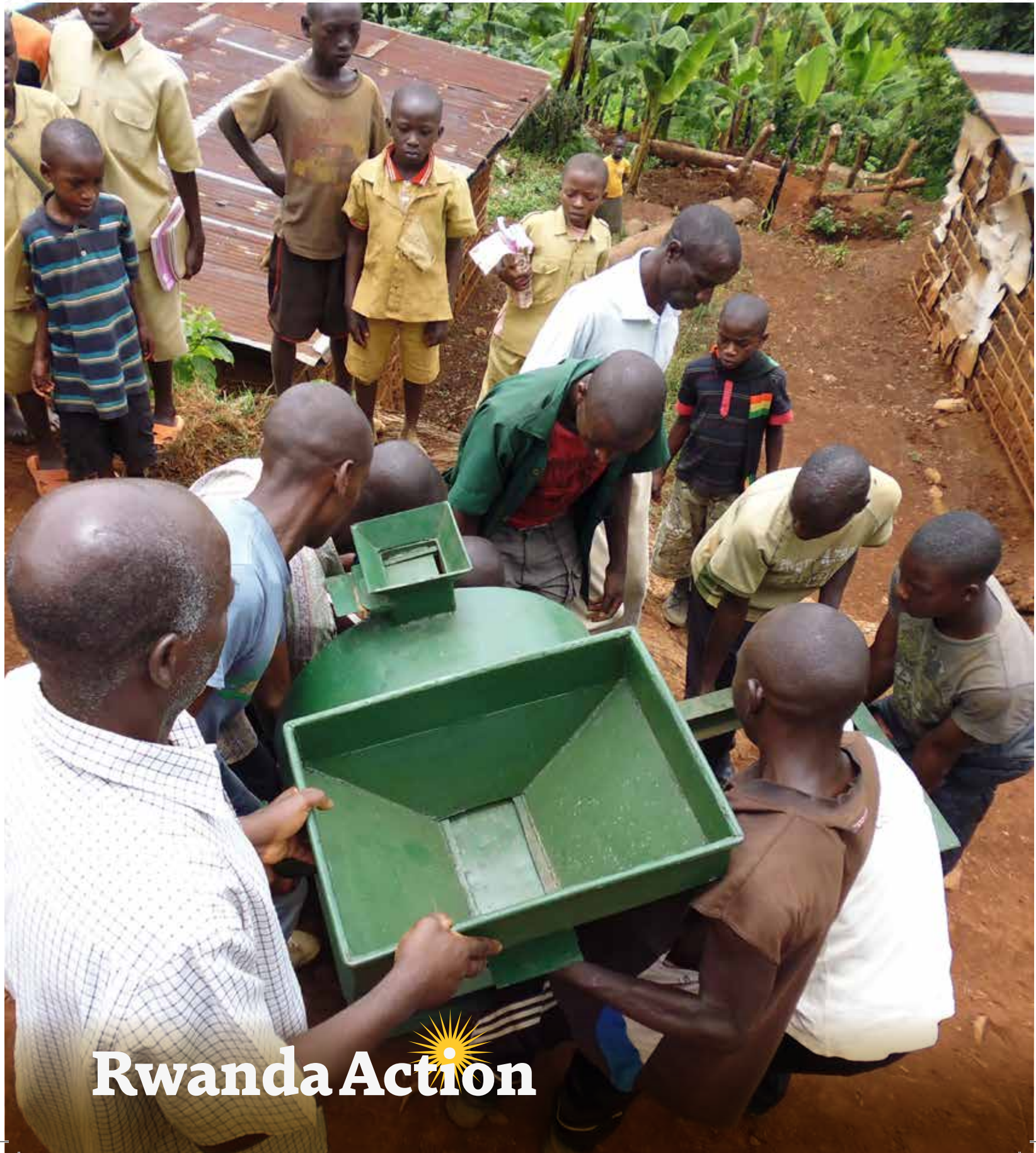


# Annual Impact Report 2021



**Rwanda Action**



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# Introduction

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**David Chaplin OBE**  
**CEO, Rwanda Action**

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Whilst 2020 was necessarily a year of careful retrenchment in the light of Covid and its attendant lockdowns, 2021 has increasingly been a year of growing confidence and achievement for Rwanda Action.

The Trustees took the early and brave decision to move ahead with the building of the Alivera Village and I am delighted to be able to report that this was completed to a good standard and will become fully operational early in 2022. We are enormously grateful to architects Tim Ryan (Brydenwood) and Ben Reed (Ben Reed Architects) for designing the Village on a pro bono basis. We have had to make some compromises on their imaginative design, but the Village functions extremely well, and the central rondavel goes some way towards retaining the original concept.

Big thanks also to engineer Leo Woods who also acted for us on a pro bono basis. Not only did he travel out to Rwanda to oversee the critical survey, nearly finding himself stranded there as Covid struck, but he also patiently oversaw the construction with weekly Zoom meetings from the UK.

