To help promote the rights of children in general and children's right to participation and protection, Plan will:

- Promote child rights awareness programs through training of communities' leaders and families.
- Promote child participation in all Plan programs.
- Work with both local and international organisations for child rights advocacy and child protection.
- Strengthen community-based organisations.

Program approach

Plan will focus on the overall theme of children's education with four corresponding country programs; Girl Education; Early Childhood Care and Development, Youth Empowerment and Governance and Children's Rights. To ensure the likelihood of sustaining development efforts, long after Plan phases out of the communities, Plan will work to enhance the grassroots level work of mass organisations such as the community based groups, youth groups, children groups and women groups.