



RWANDA EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROJECT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

TO OUR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS:

Thanks to the unwavering support of our community of donors, Rwanda Education Assistance Project celebrated our 10 year anniversary in 2018! We are unspeakably grateful for your commitment to Rwanda's rural community of Duha, and to education worldwide.

We are especially beholden to MoneyGram, who awarded our organization with the grant that allowed us to construct our new Community Learning Center and Library (pictured above). Our CLCL boasts a library, communal electronic devices, a half acre garden, new pit latrines and a kitchen. Construction of the CLCL allowed REAP to expand our organizational vision and to include parents and the community in children's education and development, for they are essential dimensions. Attended by various high-level government officials, the opening ceremony brought forth recognition, by the District and central government, of REAP's outstanding contribution to children's education and our enduring commitment to the betterment of the Musha community.

Our newly formed community board underscored our belief in community leadership as the primary agents of change. Students from the Duha Complex School, a long-time partner, now attend literacy, technology and leadership programs at the new CLCL.

Once again, without the generous support of our donors, our continued growth would not be possible. The Musha community joins us in extending our generous thanks to you.

Edward M. Ballen
Executive Director



OUR MISSION:

To create an integrated approach to education and community development that enriches literacy and fosters socio-economic well being.

OUR FOCUS:

LITERACY

INNOVATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GENDER EQUALITY

PUBLIC HEALTH

Construction and Reconstruction:

In the past year, REAP has invested resources in the construction of a Community Learning Center and Library (CLCL). To support this capital investment, we continue to spend a significant amount of time redeveloping our strategic plan to ensure organizational longevity, support community based initiatives and to evaluate the efficacy of our active programs.

Located at the crossroads between Akabare village, the Musha mines and the Duha Complex School, the Community Learning Center and Library is easily accessed by a large and diverse community - in and of itself, the Duha Complex School has over 4,000 students enrolled.

We are in a unique position to address the most pressing socio-economic needs in Musha through our holistic and integrated programmatic approach.

A word from our Country Director:

"As the person who oversees all REAP projects on the ground, the summer of 2017 left me excited and proposed a great challenge: the mind-blowing opening of the CLCL and the anxiety of getting the programming off the ground. Since starting with REAP, the inception of the CLCL has been my climax. For the first time, I felt like a soldier settled in their barracks. I was mesmerized to see multiple organizations, both public and private, form collaborative relationships with REAP. I have seen a cross-section of the Musha community flocking to the CLCL at different times of day, on different days of the week, for different activities- ranging from fetching knowledge to health and nutritional practical workshops. All in all, I am witnessing the power of community development through the establishment of the CLCL and its programming."

Jean Paulin Mutatsineza

DEMOGRAPHICS of Musha

Total population: 21,145

School-aged population that never attended school: **72.9 %**

Highest level of education: **7.9%** high school and **0.6%** university

Main source of cooking energy: **93.4%** firewood

Computer access: **0.6 %**



Opening Day at the Community Learning Center and Library!



On July 17, 2018 REAP inaugurated the opening of the new Community Learning Center and Library. Over 500 community members celebrated with us! A certificate of appreciation was delivered by Honorable Mrs. Mukayuhi, a local community member and a member of Rwanda's parliament, Mr. Theogene Umuhoza and Ms. Jeanne Umutoni, representatives of local government. Edward Ballen, the founder of REAP, accepted the certificate on behalf of the organization. The widely anticipated ceremony included traditional dance and drumming. The New Times, the top English language daily of Rwanda, and Muhabura.rw, a prominent online news source, covered the event.

Our programs

Literacy and Education

A. Leveled Literacy Intervention

LLI, an American research-based English reading program is being utilized by REAP to teach reading to primary school students who are learning English as a second language. In past year, 100 students from second through fifth grade participated.

88% of our students moved at least one reading level up in comprehension, fluency, and pronunciation.

B. Adult Literacy

Our bi-weekly Kinyarwanda and English literacy programs increase people's communication skills, self-advocacy and access to more opportunities. Trained community volunteers conduct classes in reading, writing and numeracy in Kinyarwanda. Additionally, the REAP staff teaches basic communication skills in English.

Within five months, all 44 adults in our Kinyarwanda program learned to write their names. Remarkably, 34 adults in the English class learned to introduce themselves and their friends in English.

C. Student Learning Clubs

Each day for four hours a different grade of primary school students participates in learning enrichment activities with REAP teachers. The activities include reading, speaking and listening of English with the use of computers, tablets and multimedia to create a multi-sensory environment to deepen learning. Secondary students participate on Saturday. Around 150 students participate weekly. The clubs are based on the themes of the national English curriculum such as family, foods and drinks, jobs and professional.

Within five months, 80% of students could carry on short dialogues centered around these themes.



D. Student Leadership Club

Twenty secondary students from Duha School form this club that meets every Wednesday at the CLCL for projects, debates and other activities aimed at developing their critical thinking, leadership and entrepreneurial skills to prepare for life after school.

