



TEACH Rwanda

Teacher Education and Children's Enrichment



World-Class Education—

We Invest in Rwandan Teachers & Children!

Annual Report
2017-2018

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Contact us!

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Our Mission

Enrich children's lives by establishing world-class early childhood teacher education in Rwanda.

TEACH Rwanda is transforming education in Rwanda! What changes have we found make the biggest difference in whether children progress or hate school? A school culture of curiosity and kindness! When teachers ENCOURAGE and RESPECT children, the whole school thrives.

Read on to find out how **your investment in TEACH Rwanda is revolutionizing education** in one tiny, progressive African country. We are building the lives of...

1. **Teachers**—prepared with modern, research-based, loving teaching strategies
2. **Children**—engaged, joyful learners who love to read, write, and think analytically



Classrooms in TEACH Rwanda accredited schools are bursting with energy and love!

TEACH Rwanda's Accredited Exemplary & Project Schools

For 8 years, a few talented Rwandan teachers have been leading their country to excellence in early childhood education. All schools accredited by TEACH Rwanda must meet high, modern standards for quality.

Teachers. All teachers in our schools have successfully completed Modules 1, 2, and 3—teacher preparation workshops and mentoring that concentrate on international best practices for teachers of young children. Teachers are kind, enthusiastic, and passionate about high-quality education!

Classrooms. Enrollment is limited to 20 children per preschool class, 22 in primary. Classrooms are equipped with culturally relevant learning materials to assure that children develop analytical thinking and communication skills through play.



Bright School in Muhanga, Southern Province

Since 2012, Bright School has been a shining star for families who want the best early education in Muhanga. We have grown from one empty classroom to buildings that are bursting at the seams! Enrollment is now about 130 children from preschool through P3 (third grade).



In 2017, at the demand of government officials, construction was started on a new campus. In partnership with Eglise Presbyterienne au Rwanda (EPR), we are **Building for a Bright Future**. Total cost for the project: about \$800,000. Phase I was well under construction at the end of FY 2017-18.

Bright School employs eight skilled and loving Rwandan teachers—Anitha, Mary Louise, Emmerance, Alphonsine, Charlotte, J. Lambert, Valens, and Ernestine—along with several substitute teachers and volunteers.

Currently, 81 children enrolled at Bright receive help through Fund a Future, our tuition assistance program. This inclusion program is financed by parent fees, parent volunteers, and your donations. Vulnerable children have a bright future!



Veteran teachers like Mary Louise are attuned to each child's abilities and interests, so all children flourish in our classrooms.

Harmony School/Ready for Reading in Rwinkwavu, Eastern Province

Harmony School has been a TEACH Rwanda accredited Exemplary School since it opened in 2014. Morning and afternoon classes for 40 children are held in the Rwinkwavu Community Library and Learning Center, which is a beacon of hope for all ages in this rural community.

TEACH Rwanda was awarded BEST PHOTO by Rwanda Reads in 2018!

Jean d'Amour captivates children whenever he opens a book. Preschoolers stopped playing so they could hear *Are You My Mother?* read with excitement.



Kigabiro Brilliant School in Gasabo District, Kigali

Our only public school partner is also located in a high-poverty rural area just outside of the nation's capital.



For the first time this year, nutritious porridge is being served to children at Kigabiro Brilliant School. Africa Improved Foods is working with TEACH Rwanda to support vulnerable children's learning and health.

We continue to face many challenges at this school. Few parents can pay school fees, so teachers are rarely paid, and then only about \$12 a month. No water or electricity is available in the building.

Nevertheless, children are thriving because the teachers—Head Teacher Veronize plus Nadine, and Theodette—remain dedicated to enriching the lives of 40 children in their isolated community.

