

RWANDA EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROJECT '15

ANNUAL REPORT



“Instruction in youth is like engraving in stone”

-Rwandan Proverb

Since 2009, REAP has been able to change the lives of hundreds of children in rural Rwanda. With your help, 2015 is the year we began to reach thousands...

VISION

CREATE A SECURE AND VIBRANT FUTURE FOR RWANDA BY BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL.

MISSION

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT DATA-INFORMED MODELS OF EDUCATION TO HELP CHILDREN IN RWANDAN RURAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAY ENGAGED IN LIFELONG LEARNING AND BECOME EDUCATED INFORMED CITIZENS.



OUR WORK AT REAP IS BASED ON

5 KEY OBJECTIVES

- Advance Quality of Learning
- Grow Alternative Learning Opportunities
- Remove Obstacles to Participation
- Transform School Leadership
- Build Engagement

Table of Contents

Page 2 – 2014–15 Highlights

Page 3 & 4 – By numbers

Page 5 – National recognition

Page 6 – Data-wise

Page 7– Financials/Leadership

2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

Technology in the Classroom

REAP's technology initiative is double faceted. Not only are we providing tools such as servers, laptops and projectors, we are also training 58 teachers in basic computer applications on weekends and during the week to promote integration of technology in the classroom. *Teachers have been trained in Microsoft Word to create lesson plans, PowerPoint to efficiently deliver information to students, and Excel to enter and evaluate student assessment data to inform instruction.* This year, REAP introduced the Library box project at the Duha School. A library box is an open source, portable digital file distribution tool that is downloaded with vital educational information to enhance content knowledge for teachers and students off the Internet. *Duha is the first and only school in Rwanda where the library box has been introduced.* Furthermore, REAP collaborated with Level Up Village Project (in the USA) to develop Science, Technology and Math (STEM) at the Duha School. *29 Duha students partnered with their fellow students in the US in 8-week STEM projects: Global Chemists in Training and Global Doctors in Training which also include a video letter component.*

This past year, REAP ushered in one of its most ambitious programs to date: the Multimedia Project. With the help of partnered education experts, we have setup a new vehicle of learning for both students and teachers. By providing multimedia resources (videos, songs, audio clips, pictures, etc.) and teacher training, REAP is enhancing instructional strategies for the delivery of the national curriculum as well as increasing fluency and comprehension of English.

Early Intervention Program

One of the biggest challenges REAP deals with at Duha is class size and inadequate



"Parents and teachers are educating students but at the same time, we are learning ourselves. This dynamic that REAP has created has allowed the Duha community to thrive."

-Sam Rwizigura, Duha Primary Instructor

instructional time. Nowhere is this more evident than the ratio of students to teachers in Grade 1. Students come for a half-day instruction in two different shifts. In each shift, the student-teacher ratio is 64 to 1. At 768 students it is Duha's largest grade by far, with only 6 teachers. REAP is combating early school dropout by introducing state-of-the-art teaching methodology to all Grade 1 classrooms.

We are identifying struggling as well as advanced learners by providing personalized instruction to reduce learning barriers and accelerate learning. We have also implemented weekly meetings of the P1 teachers to exchange best practices. *Additionally, we have hired and trained local parents to assist in classrooms, reducing student-teacher ratio and improving learning outcomes.*

By involving parents, we are helping to extend learning from the classroom to home and home to the classroom. REAP also addresses challenges posed by poverty by providing school supplies to needy students: *34 Duha students from poor families received school uniforms. 348 notebooks, 240 pencils, and 270 pens and 90 chalkboards were distributed to Grade 1 students.*

Girls Empowerment

One of our main priorities at REAP is to develop girls' leadership and empower them to become equal participants in a new Rwanda. Our Girl's Room initiative has

helped to dramatically reduce dropout and added renewed confidence to the female student body. By providing a safe space for menstruating girls to wash up, rest and restore themselves, they no longer have to miss considerable time in class. *The Sexual and Reproductive Health Education (SRHE) Club provided 1,188 packets of sanitary pads and 1,100 panties to 640 girls this year* as well as distributed information to prevent early pregnancies. SRHE emerged from our partnership with Sustainable Health Enterprise.

