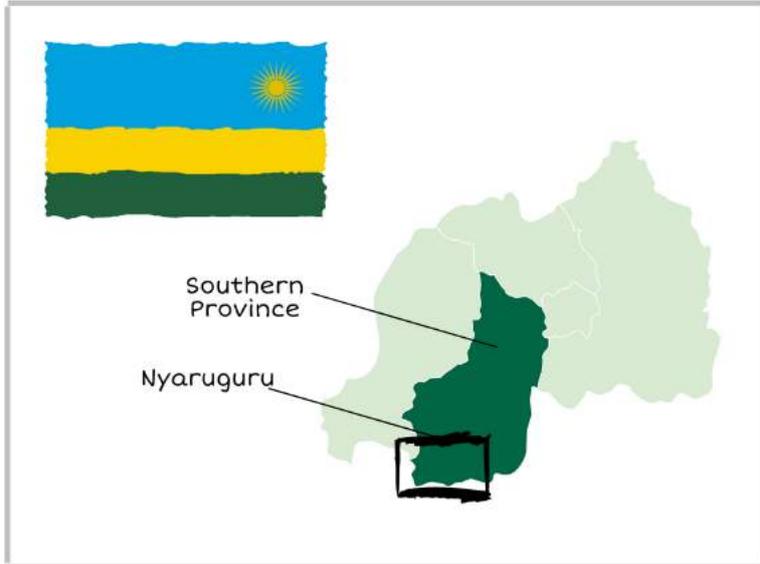




Snapshot of Link's work in Rwanda



Link has been working in Rwanda since 2017, launching our first projects in the Southern district of Nyaruguru.

Rwandan education policy commits to basic primary education for all in publically-funded state schools. However, under-resourced schools produce poor results and hidden costs, such as textbooks and uniforms, mean many children are not in school.

In 2015 Nyaruguru schools had just 1 textbook for every 10 pupils, boys outperformed girls on national exam results in 88% of schools, and just 67% of teachers were fully qualified. Many girls were dropping out of school due to pregnancy, with higher rates of illiteracy than their peers.¹

Key Statistics

- 80% of people in Rwanda live in poverty
- Just 39% of primary schools have access to water and electricity²
- 300,000 people live in Nyaruguru, 98% of which are in rural communities
- 44% of people in the region are aged 0-14³
- 5.3% of people in the region are disabled⁴



'My daughter was shy and not performing well. Now she sometimes brings story books home and she reads to her siblings [...] I noticed that her reading pace has been increased. I like this programme'

-Teacher and Mother in Rwanda

Working in partnership with:



Since 2017 Link has been working hard to deliver:

School Review and Inspection

Link brought their cornerstone School Performance Review process to the 28 schools in the district. Regional education officers were trained in data collection and inspection to allow them to better assess and analyse school performance. Each school then created a plan for improvement, with all stakeholders feeding in. We supported community management committees to be involved from the outset, and audit the schools on a quarterly basis to check against progress, with over 600 parents taking part. Headteachers have received leadership training to ensure the schools stay on track. This holistic system ensures every part of the education system is accountable, and that stakeholders work together to achieve best progress for the pupils.

At the start of the project, an average of 90% of schools were below minimum standards across the national assessment standards. By their second inspection, 52% of schools were reaching or exceeding minimum standards on average.⁴

Recognising this success, UNICEF and key government partners have invited Link to support the review of new national inspection standards and the supporting tools and training needed to implement them.

'The School Performance Review report helps us to identify the general problem in our schools so that we know where to focus and how we can allocate resources to support schools to improve' - Nyaruguru District Education Officer

Community Study Groups

In order to help reach children in the communities and reinforce the good practice in schools, Link formed Community Study Groups. Led by volunteer facilitators trained by Link, these groups meet at a time and location that best suits pupils, e.g. around domestic chores, and offers a safe space to reinforce learning through games and activities.

- We have formed 75 groups that gather once a week, with over 2,250 children attending.
- We have distributed 1,350 children's books to groups, which children can borrow and take home, like a mini-library. As schools usually lock textbooks away overnight and most families cannot afford to buy a copy, this was often the first time children had any reading materials in their homes.
- We encourage and train groups to create games and learning resources using locally available materials, like banana leaves and rice bags. This is a cheap solution children can do themselves, and not reliant on grants or funding.
- These groups are empowering and inspiring girls and their families to commit to their education: For example, at Kibangu school, girls started a savings group to buy pens and notebooks which they will use at the study group.

1. Health Poverty Action baseline study
2. UNESCO Institute for Statistics SDG Country Profile
3. Citypopulation.de
4. Health Poverty Action social inclusion study
5. Link internal reporting