Ecole La Colombière, Gasabo District, Kacyiru, Kigali



We were often asked: When will TEACH Rwanda have an accredited school in Kigali? In January 2018, we opened a Project Classroom for 3-year-olds at Ecole La Colombière in Rwanda's capital city. We are partners with Premier Early Childhood Teachers College, which plans for ELC to house demonstration classrooms for students working on certificates and diplomas in early childhood education—the first higher education institution in the country to offer this essential component.

And, for the first time in their careers, teachers Jane and Brenda are implementing kind, encouraging, thought-provoking teaching practices. English is the primary language. And play is paramount!

Already, school administrators and parents are noticing remarkable changes in these young children.

They are happy to be at school...they engage in pretend play with each other...they build imaginatively with blocks...they create original drawings... and tell their own captivating stories.

That's exactly how young children gain the understandings and skills they need to become skilled readers, writers, and analytical thinkers.



Our Vision

Build capacity to provide high-quality professional development to teachers of young children in Rwanda.

Pre-Service and In-Service Early Childhood Teacher Education

What happens when 50 years of teacher education experience in the United States are combined with 8 years of learning with Rwandan teachers? TEACH Rwanda's professional development. It is the **only research-based, modern, skill-focused, culturally relevant teacher education system in the country!**

Module 1. Observe & Discuss. What a shock! Educators who see children learning through play in a TEACH Rwanda Exemplary School are amazed! Never before have Rwandans seen teachers who

- are kind to children,
- sit on the floor having friendly eye-to-eye conversations, and who
- plan hands-on learning experiences around themes as varied as weddings, shoes, construction, goats, and beets.



In the Bright School library, Pretta and Shadia designed this house and furnished the rooms with recycled toy furniture. They are already veteran designeres and architects!

Our visiting teachers see the Rwandan Competency Based Curriculum in action! In preschool, children PLAY. They re-enact children's books, and build with blocks. In primary, they still play! P1, children write and illustrate original stories. By P2, most children are avid readers and writers, and can do division. In P3 children are holding debates in English and researching their family trees.

Module 2. Observe & Implement. After teachers have seen classrooms buzzing with excitement, they discover the understandings and skills needed to be effective teachers. We build on what teachers already know about children. Teachers learn by pretending stories, practicing skills, and exploring Rwandan learning materials. They begin to integrate the curriculum so that children’s experiences are meaningful.



TEACH Rwanda’s hands-on, field tested, Rwandan-led workshops are based on current theories, recent scholarly research, and proven teachers’ experiences to offer hands-on learning about modern teaching practices.

After just four fun, compelling sessions, 12 more teachers have begun to be equipped with the power to transform their classrooms—and realize that children can be eager, joyful, collaborative learners.

Module 3. Observe & Practice—Classroom Mentoring. Seeing is believing. Studying opens new doors. But follow-up, personalized coaching, documented by photos of the learning environment and teaching practices, ensures continuous progress.

TEACH Rwanda’s Teacher Mentors, Emmy and Leonce, often along with Jan, spend a day, sometimes one or more each month, observing, modeling best practices, and encouraging teachers who have completed the first two Modules.

Seeing children thrive is convincing evidence of success. With continued coaching support, teachers around the country are blossoming. They, too, will soon be coaching their fellow teachers!



Teacher Mentor Leonce often demonstrates skills for teachers who have just begun their professional journey. As a result, this teacher saw how her children responded with excitement to a captivating story read with engaging props.

In-Service Professional Development

Similarly, in our TR-accredited Exemplary and Project Schools, our Teacher Mentors and in-country volunteer expert spend many days each month coaching new as well as more experienced teachers and volunteers to further develop and refine their skills. Our goal is continuous quality improvement.

Learning plan reviewers. All learning plans are reviewed in advance, so recommendations for improvement can be implemented. Roxanne Klauka, Kaitlin Carrig, and Ashley Shaheen, experienced primary teachers in the U.S., are volunteers who review the primary plans at Bright. Computers, cell phones, and Internet connections are essential to our system of professional development.

