



# RWANDA LITERACY

## Why literacy?

Under-resourced schools and poor teacher training in low-income countries like Rwanda keep students from mastering literacy skills. Crowded classrooms—some with a 50:1 student-to-teacher ratio—a shortage of teachers, inadequate teaching methods, and a lack of quality learning materials all contribute to this problem. And when parents aren't literate themselves, they can't help their children learn to read.

## World Vision's solution

Our award-winning Unlock Literacy program empowers parents and children to value education and its life-changing potential. We focus on immersing students in words while enhancing community structures that contribute to learning.

To do this, we:

1

Establish after-school reading camps with trained volunteers and age-appropriate books for children to take home, so they're excited about reading

2

Empower parents to learn along with their children and understand the value of education, so they prioritize school

3

Equip primary school teachers with quality training and resources to cut off the cycle of illiteracy at its roots

And we build adaptability into our programs. Even during a once-in-a-lifetime global health crisis, children can continue learning: Despite the shuttering of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reading camp facilitators are delivering books door-to-door. And, since the Rwandan government shifted its main curriculum to focus on English as the language of schools, we're now printing storybooks in English to align with this change.



**A primary school teacher for a decade,** World Vision donor Jen Wolford knows the power of literacy—and she wants all children to have that “aha” moment when letters suddenly become words. When she learned that kids were leaving school without learning to read, she turned her attention to literacy efforts. “Readers access a wide range of opportunities that simply aren’t possible for the illiterate. Meaning and possibility are everywhere for kids who can read,” Jen says.

The holistic aspect of World Vision’s literacy programs is crucial for Jen. “Supporting literacy is a powerful investment because positive outcomes compound for those children who learn to read.” And since Unlock Literacy brings together the whole community, from parents to teachers to government leaders, “it’s no longer just the child trying to take these steps forward, but everyone supporting that.”



*"I feel happy that my mother can read and write. She helps me with homework and that raised my grades." —Christine*

IF ALL GIRLS COMPLETED  
12 YEARS OF  
EDUCATION,



CHILD  
MARRIAGE  
RATES

COULD DROP  
BY **64%**

In Rwanda, Dorcas and Christine are in the same grade at school, but their lives were set on different paths. Why? Dorcas' mother, Cecile, cannot read. Christine's mother, Pertonile, can. Pertonile's literacy opened career and leadership opportunities, while Cecile struggles to support her family with farming.

Pertonile spent time helping Christine with her schoolwork, but Cecile couldn't offer Dorcas the same support. And that's where Unlock Literacy bridges the gap: Volunteers at the reading camps gave Dorcas storybooks and, through engaging songs and games, she mastered the skills to read them. Dorcas says, "My life has changed because I have acquired knowledge. I feel confident." Now, Dorcas and Christine can walk the same path to a thriving future.



*“Supporting literacy is a powerful investment because positive outcomes compound for those children who learn to read.”*

*—Jen Welford, World Vision donor*



**ONE YEAR OF SECONDARY SCHOOL  
CAN BOOST GIRLS' EVENTUAL  
WAGES BY UP TO 25%**

## Our goal

The Rwanda Education Project aims to improve the literacy skills of 50,000 primary school children in the Akagera and Kivu districts by September 2022. These areas have low levels of literacy compared to the national average, and a high student-to-teacher ratio compared to the national standard. Teachers aren't sufficiently trained, and schools lack adequate reading materials.

The key strategies of Unlock Literacy—establishing reading camps, empowering parents, and equipping teachers—will help students walk confidently out the classroom doors and onto the path out of poverty, taking their whole community with them.



**Help bring the gift of knowledge to students in Rwanda.**

Contact your World Vision representative or visit [worldvisionphilanthropy.org/education](https://worldvisionphilanthropy.org/education).

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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