



EDUCATION

EDUCATION IN RWANDA

Rwanda has made remarkable progress in education since the devastating impact of the 1994 genocide, which resulted in large numbers of orphans, decimated infrastructure, and a depleted skilled population. One of the most notable accomplishments in this area is expanded access to education, with net primary enrollment at 93 percent in 2009 and girls enrolled at equal levels to boys. This achievement was aided by the elimination of primary school fees in 2003, lower secondary fees in 2007, expanded infrastructure, more teachers, and more textbooks. With 40 percent of its population being of age 14-35 and a significant number of youth considered vulnerable, the Government of Rwanda is focusing on improving the quality of education to equip graduates with employable skills as the priority for the country's education sector in the near term. The complexity of this effort is compounded by Rwanda's recent change from French to English as the medium of instruction.

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

Primary Education:

Number of Schools	2,469
Net Enrollment Rate:	93%
Completion Rate:	75%
Repetition Rate:	15%
Drop Out Rate:	15%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	63
Pupil-Classroom Ratio	70

Secondary Education:

Number of Schools	1,208
Net Enrollment Rate:	13%
Completion Rate:	15%
Repetition Rate:	6%
Drop Out Rate:	9%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	49
Pupil-Classroom Ratio	28

Source: Ministry of Education

RESPONSE

USAID provides education and workforce training to Rwandan out-of-school youth (ages 14-24), many of whom are orphans and vulnerable children. Working through and with youth-serving organizations, USAID helps Rwandan youth develop the skills and attitudes necessary to obtain sustainable livelihoods, maintain healthy lifestyles, and participate constructively in their communities.

USAID/Rwanda works with the Rwandan Ministry of Education to expand access to quality education through the effective use of information and communication technologies (ICT). Through its Rwanda Education Commons (REC), USAID works with the Ministry to align the nation's growing ICT-in-Education projects with education sector goals. The REC is developing multimedia education content for teacher training and will increase teacher capacity to create, deliver, and learn from ICT-in-Education activities.

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program (AGSP), USAID provides comprehensive educational and social support to orphans and vulnerable children in Rwanda through scholarships, mentoring, HIV/AIDS awareness activities, and parent and community awareness activities.

At the higher education level, USAID has supported the National University of Rwanda's (NUR) partnerships with three U.S. universities: the University of Colorado for the establishment and strengthening of its post-graduate program in family medicine; Tulane University for the establishment of NUR's School of Public Health; and Texas A&M University for improved agriculture program.

RESULTS

Launched in 2010 and followed by teacher training, an online education portal (www.educationcommons.rw) provides educational resources for teachers, parents, and students. Over 300GB of multimedia content and a library of 10,000 teaching resources, lesson plans, and other education-related materials is available through this website. DVDs and hard disks with the materials are distributed to schools with no connection to the internet. Additional locally-produced multimedia modules are in development.

Youth work readiness curriculum that includes leadership, financial literacy and communication training has been produced, tested, and translated into Kinyarwanda. To date, 500 youth (of the 12,500 targeted by the project end) have been trained on work readiness skills.

Through PEPFAR's education support to orphans and vulnerable children, nearly 33,000 primary and 13,500 secondary school scholarships were given in the year 2009. Through AGSP, nearly 4,200 boys and girls received secondary school scholarships since 2005.

24,000 books donated by the Books for Africa, a U.S. non-profit, and brought to Rwanda by USAID were distributed to 41 schools and are used to teach English and promote reading.