Classroom coaching. Leonce, Dative, Emmy, and Jan arrive unannounced in classrooms nearly every day. We catch teachers at their finest...and occasionally find room for improvement. Children come running to show us what they are doing. Many photos document that **curriculum is what happens**, so again technology is essential to conducting research and documenting teachers' and children's progress.



TR teachers analyze their practices and children's progress every day.

Daily reflection. Dative and teachers at Bright take turns conducting daily reflections to analyze their successes and challenges. Lively discussions often ensue, as do solutions to challenges. Teachers in the other TR schools also meet often to analyze their professional progress.

Exemplary and Project School supervision. At least monthly, one or more TR Teacher Mentors arrives unannounced to make an official supervisory visit at every accredited TR school. Reports focus on successes, challenges, and goals for improvement. Photos document findings and support the value of regular mentoring visits.

We Align With Rwandan Goals

Rwandan Goals	How TEACH Rwanda Addresses the Country's Goals
<p><i>Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP)</i> Increase access to 9 years basic education for all children</p>	Operate Bright School, pre-primary through P3, a TR-accredited Exemplary School Partner with Harmony School (a TR-accredited Exemplary School), Kigabiro Brilliant School, & Ecole La Colombière 3-year-old class (TR Project Schools), with pre-primary
Increase access for students with special education needs	Successfully integrate children with special needs in 4 schools into regular classrooms with their age mates
Improve quality & learning outcomes in primary & secondary	Supervise four high-quality schools Provide modern professional development of teachers
Prepare qualified, suitably skilled, & motivated teachers	Implement a unique professional development system with Modules 1, 2, & 3
Improve access to school readiness programs	Serve a high percentage of children from vulnerable families in high-quality schools
<p><i>Vision 2020</i> Provide intensive teacher training programs</p>	Offer Modules 1, 2, & 3
<p><i>EDEPRS (Poverty Reduction Strategy)</i> Assure that all young children will achieve their full developmental potential</p>	Provide world-class education in all 4 TR schools
Support pre-primary education to increase school readiness, including training of caregivers	Operate high-quality pre-primary programs in all 4 TR schools Prepare teachers through Modules 1, 2, & 3 Employ well-prepared teachers
Reduce class sizes & pupil-teacher ratios, improved curriculum, more learning materials, improved assessment implemented by a higher caliber of teachers	Allow no more than 20 children in pre-primary with 2 well-prepared teachers Enroll no more than 22 children in primary Equip all 4 accredited schools with high-quality books, blocks, puzzles, dolls, & an array of Rwandan learning materials such as bones, sticks, & rocks
<p><i>Muhanga District Development Plan</i> Construct and equip new classrooms</p>	Bright School's new campus is under construction
Promote early childhood development with qualified, motivated, & skilled teachers	Offer Modules 1, 2, & 3 to all teachers in the District

<i>Kayonza District</i> Improve education quality & accessibility	Partner with Harmony School/Ready for Reading as a TEACH Rwanda-accredited Exemplary School
Increase capacity building	Continue to provide professional development of Harmony School teachers, substitutes, and supervisor, all of whom have completed Modules 1, 2, & 3
<i>Gasabo District</i> Increase pre-primary education	Partner with the District to operate Kigabiro Brilliant School, a public school, with 2 pre-primary classrooms. Partner with Ecole La Colombière, a private school, to provide one classroom for 3-year-olds
Improve teacher-to-pupil ratios & quality of teachers	Enroll 20 children in each class with 2 well-prepared teachers

Partnerships

TEACH Rwanda continues to develop formal and informal partnerships with government entities and non-governmental local and international organizations whose goals align with ours. We were proud to work with these partners in the United States and in Rwanda during **FY 2017-18**:

