



Non-UBS - Rwanda
Project Fact Sheet 2022

Rwanda: Improved Literacy through Education in Reconciliation

Overview

With this project, BSA's mission partner African Enterprise are seeking to address emerging issues linked to a declining commitment to Christian faith, and a resultant decline in moral and ethical

foundations. It will do so by promoting literacy and reconciliation based on biblical principles.

The Need

Rwanda is a densely populated (with 12 million people), land-locked country, in east-central Africa. Despite dramatic progress in reducing poverty and lifting living standards in the last three decades, Rwanda still ranks 160 out of 189 countries according to the Human Development Index. 13% of young people below 24 are functionally illiterate.

While it is close to 30 years since the genocide that hit worldwide news, the memories and scars of that period are still very close to the surface. Children born during the genocide are now adults.

Many are confused by the differing narratives around the massacres and reconciliation processes. Adding to the complexities, former prisoners, jailed for their involvement in the genocide, are now being released back into the community. Many people and communities struggle with revived feelings of pain, vengeance and retribution. Social cohesion is elusive.

Project Goals

This project will promote healing and reconciliation based on biblical principles. Five specific groups are being targeted in this project: school students and out of school youth; teachers; parents; pastors and grassroots leaders.

In its second year, this project aims to improve the literacy skills of young people through intensive study of various resources and materials focusing on healing and reconciliation, including biblically based resources. It also aims to provide basic information on COVID-19 and improve community response through adoption of appropriate health and religious practices.

In 2022 the project will: reach 10,000 school children and 1,880 out of school youth with literacy education focusing on reconciliation; engage 64 parents and 28 community leaders on healing and reconciliation; build the capacity of 64 pastors and 17 youth church leaders to promote activities of improved literacy; educate 60 teachers on how to conduct reconciliation education.

It also aims to educate 82 peer leaders to be facilitators of reconciliation; facilitate the mainstreaming of Bible based programs on healing and peacebuilding in 10 schools; and increase the knowledge of the word of God through use of Scripture-based reconciliation instruction materials, New Testament, and other Christian books.

Through enhancing biblical knowledge at primary and secondary schools, along with parental and teacher training support, the project will facilitate healing of wounds and restoration of relationships, with God, among individuals and ultimately entire communities.

Impact

The impact of this project will be demonstrated by surveys, reports, literacy tests and decreased violence between the Hutus and Tutsis.

For the youth, the impact will be seen in a reduction in genocide ideology, increased reconciliation between the two people groups and improved literacy and analytical skills.

For teachers, the impact will be that they will report confidence in transmitting the message of peacebuilding and reconciliation.

For parents, it will be that they exhibit a greater understanding of the foundations of repentance and forgiveness and provide guidance to their children.

For pastors and leaders, the impact will be seen in their ability to objectively approach division in their congregation and will actively participate in the peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation program.

In 2021, the project reached 18,116 students/youth in 10 schools, who were direct and indirect beneficiaries, having their literacy skills improved through education in reconciliation.

Prayer Needs

- Please pray for the staffing, resources, gatherings and logistics of this large-scale project.
- Pray that the on-ground partnership between African Enterprise Rwanda and Bible Society of Rwanda will be strong, cohesive and collaborative.
- Pray that all involved will model the Christian principles of forgiveness, peacebuilding, kindness and grace that they are wanting to sow into these young people's lives.