Another highlight of the year was the first set of P6 results in the sixteen pilot schools chosen for the Learning Initiative. These far exceeded our targets and have attracted a lot of interest from the Rwanda Education Board (REB) and the National Assessment and Schools Inspection Authority (NESA): they will all be watching with interest as we scale up this programme in 2022. In this respect, it is encouraging that the new Director of Education at UNICEF (Rwanda) is also interested in this project and has promised to visit our team next year.



From May 2022 I shall be handing over the reins to a new CEO so this will be my last Impact Report. I am very much in favour of slipping quietly out of the back door, but I would like to take this opportunity of saying huge and heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped to make the Charity what it is. There are too many to name – co-founders, incredibly generous donors, dedicated volunteers, brilliant Trustees, youth associates, card sellers, sponsors, and, not least, the wonderful team in Rwanda. I have made so many friends, met so many generous and inspirational people and I have so many wonderful memories to dwell on as I slide gently into dotage. The Rwandan journey has been immensely rewarding and I would not have missed it for the world. Thank you.

And, of course, because of the commitment and vision of the Trustees, Rwanda Action is not coming to an end but rather entering a very exciting new stage of its life. My successor is called Robbie Macmillan. Robbie has a degree in International Development and has wide experience of working in international development, much of it in Rwanda. He is full of energy and enthusiasm, and he is immensely fortunate to be able to draw on the experience and wisdom of our UK Operations Director, Janyis Watson. Together they will forge a great and powerful future for the charity.

# Mission

**Empowering communities to relieve poverty**

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# Vision

**To be no longer needed**

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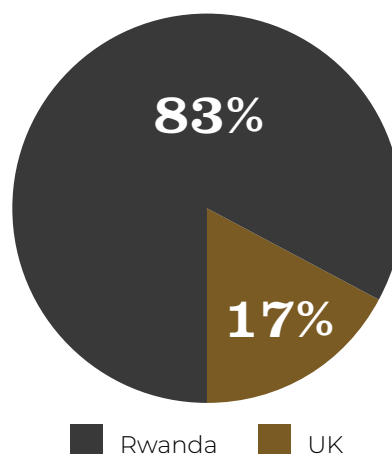
# Approach

To reduce poverty, we work with the community to identify the most pressing challenges.

- Together we devise and pilot innovative solutions to those challenges
  - Through careful monitoring and evaluation, we produce the evidence to show that these solutions are working
  - We encourage and help the community and government to adopt and run with these solutions
  - This gives our work scale and sustainability
- 

# Our Spending

Our expenditure in Rwanda in 2021 was **£374,960**. Our expenditure in the UK (mostly staff costs) was **£78,792**. This is a substantial increase on 2020 where expenditure dipped due to the restrictions of the pandemic. However, it also shows a substantial increase compared to 2019. This is primarily due to investment in the construction of The Alivera Village (**£161,332**). Our total expenditure in 2021 was therefore **£453,752**. The following pages set out the impact we achieved with this spending.





# 01 Building Communities

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By empowering communities,  
we reduce poverty where it is  
most acute



The Government of Rwanda responded to the Covid-19 crisis with an early lockdown policy, closing schools and all non-essential businesses, and limiting movement. There is evidence that this has been extremely effective in containing the spread of the Covid virus, but the socio-economic impacts have compounded the challenges of poorer communities. In Nyamasheke and Rusizi districts, where Rwanda Action works, more than 60 per cent of the population already live in extreme poverty (\$2 or less a day).

## ENTERPRISE

The majority of people living in Rusizi and Nyamasheke survive on subsistence agriculture. With limited, hilly land and a fast-growing population this does not provide a secure future. Many young people see little prospect in farming and are drawn towards towns and cities in search of work, though many who have completed school (or even further education or vocational training) struggle to find work. The youth unemployment rate in Rwanda increased to 30.9% in the second quarter of 2021 from 21.70 percent in the first quarter of 2021.

## OUR SOLUTION

We provide training and support to help young people transform their skills and talents into gainful employment or successful business enterprises, reducing the local dependency on subsistence farming. This programme runs in partnership with the Unit of Business Development and Employment Promotion, a Rwandan Government organisation.

## OUR IMPACT

Started in 2013, our Enterprise programme has so far supported 51 small businesses across Rusizi and Nyamasheke districts. We continued to support and follow-up with 40 of these in 2021, comprising **14 new start-ups**, and 26 existing projects. Combined, our work supports **830 primary** and **3,432 secondary beneficiaries**.

We supported **14 new start-up groups** with assessment, training, and start-up kits (£14,073) to kick-start their enterprises, working with **183 direct beneficiaries** to support **856 indirect beneficiaries**.

These cooperatives include baking and carpentry, sewing and videography in Rusizi, and in Nyamasheke, include welding, IT, catering, and shoemaking. with an average spend of **£1,005** per start-up for the new projects starting this year.

We were able to support 12 of the 26 pre-existing groups with a Covid-19 resilience grant (**£6,286**), giving an average spend of £524 which enabled them to keep their business afloat throughout lockdowns which hit them with unexpected losses, supply issues and reduced consumer demand.