- Abana Writers' Café
- Africa Improved Foods
- African Road, Togetherness School
- Azizi Life
- Bangor Middle School
- Better World Rwanda
- Chameleon Resources
- Child Care Information Exchange
- Child Fund Rwanda
- Ecole La Colombière
- Edify
- Eglise Presbyterienne au Rwanda
- Exchange Magazine
- Farmersville Elementary School
- FXB Rwanda
- Gama Arts
- Gasabo District, Stephen Rwamulangwa, Mayor
- Gillingham Charter School
- Gitarama Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda (EPR)
- Goddard School, Bethlehem
- Help a Child Rwanda
- IEE
- Imbutu Foundation
- Judith's Reading Room
- Library for All
- Longswamp UCC
- Michigan State University
- Ministry of Education, Rwanda (MINEDUC)

- Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF)
- Ministry of Sports and Culture (MINISPOC)
- Mt. Kenya University, Rwanda
- Mudacumura Press
- Muhanga District
- Peace Corps
- Poplar Valley United Methodist Church
- Premier ECDE Teachers College
- Ready for Reading/Rwinkwavu Community Library and Learning Center
- Right to Play
- Rugalika RAE School
- Rwanda Development Board
- Rwanda Education Board (REB)
- Rwanda Education NGO Coordination Platform (RENCP)
- Rwanda Reads
- Saint Francis Fraternity
- Save the Children
- UNICEF
- University of Rwanda College of Education
- VSO (Volunteer Service Organization)
- Wellspring Foundation
- Wesley United Methodist Church
- Willow Lane Elementary School



Children in our schools collaborate—and so does TEACH Rwanda!

Our advocacy—primarily through partnerships and the influence of RENCP with its working groups (co-chair of Teacher Education Working Group, member of Early Childhood Education Working Group)—is even more influential now that **Bright School** has convincingly showcased how children who attend high-quality preschools can succeed far beyond traditional expectations when their engaging learning experiences continue into their primary years.

Our Successes



TEACH Rwanda is...

- The only Rwandan INGO that has more than 50 years of **leadership experience** with high-quality, international early childhood program accreditation and teacher education. Organizations like Edify come to us for our capacity-building expertise.
- The only INGO in the country with 8 years of **demonstrated success** operating and supervising world-class schools for young children with Rwandan teachers who skillfully implement the Rwandan Competency-Based Curriculum.
- The only INGO here that provides **intensive, hands-on, small-group professional teacher education** about strategies to implement Rwanda’s new curriculum with modern, international best practices refined for Rwanda—led in Kinyarwanda (or English) by experienced Rwandan teachers.
- The only INGO in Rwanda that offers practical, follow-up **mentoring** to teachers after our teacher education modules to assure continuous progress. We are in our third year of mentoring at Togetherness School, supported by African Road.
- The only Rwandan INGO that promotes and demonstrates the successful use of free and recycled local learning materials in flourishing classrooms, increasing cultural relevance and the possibility for **sustainability**.
- The only INGO in the country that has developed a hiring process to identify Rwandan teachers who are eager to learn new skills, are kind to children, and share a passion for learning more about **high-quality ECE within a Rwandan cultural context**.

