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Children reading at a community library supported by USAID Homes and Communities. Photo by: Martin Tindiwensi for USAID Rwanda.

RWANDA

UBUREZI IWACU

HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

The Uburezi Iwacu (“Homes and Communities”) activity works to provide all Rwandan children with literacy-supportive, stimulating and safe home and community environments.

The activity contributes to improved literacy outcomes for all children by the end of Primary 3 by improving home literacy environments, increasing community engagement in promoting children’s literacy, and improving literacy learning opportunities for children with disabilities. Uburezi Iwacu focuses on mother tongue literacy (Kinyarwanda) as an essential building block to developing reading and writing skills in any language.

The activity also addresses social and emotional development, given its importance to forming the foundation of a child’s future learning and holistic positive development. Uburezi Iwacu collaborates with the Government of Rwanda to develop the human and institutional capacity necessary to sustain improved learning outcomes. The activity fosters self-reliance, ownership, and sustainability by focusing on community-based solutions.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve home literacy environment,
- Increase community engagement in promoting children's literacy,
- Improve learning opportunities for children with disabilities.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- 660,000 children using community-based literacy structures,
- 16,200 parent peer support networks benefiting from monthly parenting sessions,
- 14,575 reading clubs established or strengthened,
- 829,000 parents and caregivers trained to support children's education, including 20,000 with increased knowledge and skills to support children with disabilities,
- Parents and volunteers spend 15 minutes more weekly engaging in learning activities with children.

RESULTS ACHIEVED TO DATE

- Established 5,059 Parent Peer Support Networks with 147,038 parents participating,
- Trained 10,000 parents and youth on creation of children's reading and literacy materials,
- Established or strengthened 5,478 reading clubs and trained 4,419 reading club and early child development volunteers,
- Reached 69,090 children through support to community based ECD centers, including training 6,366 ECD caregivers/volunteers,
- Developed learning and well-being pathways for 3,618 children with disabilities,
- Organized and supported national literacy events,
- Supported establishment of safe and accessible new community libraries,
- Developed social behavior change communication strategy and reached an estimated 120,575 people through TV and radio talk shows and locally accessible platforms such as Umuganda,
- Trained Parent and Teacher Associations and School General Assembly Committees in Citizen Voice and Action,
- created 1,561 literacy committees to strengthen parent-school-community partnerships, and trained 4,442 primary school teachers to support community reading activities,
- Trained 12,557 faith-based organization leaders, volunteers, and local leaders to promote literacy and inclusion,
- Procured and distributed 425,121 books to reading club book banks, including 1,008 adapted books (Braille, tactile, cloth, and books with iconographic symbols) and 1,344 communication cards.

BUDGET: US \$17.7 million

DURATION

2021-2026

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Nationwide in all public and government-aided school catchment areas, with high-touch support in 12 districts.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

World Vision Inc.

SUB-AWARDEES

Humanity & Inclusion and Imbuto Foundation.

KEY COUNTERPARTS

Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), National Child Development Agency (NCDA).

MISSION CONTACT

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