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**Enterprises indirectly supported  
over 3,400 people in 2021**





Additionally, we provided a training and networking event for 40 groups and cooperatives, with 79 attendees and nine speakers and facilitators (**£1,960**). This event provided groups with the opportunity to build skills, network, and discuss opportunities.

Throughout the year each enterprise we supported generated a profit, with an average reported income after expenditure of £791. In addition to this, in 2021 we have now seen 17 of the businesses we helped to establish out-grow the need for our support and continue to flourish independently of Rwanda Action.

**Abiyitaho, Knitting & Handcraft produces high quality knitwear. Its 37 members have visual impairments or children with disabilities. Many of these entrepreneurs previously had no opportunity to work. Today they support 148 people through their enterprise and, recently, their president has been appointed as an advisor at the National Council for People with Visual Impairment.**



## TREE NURSERIES

Around 85% of Rwanda's population is rural and reliant on subsistence agriculture. Trees help people protect their land from soil erosion, help retain nutrients, and provide shade, but much of the landscape has been deforested, depriving communities of diverse resources such as timber, firewood, and fruit, which can be both used or sold.

## OUR SOLUTION

Rwanda Action provides training and support for communities to grow their own tree nurseries. Alongside the funding and expertise for constructing the nurseries. We provide seeds, pots, and manure in the first year of operation. Tree nurseries are requested by communities, who then lead the development of building the tree nurseries, transporting manure, transplanting seedlings, watering and monitoring the growing seedlings and saplings. The seedlings cost just over 4p each and are distributed to the community at no charge during the first year.

**We have planted over 188,000 tree seedlings this year**

## OUR IMPACT

Rwanda Action planted two new tree nurseries in the communities of Karambi and Shangi in Nyamasheke district at a cost of **£1,365**, planting over **32,000 seeds**. These were due to be planted in 2020 but delayed due to the pandemic. The team provided two days of training and worked with the community to select an appropriate site for the nurseries, sowing passion fruit, eucalyptus, guava, macadamia, and papaya amongst other species. Rwanda Action also supported five tree nurseries through RDIS (Rural Development Inter-Diocesan Services). With this support, RDIS provided **156,697** forest, agroforest, and fruit trees to the communities in five sectors across Rusizi and Nyamasheke, with each sector planting around 30,000 seedlings. A total of **£6,400** was spent supporting RDIS with their work. In total the five tree nurseries support **11,254** beneficiaries with trees and the long-term benefits they provide, alongside lasting skills and jobs.

Rwanda Action also continued monitoring progress at established nurseries, including those in Gikundamvura, Nzahaha and Gihombo, which were established in 2016 and 2017. Recipients of trees in each of these sectors are now seeing real benefits. Farmers across all locations have stated that money from selling their trees' fruit is now paying their children's school fees, providing them with shade and firewood. Local forestry officers and farmers report that forestation has increased in the regions around the tree nurseries, and that soil erosion has stabilised.

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**"I am happy because I was given avocado and grevillea seedlings to plant. I used to have a very large plot with no trees but now I'm going to plant more avocados trees, so that my children will be able to harvest them in the future."**

**David, Kanjongo nursery site**

FARM TRAINING

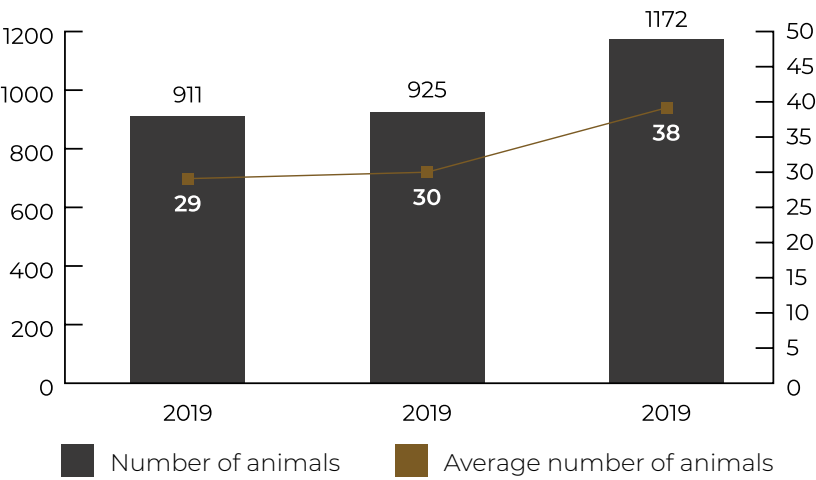
In Rwanda around 72% of the population are employed in agriculture. Much of the landscape is hilly, with steep slopes, and people often only have small parcels of infertile land, often less than one acre. Many young people see little prospect in farming and move towards the towns in search of work in a limited jobs market.

OUR SOLUTION

Rwanda Action trains people to farm more effectively and productively, so providing a better diet and income for their families. Farmers are encouraged and trained to form associations and cooperatives. These can operate as successful businesses and so help to develop the rural economy. Working in the community and in close association with the sector authorities, we provide training in sustainable organic farming and livestock husbandry. Each trainee commits to training at least two others in their community or association, and our vet and agronomist provide follow-ups for all trainees, visiting them at least once a year for three years.

