



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



LEARN: IMPROVING LEARNING OUTCOMES IN RWANDA

Rwanda has achieved notable success in the education sector, boasting the highest net enrollment rate in Sub-Saharan Africa with 98.8 percent of children enrolled in primary school.

The remaining challenges include increasing literacy and numeracy levels, and reducing the school drop-out rate. To meet its development goals and to strengthen the necessary human capital, Rwanda needs to increase the quality of basic education service delivery.

OVERVIEW OF USAID SUPPORT

Improving early-grade reading outcomes has been a priority for USAID's support in education. The strategic investments in teacher training, teaching and learning materials, assessments, and school-community partnerships ensure that all children learn to read within their first few years of schooling.

For youth struggling to find stable employment, USAID provides market-relevant employability skills and connects them to employment opportunities. Youth interested in entrepreneurship receive training and assistance with access to education finance.

FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS

USAID focuses on improving the literacy skills of children in the Kinyarwanda language in grades one through three, as well as on improving pre-reading skills among children at the pre-primary level. As a result of these efforts, in 2021 only four percent of learners in grade 3 could not read a single word, compared to 28 percent in 2018. In addition, reading comprehension improved from 30 percent in 2018, to 84.3 percent in 2021.

USAID programming includes the development and distribution of locally produced student texts and teacher guides in Kinyarwanda, training on literacy instruction for teachers, advocacy for literacy, and development of reading assessment tools. 78 percent of teachers exhibit essential teaching skills in 2021, compared to only 21 percent in 2019.

In addition to improving reading instruction in schools, USAID is supporting national efforts to increase effective parent and community involvement to improve literacy learning and build a culture of reading in Rwanda. Literacy-related messaging reached 3.5 million parents, resulting in an increase in numbers of parents who support their children’s literacy learning from 59 percent in 2018 to 84 percent in 2021.

YOUTH AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

USAID creates pathways to stable employment for Rwandan youth by encouraging entrepreneurship and creating linkages to continuing formal education, paid internships, and jobs. Interventions strengthen the efforts of local youth-serving organizations and the Government of Rwanda’s Workforce Development Authority and Rwanda Polytechnic Institutions.

Youth also receive training in basic life skills and work readiness through a “soft skills” curriculum that includes leadership, teamwork, communication, financial management, and goal setting. Just in 2021, USAID trained 30,000 youth who found employment, which translates to a total of 15 percent of all jobs created in Rwanda that year.



U.S. Ambassador Peter Vrooman reading books in Kinyarwanda to celebrate the International Literacy Month.

MARTIN TINDEWENSI / USAID



Parents now read on average 33 minutes with their children - a direct outcome of USAID work in promoting the culture of reading.

SOMA UMENYE ACTIVITY / USAID



78 percent of teachers demonstrate essential teaching skills - a direct outcome of USAID work in training teachers throughout Rwanda.

MARTIN TINDEWENSI / USAID