E. Saturday School

The Saturday school provides extra instruction to 250 students in the sixth and ninth grades to prepare them to pass the national exam. Passing the national exam gives student an opportunity to go to boarding schools (schools of excellence), which increases the chances of admittance to university as well as employment.

The introduction of new child-centered teaching methodologies, which included collaborative group work, increased student engagement as evidenced by consistent punctuality and an attendance rate of 90%. This is compared to an 80% attendance rate for school.

F. High School Sponsorships

We have granted 59 scholarships to local students. Of those, 71% have graduated from high school. With 15% attending high schools of excellence.

49% are employed, 11% are in the national service program and 11% are attending university.

G. Business Club

We partner with the Duha Complex School and Educate! (an international nonprofit that works with schools and governments to provide students with business skills they need to succeed in today's economy) and use the CLCL as a training venue for the 50 students in the Business Club. Last year, students acquired business skills that can be applied in their communities to increase income generating potential. Our students learned to make liquid soap and they are the only soap producers in Musha Sector. Our club was also selected by Teach a Man To Fish, another international nonprofit, to attend a regional conference on entrepreneurship development in Kenya.

Napoleon, 13

Napoleon is one of three children. He started school when he was six. Napoleon wants to be a journalist, and ultimately, a TV news presenter. For Napoleon a good journalist is the one who doesn't just report facts but also adds their humanity to the craft. Napoleon joined REAP's Student Leadership Club wherein he and 19 other students learn different life and leadership skills through student-led projects at school and in the community around their school. As an aspiring newscaster, he wants to start a school newspaper at the Duha School.

Our programs

Public Health

A. Teacher's Lunch

REAP funds a lunch program for teachers of the primary section of the Duha School. These teachers, in spite of being on the bottom of the pay scale, have the longest work day - 7am to 5pm. Most teachers walk as much as two hours to, and from, school. The lunch program at school boosts their morale and concentration, while supporting overall well-being.

“Without lunch, I would not have the energy to teach the 60 kids in my class for over eight hours. Before this program, I would almost faint from fatigue, and hunger. Thank you REAP for sponsoring this program.”

-- Olivier, an English teacher at Duha.

B. Maternal Health and Early Childhood Development

Each month, our CLCL hosts a pop-up clinic for pregnant women and mothers of children under five. Nurses from Musha Health Center meet with a cohort of women (20) for discussion around proper nutrition and hygiene during the pre-natal, post-natal and post partum period. Additionally, services such as birth control and vaccination are offered.

C. Village Kitchen

At least once a month, we host what is locally known as “Village Kitchen.” Around 25 families from the community collect food supplies and gather at our CLCL kitchen to share a meal and access information pertaining to ideal nutrition. Our community organizer leads the activities and the vegetables from our garden supplement the meal.

Innovation

Our CLCL boasts a computer lab with 21 tablets and 12 computers. We recognize the importance of a multi-sensory education and technological skill building. We also host an offline server, functioning as a digital encyclopedia, that is used for research purposes by teachers and students, alike.



Thomas, 16

Thomas is now a fifth-grade student at Duha. He is 16 years old. He comes from a poor family. He is the oldest of three children and lives with his mother. His father left the family and married another woman. In second grade, Thomas dropped out of school because his mother could not buy him a school uniform, nor could she provide for food for him. Three years later, Thomas returned to school but was not attending regularly. He wanted to help his mother in working

to put food on the family table. Thomas dropped out again when he was in the third grade. Through collaboration with the Duha teachers, he came back to school and joined the REAP LLI program, where he gets lunch after school before beginning his English and literacy lessons. His life has since turned around. Thomas is now attending school regularly and he sits among the top ten students in his 5th grade class. “I want to study mechanics in high school and become an expert in this career like my cousin,” said Thomas in an interview with the Education Coordinator at REAP. Thomas looks forward to visiting his cousin's garage in Kigali and is fascinated to watch his cousin build and repair cars. One day, he hopes to join his cousin in business.

A. Regenerative Farming

Our staff agronomist works with parents in the community to till the half acre of earth at the CLCL. Parents take turns volunteering in the garden and learn farming techniques that increase productivity and self-sufficiency.

At least 340 parents worked in the garden and 45 of them replicated the model at home.

B. Learning Lab Garden at Duha Complex School

In partnership with Rollins College, students and Duha teachers created a vegetable garden. The school garden provides food for children who cannot afford lunch at school and serves as a living laboratory in the hands-on curriculum for farming and plant science.

C. Infrastructure

Our solar powered television and projection system are a small, yet significant, part of the model we have created. REAP aims to continue implementing and testing viable alternatives to mainstream climate damaging practices. We also installed a gas powered stove in our kitchen this year - an efficient alternative to open wood fires.