OUR IMPACT

Rwanda Action has helped to form 31 farming associations with livestock and crop training and management of cooperatives. We have also supplied animals and resources to improve animal care. In 2021 we spent an average of **£344** on each association, with the majority of this spend (**63%**) going towards providing more animals. The average number of animals in each cooperative **has increased by 27%** over 2021 from 30 to 38. Twelve associations received **239** animals in total, the majority being goats (218) and pigs (21). Animals help to provide additional income as they can be bred and sold, produce milk, and they produce manure which improves yields.



**“Before Rwanda Action’s support I didn’t have any animal management skills. Since the training, and gifting of a female pig, I have gifted pigs to two people and increased the size of my banana plot. I have bought a smart phone and now pay health insurance for 7 family members, plus school fees for 4 children.”**

Esperance, Tuzamurane Association





## THE FUTURE FOR BUILDING COMMUNITIES

We are exploring a new solution to poverty reduction by piloting a more targeted approach to delivering our farm training and enterprise programmes. This approach will enable us to measure their impact more precisely and hence offer a better package for replication. This includes baselining against ten specific indicators of poverty based on the Grameen Out of Poverty Index, followed by targeted support in small, pilot areas. We will use the evidence of the relief of poverty that has been achieved to encourage the government to replicate this methodology in its own programmes of poverty relief.

We have started working in our first pilot cell in Rusizi district, Kinyaga. This consists of five villages. We have carried out a detailed survey of this cell which involved consulting with the sector, cell, and village authorities and visiting over 240 of the poorest families. We are now putting together a bespoke plan designed to help to move this community forward. This will focus on empowerment and will include developing one off-farm and one farm enterprise group in each of the five villages, as well as school kitchen gardens and community tree nurseries. We are already working in the two schools in Kinyaga, delivering support through our Learning Initiative programme.

As we develop this programme, we will carefully measure the effectiveness of the intervention against the detailed baseline we have established.



# 02 Education

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We improve the quality of  
teaching and learning





We share the Rwandan government's conviction that this small, hilly, and densely populated country cannot survive on subsistence farming alone. For the future it is critical to build a more knowledge-based economy.

## **SCHOOL-BASED MENTOR PROGRAMME**

Whilst over 90% of children are registered in nine years basic schooling, there is a high drop-out rate. Reasons for this include poverty, large classes, poor resources and a sudden switch to English as the medium for teaching, but our experience tells us that the main reason is the absence of enough well-trained teachers.

### **OUR SOLUTION**

Rwanda Action piloted and developed an innovative School-Based Mentor (SBM) programme which provides in-service training for teachers with a special emphasis on learner-centred teaching and careful assessment and differentiation. We have gradually expanded this programme and over the years have built strong relationships with headteachers and the local authorities. We have selected and trained lead teachers in each of the 33 sectors and with our support they have trained school-based mentors in all the schools in their respective sectors – reaching over 250 schools in total.

### **In 2021 we continued to focus on two areas.**

Through our Continuous Professional Development programme, we continued to train and support our 33 Lead Teachers across the two districts, focusing on developing the teachers' English skills. Lead Teachers then train Headteachers, Directors of Study, and **School-Based Mentors** who in turn deliver training to teachers in their respective schools.

**Our education programmes reach over 168,000 students in over 250 schools**

At the same time, we developed **The Learning Initiative (TLI)** which started in 2020 to provide in-depth training to 16 teachers from some of the lowest performing schools in both districts. The scheme is designed to promote more effective teaching and learning by focusing on formative assessment and differentiated teaching. Instead of working mechanically through a syllabus with a high proportion of talk and chalk and rote learning, teachers are encouraged to assess the levels of their pupils and to build a programme of study designed to build on the pupils' levels of attainment

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**“Our teachers were struggling to implement the new Competency Based Curriculum. Rwanda Action empowered our School-Based Mentor with learner-centred methodology. Their mentoring means we now have confident teachers, and we are the first school in the sector to have good performance in the national exams.”**

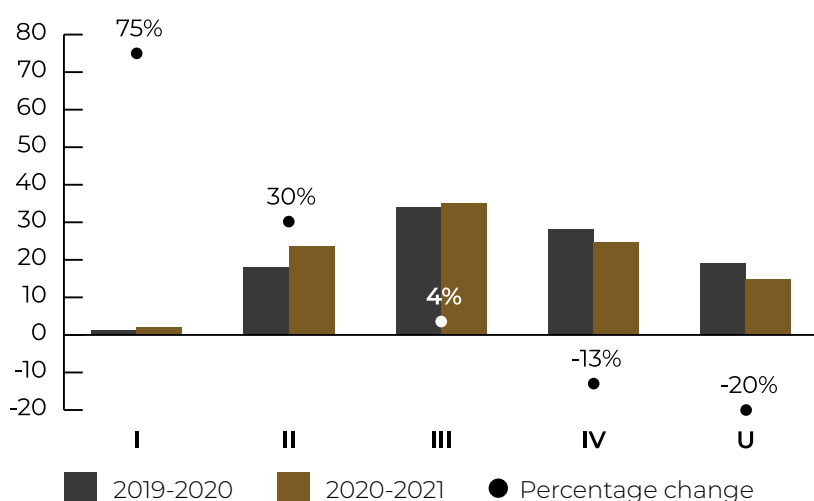
**Rugaragara Head Teacher**

## OUR IMPACT

In total our Lead Teachers in our SBM programme directly supported **867 educational specialists**, providing them with skills to improve the learning environment for **168,031 students** as indirect beneficiaries, as well as their teachers and families. We continued to recruit and train Lead Teachers to replace natural turnover in roles.