SRHE is concerned with preventing early pregnancies, while TUSEME in Swahili, "Let's speak out" promotes girls' leadership by creating plays and artwork and increasing community engagement with girls' issues. *The SRHE and TUSEME clubs recent attendance campaign brought back 37 girls, who had dropped out because of pregnancy and/or poverty, to re-enroll in school.* Girls and boys attend both these clubs.

REAP's financial support has allowed these clubs to thrive as they spread awareness about issues important to women. We recently introduced the Girl's Guide Program, an international program for girls' leadership. To date the girls have planted a flower garden at school and began an entrepreneurial project to raise pigs to sell for additional income.

Library and reading programs

Duha's library is a vital catalyst for a number of other programs that affect students and the community alike, such as Saturday Reading Tutorials, complete with competitions and prizes. During the school week, REAP initiated the Duha Book club to boost English skills for top 10 students in every class and Buddy reading where younger students are paired with the older students to read together.

REAP, in partnership with the school, built cabinets for the teachers' room. By transferring textbooks to these the cabinets, teachers and students now have quick and easy access to their textbooks for their daily lessons.

- ✓ REAP has amassed a collection of over **1,000** children's **books**.
- ✓ Average attendance for the Saturday Library Program is **60 secondary students per week**
- ✓ Increased reading and writing skills through learning enrichment activities for **1,620 students this year**
- ✓ Conducted **3** reading competitions this year involving over **600 students**.
- ✓ REAP librarian conducted a reading program in classroom for **665 secondary students and 761 primary** students.
- ✓ Construction of **26 cabinets complete**.
- ✓ A total of **985 primary school students** participate in Buddy reading and Book club programs.

Attendance and Stay in school campaign

Dropouts remain a persistent challenge at Duha, as students are drawn to work in the mines to help support their families. Our campaign to improve attendance seeks to reduce dropout rates, absenteeism and lateness, by making the school a desirable and engaging place to learn. TUSEME and SRHE clubs organize the campaign.

- ✓ The recent campaign involved walking through various villages to deliver the message to stay in school. Over **500 people**, including community members, parent associations, neighboring school staffs and local government officials witnessed the campaign.
- ✓ As a result of the campaign, **37 girls who had dropped out due to** poverty and/or early pregnancy **returned to school**.

School Leadership

REAP has developed a pioneering pilot Leadership Program in collaboration with Green Hills Academy in Kigali and Groupe Scolaire APAGIE Musha. Rooted in student data and performance based criteria, the program is developing a systemic model of distributed leadership by creating department heads to oversee quality instruction and accountability. This year the Duha headmaster was selected through a competitive process to be the first headmaster to be mentored by the APAGIE headmaster.

- This project benefits a total of **3,745 people**:
- ✓ **3,271 students and 58 teachers and staff** at the Duha school
 - ✓ **373 students and 43 teachers and staff** at the GS APAGIE Musha.

Saturday school for national exam candidates

The Saturday school provides extra instruction to students in 6th and 9th grade preparing them to pass the national exam. REAP funds and supervises this program, which has increased the overall pass rate and consequently the number of students who can go on boarding schools (Schools of excellence).

- ✓ 272 Students participated in the Saturday school.
- ✓ As a result of this program, these students scored 30% higher on the national exam.

Dairy farm and feeding programs

Our **Dairy Farm** provides daily milk and porridge to the nursery school students, supplying the necessary nutrition that students fail to get at home. With a farm of 6 cows, we have

- ✓ A total of **450 students had milk every school day** from 2013 to date
- ✓ **34 Primary school teachers** receive daily lunch at school.

OUR PROJECTS

BY THE NUMBERS

REAP funded scholarships

We provide high school scholarships to vulnerable students who pass Grade 6 or Grade 9 national exam. Each year, we hire 2 of our graduates to intern at Duha for one year.