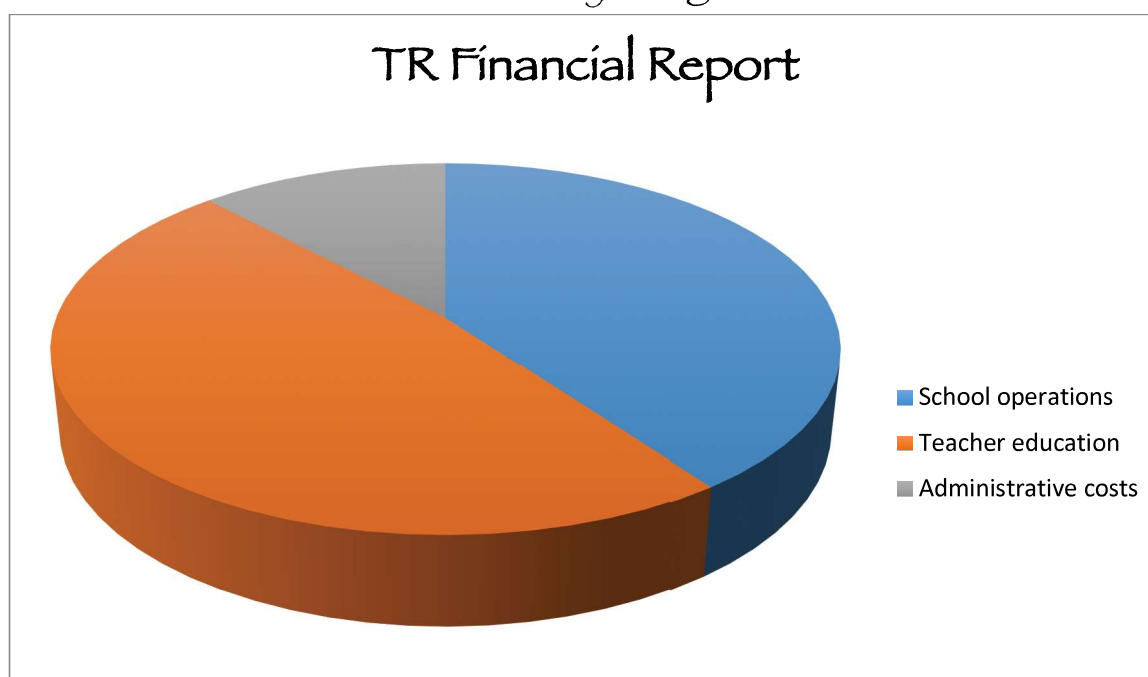
Impact on the lives of Rwandan children, families, teachers, & communities

TEACH Rwanda donors are investing in people! We continue to make a huge difference in the lives of Rwandan children, teachers, families, government officials, and all others who learn about our revolutionary work in the country! Here's a glimpse of our impact this year.

TR Transformed Lives in 2017-2018	TEACH Rwanda Schools	Other Rwandan Schools
Rwandan teachers & substitutes prepared to provide high-quality early education	18	62
Children's lives directly enriched	285	1,860
Volunteers around the world	125	--
Visitors & observers at all TR schools	1,052	--
Learning plans reviewed for TR teachers	333	--
Number of children receiving tuition assistance through Fund a Future at Bright School & the cost	81 children \$10,023.38	--

Finances

TEACH Rwanda's total expenditures were \$93,247.28 for the year. **Your donations were invested** in three key categories as shown here.



THANK YOU! MURAKOZE CYANI!

Still skeptical about TEACH Rwanda? Or are you now convinced that with your help we are transforming Rwandan education? Either way, we invite you to visit a TEACH Rwanda school. Then you will fully understand why visitors are so enthusiastic about finding two world-class schools, with passionate Rwandan teachers and joyful Rwandan children, in this small country with a past that still haunts every generation.

Visitors and observers write reaffirming comments like these in our visitor log:

- “Today was WONDERFUL! I saw so many explorations!” Brenda, Rwandan teacher
- “I have been thrilled and excited at the wonderful work that is being done here! I will have many more visits.” Eve, Rwandan Head Mistress
- “It has been an absolute pleasure watching how much the children love learning and how adored they are by all who work with them.” Jo, international teacher
- “Thank you for letting us visit your fabulous school. You have such an amazing learning ethos for the children.” Kathy, international teacher

And now, TEACH Rwanda is now beginning our long-anticipated transition from an international to a local NGO. This has always been our plan—to build Rwandan capacity to assume leadership of the organization. **Rwandan staff and volunteers will be primarily responsible for carrying on the dream** to prepare Rwandan teachers and operate or partner with world-class, modern Rwandan schools.

Our new logo is the most visible evidence of this transition. Soon, the U.S. board will be responsible for fundraising, networking, and educating consulting—and Rwandans will be moving forward with the day-to-day implementation of our mission and vision! It's time to raise our hands together to support a bright future for Rwanda!

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