**The lowest grades have fallen by an average of 20% across all schools**

The graph below shows the changes in grades achieved by pupils (P6) in national exams over the past two years in all schools in the two districts. The progress made by the programme is most pronounced at the lower end of the grades, where the lowest grade (Grade U, ungraded) scores have dropped by **20%**. Top scores, whilst still relatively low in number, have increased by **75%**. Grade II scores have increased by 30%. These scores show a positive shift at every grade boundary.



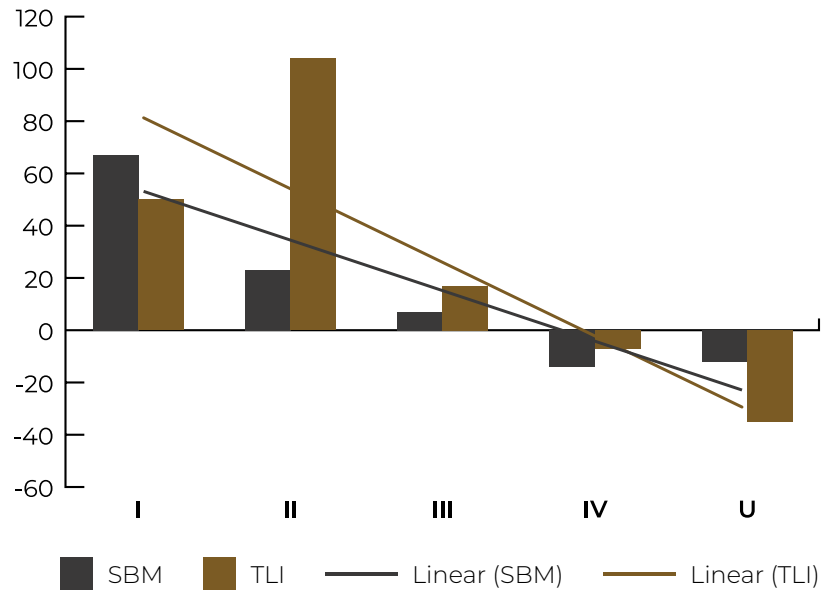
In the 16 lower-achieving schools working with TLI the grade shift is even more pronounced. The proportion of students achieving only **Grade U has dropped by 35%** to 18.3% of the total, bringing them up to the average for the region. Although the number of students achieving the top grade (Grade I) remains low (increasing by 50% from 0.4% to 0.6%), the number of students achieving Grade II more than **doubled to 17%**, again bringing them in line with the average for the region.

**Our TLI pilot has seen the lowest 'Grade U' fall by 35%, whilst 'Grade II' has doubled to 17%**



The graph below shows the percentage change in grades in TLI and the other SBM schools separated out to outline the benefit TLI is bringing. Both programmes are showing clear progress. The trend lines show the rate of improvement is faster in TLI than SBM schools, though both programmes are showing marked improvement.

Taken together and giving a weighted average\* to the grades, the SBM schools' average scores **improved by 9%** overall, whilst TLI supported schools **improved by 34%**.



“Before Rwanda Action’s support we studied independently, there was no cooperation between learners. Now we are studying cooperatively in groups, pairs and individuals learn from each other.”

A P5 student in Rugaragara Primary school

“There is real potential in the [SBM] scheme. I can see improvement already in teaching and students’ involvement and enjoyment. The results in many schools have improved a lot.”

A School Inspector

### SCHOOL KITCHEN GARDEN

Our school kitchen garden scheme was born out of the huge need we have seen for children to be able to have more than the one meal a day they often survive on. Maslow's 'hierarchy of needs' clearly shows that if a child's basic physiological needs are not met, then they will be unable to achieve to the best of their abilities. Hungry children struggle in school.

Our kitchen gardens feed the 47% of students who could not afford to eat school lunch.

### OUR SOLUTION

Rwanda Action has supported the development of fully operational school kitchen gardens at two sites, with two more currently being established. At these schools, the students help tend the crops, learning horticulture and environmental skills which the schools encourage them to use to develop vegetable gardens at home.

### OUR IMPACT

The established kitchen gardens generate a wide range of crops, which are picked and immediately added to the lunch menu to supplement the school lunches already paid for. This allows the schools to prepare nutritious meals for everyone. Across both schools **876** students are fed daily, of which **410 (47%)** were previously unable to pay. This year the gardens have grown the equivalent of **£1,088** worth of vegetables, which would otherwise have had to be bought. The total area planted between the two schools has increased to over 2 hectares from 1.7 hectares in 2020.