A word on Innovation & Sustainability:

Rwanda Education Assistance Project is committed to ensuring that our programs are fiscally and environmentally sustainable. Our goal is to continue to partner with community based organizations on initiatives that are founded, and implemented, by local community members. In the coming year, we aim to further reduce our dependence on outsourcing and to increase our self-sufficiency.

Community Development

A. TV & Film Talks:

Every Saturday, REAP hosts approximately 50 community members for our TV & Film Talks. Our community organizer screens television shows and films at the CLCL, which is followed with an open conversation. The community-oriented programs address social issues such as household conflicts, spousal abuse, and alcoholism. This is a safe space where people can enjoy themselves but also express their views on difficult topics.

B. Parent Evening:

Each week the CLCL hosts and facilitates an evening of conversation and education for parents in the community. We cover real family problems such as, marital conflicts, domestic abuse, alcoholism, children's rights, and even micro-savings.

At least 60 people participate every Thursday for three hours. 34 families have bought livestock, clothes and mattresses after attending the micro-savings workshops.

C. Community Initiated Programs:

The CLCL also occasionally hosts community-initiated events and programs such as, Sector level parliamentary elections and other community meetings.

D. Community Board:

Rwanda Education Assistance Project, in partnership with the government, has formed a board consisting of 12 volunteers from the community. They design and implement community projects at the CLCL and to mobilize community participation.

"We have received the gift of a chicken, it's now our choice to eat it and finish the story or raise it to ensure there are more chickens for our grand-children."

- Emmanuel Karemera, Board President referencing the addition of the CLCL to the community.



Gender Equality

Women and children have always been at the heart of our programming, because they are the heart of our communities. In addition to the programs listed here, we also consider our Maternal Health and Early Childhood Development program an expression of our support for women in the community.

65% of participants in our community programs are women.

A. Girl Guides:

In partnership with Association De Guides du Rwanda (AGR), we started hosting a Girl Guide Unit at the CLCL with 50 secondary and 25 primary students from Musha. The girls commit to a 10-month training program with instruction in sex education, volunteerism and character development. The girls are also mentored through leadership and entrepreneurial development by AGR and REAP staff.

In 2017 we started the Pig Project with 45 girls owning 45 pigs. This year an additional 26 girls own pigs, which has increased the total number of girls who now own pigs to 126.

Five months into the program, 50 out of 52 parents surveyed report that, from their perspective, the participating daughters have improved their behaviors at home, at school and in the community (listening to parents, hygiene and cleanliness, and taking initiative). We believe this improvement is a result of the safe space we have created in this partnership. Several of our Girl Guides felt supported enough to disclose sexual abuse to the staff and leaders. We were able to take action as a community to protect the girls and to support them through their traumatic experience.



Connect:

www.reaprwanda.org

info@reaprwanda.org



Aline, 15

Aline was born in a rural village in Musha, Eastern Rwanda in a family of seven. Her father died when she was only two years.

After the death of Aline's father, her mother could not afford to feed the family and it was decided that Aline would stay home to help mother work on local farms in exchange for meals. Thus, Aline dropped out in grade seven and later went to Kigali to work as a house girl. Aline was sexually abused by the son of her boss and became pregnant. Her employer learned of the pregnancy and, fearing police involvement, forced Aline to go back home. Ashamed and pregnant at 15, Aline stayed indoors to avoid her former classmates.

A neighbor to Aline, and a frequent participant in REAP's Parent Evening, heard the young girl's story and informed Brigitte Mukanywandwi, one of our Community Organizers. Brigitte went to visit Aline and her mother. All agreed that Aline needed support throughout her experience as a teenage mother and counsel in dealing with her trauma. Aline participates in our Maternal Health program every month with other pregnant women and receives information on ways to care for herself and her baby during the pregnancy. Aline is also able to receive vitamins and vaccines. Furthermore, she has access to the wisdom of women in community.

Aline is due next month and after three medical visits the nurses are confident that she will have a safe delivery. Aline expressed feeling loved and cared for in the company of older mothers.

"I have confidence that I can be a good mother, and love my child."



@reaprwanda



Support:

88%

of funds spent were spent in Rwanda

4.2%

of funds raised in 2018 were spent on fundraising

ONLINE: www.reaprwanda.org

PAYPAL: www.paypal.me/reaprwanda

CHECK: mail to Rwanda Education Assistance Project
P.O. Box 351
Katonah, NY 10536

\$100
Provides a year of meals to one school student.

\$400
Sponsors a year of primary school for one child.

\$550
Supports the garden through equipment upgrades and funds the incubation of agricultural developments in our Learning Lab.

\$1,000
Provides AV equipment for technology integration across subject areas.

\$1,500
Supports sustainable upgrades and repairs at the Community Learning Center and Library.

\$1,650
Sponsors a student's for the full three year boarding school experience.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Before you shop, set your charity of choice to Rwanda Education Assistance Project. You shop, Amazon gives.