**“Because of the school meals I am not hungry at school, I can study well and I feel I will pass the exams...During the holiday I will help my family create a vegetable garden.”**

**Christine - school student**

### **NKOMBO TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET)**

Nkombo Island is an isolated part of Rusizi district. Like many communities on the shores of Lake Kivu, islanders rely heavily on fishing for their income. As an island, Nkombo lacks the infrastructure which has allowed more diverse enterprises to develop elsewhere.

### **OUR SOLUTION**

We directly support students to attend Nkombo TVET. Students learn a variety of technical and vocational skills. These skills allow them to establish businesses which meet the community's needs and offer job opportunities aside from fishing. In turn this helps to develop the island's economy.

### **OUR IMPACT**

In 2021 we supported 80 of the 105 students to complete the delayed final term of their studies from the 2020 cohort. These students started their course late in 2020 due to the pandemic (a total support amount of **£1,414**). For the 2021 cohort Rwanda Action supported **60** of the 72 students with their fees (**£1147**), with an equal split of male and female students. Students studied masonry, tailoring, carpentry, welding, and electrics.

**“I can't find the best way to express my gratitude to Rwanda Action for everything done at Nkombo; especially investing in the education of young people. Now we are pleased to see young and old people coming to learn vocational skills in our trades. I consider this as miracle.”**

**A Nkombo TVET staff member**



# 03 Disability

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Our aim is to improve the understanding of disability in the community



Disability is often misunderstood in Rwanda, leading to unnecessary suffering. Parents often blame themselves for the challenges their children face, and many children are hidden away, some even abandoned. Very few are able to access education and employment.

#### OUR SOLUTION

Our conviction is that every young person is special and precious. **The Alivera Centre** provides residential and outreach training and care in support of children with disability. It was inspired by a girl called Alivera who sadly lost her young life to epilepsy. We were determined to try to prevent this happening to other children with disability. We provide training for parents, teachers, and carers so that disability will be better understood, and children will be cared for and integrated into the community. We have found that with the right kind of support many children do well in mainstream schooling. We are working with the primary school adjacent to The Alivera Centre to become a **School of Excellence for Special Needs and Inclusive Education** and we hope that this will inspire other schools to make better provision for including and caring for children with disability.



## THE ALIVERA VILLAGE

The Centre and the School have been very successful in helping many children with disability complete schooling and training. However, it is a sad fact that at the end of it all many of those children find it impossible to find paid employment, the only real route to independence.

Most of the children have overcome enormous challenges to complete their schooling or training and it seems very wrong that at the end of it all there should be nothing for them to do. At the last, and in many respects, the most important hurdle, we are letting them down.

**It is for this reason that we have built the Alivera Village; designed to give these young people work experience prior to helping them to find employment or to set up their own enterprise projects.**

The district has provided us with land adjacent to The Alivera Centre and we have completed the Village at a cost of £161,332. It has two residential blocks for up to 32 young people with disability, five workshops, four shops, a café and a small farm and demonstration kitchen garden. There is also a spacious modern toilet block which will be open to the public and a large rondavel for meetings and performances.

Although we will run the farm and kitchen garden ourselves, the shops and workshops will be let out to successful enterprise groups with the agreement that they will provide work experience for an agreed number of young people with disability. **It is very encouraging that eight of the ten units have already been taken up by local enterprise groups keen to support apprentices/trainees with disability.**

There will be opportunities for shoemaking, card-making, tailoring, knitting, hairdressing, catering, office services, farming, and gardening. Young people with disability (YPWD) will stay at the village for a maximum of two years and will then be given support to find paid employment or to set up their own small business.

The success of this project will be measured by the following Key Performance Indicators:

1. The commercial success of the Village, with financial independence after five years.
2. At least 500 visitors to the café and the Village in the first year.
3. At least 12 YPWD will gain paid employment in the community at the end of the first year, and at least a further 12 each year thereafter.

4. At least 2 YPWD leading enterprise groups at the end of each year
5. **Evidence of greater understanding and inclusion of young people with disability.** Already officials from the National Commission for People with Disability and the Rwandan National Union for the Deaf have visited the Village and expressed enthusiasm for its mission and reported back positively to central Government. They are keen to promote the work of the Village and already the shoemaking group has appeared on national television. The Government are also determined to promote this project as a model for other districts to replicate.



## OUR IMPACT

At the Centre, Rwanda Action supported **47 students** under our residential programme, alongside a further **seven students** studying outside the centre at university or boarding school by providing their school fees, and necessary materials, including several laptops. We followed-up with a further 13 who graduated this year and who are now living in the community or in education.

The Centre performs regular health screening for residential students. This helps to provide both basic healthcare and recommendations for additional support, both of which would be difficult to obtain otherwise. **Six children** we recommended for physiotherapy, **five** were referred to hospital for other services. Other children were supported with additional dietary guidance and medication.

In 2021 The Alivera Centre expanded and recruited a physiotherapy assistant, additional carers, administrative and security staff. This extra resource helped us to facilitate physiotherapy **training for 15 parents** in Rusizi and Nyamasheke. Parents learnt about the causes and management of their children's disabilities.

This year we **trained eight** deaf young children and their parents in basic **sign language**. This training allows deaf children to communicate not just with their parents, but also to train their wider family and friends. We also trained and provided sign language training to **20** community leaders and health workers. We also continued to provide support for teachers to improve their understanding and ability to support students with disabilities.

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**“I cannot find the words to thank Rwanda Action for their excellent support and changing my life for the better. My mother got divorced because she refused to abandon me due to my disability. My mother and I could not believe that I could complete primary education, yet very soon I will graduate university. The Alivera Centre has helped me to achieve much more than I was expecting in my life.**

**I hope my life will help change the attitudes of the community towards disabled people. If I can graduate with good enough grades, I will be able to apply for my master's in economics. With that I can find a great job.”**

**Clementine**



**Sixteen** parents completed training to help support them once their children return to family life from our residential support. This support encourages parents to understand how to encourage independent living and how to provide care that meets their children's needs.

The Alivera Centre also acts as a point for other organisations to support our community. In 2021, we worked with the Rwanda National Association for Deaf Women to provide Rwanda Action with **£305** of support to train deaf female students in reproductive health, provide sanitary pads as well as celebrating International Day for People with Disabilities.



Fidele is a 26-year-old graduate of the Alivera Centre. He suffered bullying within his community and was abandoned by his parents due to his cerebral palsy, which made him unable to walk. Fidele joined the Alivera Centre and was given a wheelchair. With us, Fidele completed nine years of education, learnt sign language, and learnt to play the piano. Fidele told us "The piano makes me happy and helps reduce my depression caused by my past."

In 2020 we offered Fidele the chance to learn shoemaking. He returned from the training and established his own business with a shoemaking workshop at the Centre, through which he trains three young people with disabilities. "Today, I am the solution for the community... no other person is doing what I can do in our area. The community no longer see my disability but see me as important."

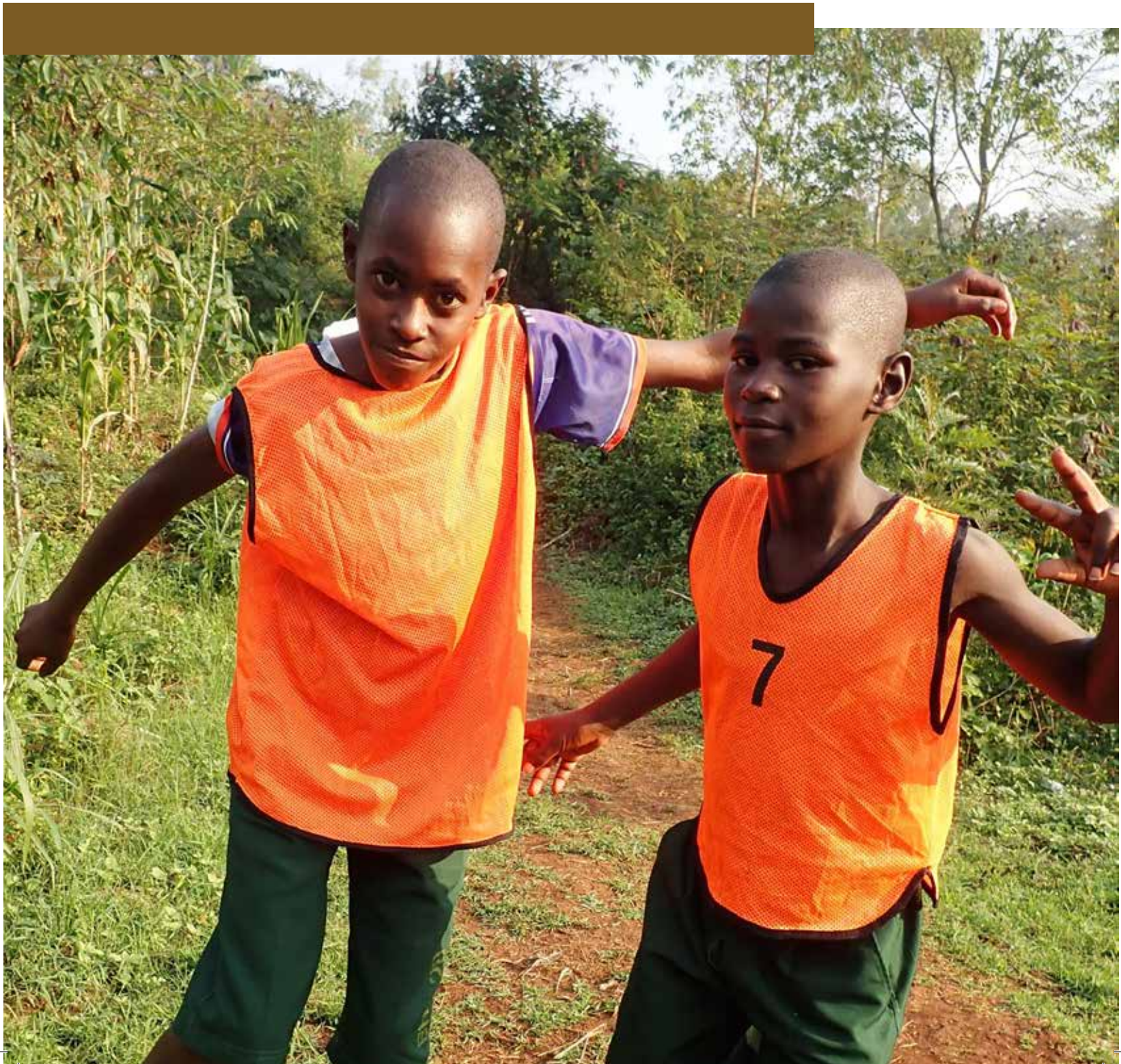
Fidele is training people like Aline. Rwanda Action supported Aline, who is deaf, to learn sign language when she was a child. Because of this, she could attend school. The Alivera Centre offered her the chance to train as a shoemaker with Fidele. In Aline's words "I am now able to produce good quality shoes. People are often surprised to see a deaf woman making shoes, as it is not very common even for women without disability. Rwanda Action improved my life and made me happy; the community can see my skills instead of my disability."



# 04 Street Children

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We work with vulnerable families to avoid children living on the streets





Rwanda Action has worked in the districts of Nyamasheke and Rusizi since 2008. Our offices are based in Kamembe, the main town on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. As such, it is a place of transition which attracts a diverse population including some of the most desperate people.

Children are driven onto the streets for a variety of reasons: the death of parents; absent parents due to family conflict, divorce, imprisonment; children born from prostitution; domestic violence; lack of food at home or the means to send children to school and children dropping out of school. Living on the street, children often seek very low paid work and can be forced into begging or prostitution.

In all that we do, we are determined to support those on the margins of society, especially children.

#### OUR SOLUTION

In 2012 we built a centre called “Baho Neza Mwana” (“A Better Life for Children”) which provided short-term residential care for street children in a stable, supportive environment with schooling and/or training opportunities. At the same time, we set out to identify and support their families so that the children could be reintegrated in their homes. This programme has been remarkably successful with very nearly 90% of the children remaining off the street.

In 2020 the Rwandan authorities decided to phase out residential care for street children so, to be in line with this policy, we are channelling our support for vulnerable families and children through our “Building Communities” programme. Our target is to reduce the poverty that drives children onto the street.

We have opened a new centre at the site, called the Rusizi Social Care Centre (RSCC). It is the base for our outreach work in communities and we are delivering training for parents and key members of the community to improve the care of vulnerable children. Training takes place on weekdays and includes the following:

- teacher training with an emphasis on inclusion
- business and enterprise training
- parental skills training

On Saturdays, the children from disadvantaged local families are invited to come to the Saturday Club at the Centre where they can benefit from a good meal, recreational opportunities, counselling and help with their studies. This enables us to monitor the progress and well-being of local children and provide family support where it is most needed.



**Erneste is now 22. It has been nine years since Rwanda Action first supported him. At the time he remembers being unable to find food, having no access to electricity or money. We trained him to weld and supported him to start out as a welder. Today he is a welding teacher with a good wage. He has a home with electricity. He has been able to pay for emergency hospital fees for his little sister and is saving for his future.**

## OUR IMPACT

This year we have worked with families of reintegrated children to assess their support needs and developed 28 family support plans tailored to their needs. This year-long programme of support focuses on our aim to empower people to overcome poverty. Families can access the training they feel they need and can also receive support to ensure they can retain housing, improve their farm, or start a business.

Just over a **quarter** of families were supported with livestock, and a further **quarter** with pens for their livestock. The majority of families received support with some form of training and/or rent support.

The Centre supported **89** students with their school fees, uniforms, and materials at a total cost of **£3,567** to enable them to attend school. Of these students, 89% completed the year. We also supported 17 primary-age siblings of these students in the same way. More recently we have begun supporting school meals for children being supported by the Centre.

We started the Saturday Club at RSCC in October with the aim of providing food and recreational opportunities such as dance, sports, and storytelling to vulnerable local children, at a cost of **£339**. The Club's counselling service also provided group and one-to-one sessions with children to explore challenges they were facing, and to understand the support which may be needed.

The number of children attending the Saturday Club who do not have access to stable homes reduced from three to one across the year. Additionally, the number of Saturday Club members attending school increased from just under 60% to **76%** this year.



# Acknowledgements

Rwanda Action is extremely grateful for the help it receives from its wonderful supporters. Learn more about our supporters here: <https://www.rwanda-action.org/supporters>.

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\* Weighted averages were calculated by using the following weighting, Grade I given a score of 1, Grade II scoring 0.75, Grade III scoring 0.5, Grade IV scoring 0.25 and grade U scoring 0, where a school in which everyone achieved Grade I would get the highest score (100%).

Exchange rates calculated on 26th April 2022. Data on poverty rates from the Rwandan Government's Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (EICV). Data on agricultural employment from the FAO and IFAD, Youth employment statistics come from National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda and Trading Economics.