Last year, we also granted another 24 vocational scholarships to Grade 12 graduates who didn't get a chance to go to university in order to equip them with the necessary skills for the job market. REAP also provided technical tools to these 24 vocational graduates.

Community Learning Center

REAP's Community Learning Center continues to host to Duha's gatherings and extracurricular activities, like TUSEME Club, Debate Club, and the Cultural Troupe. The center also raises funds for the school by renting the center for wedding ceremonies.

Summer teacher training

A team of US educators has come every summer since 2009 and works with other Rwandan education experts to train Duha teachers in instructional strategies, leadership and English language acquisition.

School infrastructure development

- ✓ 2009: REAP **supplied electricity** to the Duha School and community.
- ✓ 2009&2014: REAP partnered with Rwamagana District to build **9 classrooms** and **a teacher hostel**.
- ✓ 2012: REAP funded the **construction and furnishing of the Community Learning Center**.
- ✓ 2013: REAP was instrumental in the **Duha school Water Supply Project**.
- ✓ 2013&2015: REAP built **two school kitchens** and **a 6 pit toilets**.

- ✓ 5 scholarships students have graduated from high school. Out of these 5, 2 are employed, 2 are in the national service program and 1 is attending university.
- ✓ 17 scholarship students now attending high school.
- ✓ 24 students from Duha received vocational scholarships. Six of them are employed and others have temporary jobs.
- ✓ 2 REAP graduates successfully completed one-year internship programs, one as a teacher-assistant another as a librarian-assistant.

- ✓ The community learning center, located in the center of the school, serves as a hub for 3,271 Duha students, over 2500 parents, and 58 teachers and staff at the Duha School.
- ✓ 15 weddings took place in the center raising funds that the school used to connect to a water pipe.



All 58 teachers and staff are trained.

Duha Community Learning Center



STUDENT CLUBS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Traditional Dance and Drumming Troupe

REAP initiated the troupe to uphold Rwandan culture and promote students' life skills & talents while keeping them excited to come to school as well as reduce dropout.

An average of 60 students attend the troupe every Saturday. This year the troupe won a 3rd place in the Rwamagana District Cultural contest and entertained at the countrywide Hygiene and

Duha Peace Family Club

The club supports 27 high-risk students with food, tuition, health insurance and clothing till they graduate from high school.

Mural project, a product of TUSEME AND SRHE in partnership with Kurema

The Duha Art Club in collaboration with the Komera Arts Group created a mural to create a welcoming entrance for students and teachers. The mural was jointly designed and created by TUSEME, SRHE clubs to promote the themes of Leadership, Hope and Learning.

Duha girls' handball team

REAP supports the team by providing supplies, stipends to the coach and paying for fees to participate in competition. Below are some of the achievements of the team:

- **Eight trophies** of the Eastern Province and Rwamagana District tournaments.
- **Second place of the 2015 national handball championship** and as a result, the team **played the East & Central African Handball League.**
- **Handball scholarships:** Over 40 students from past teams have been admitted to schools of excellence.
- **Seven girls selected to play the Africa's under-18 handball championship qualification in Mali this year.**
- **Alice from Duha the best player of the 2015 national handball**



English and Debate Club

This is a platform for students to practice English speaking and listening while acquiring critical thinking skills. An average of 70 students attend the club every week. English teachers take turns training students on public speaking, listening, stories and poems. Green Hills Academy, our partner school in Kigali trains teachers and students in debating. The club was invited to attend the iDebate' debate camp this year. They also attended the finals of the 2015 national debate competition on Rwanda Television.



REAP'S NATIONAL RECOGNITION



REAP was invited by the Ministry of Education to participate in the Joint Review of Education Sector

On November 12, 2015, the Ministry of education and its 135 partners, including REAP, sat down for an annual review meeting to assess progress in improving the quality of education in Rwanda and set priorities for next year. **REAP was one of the 15 educational organizations selected**

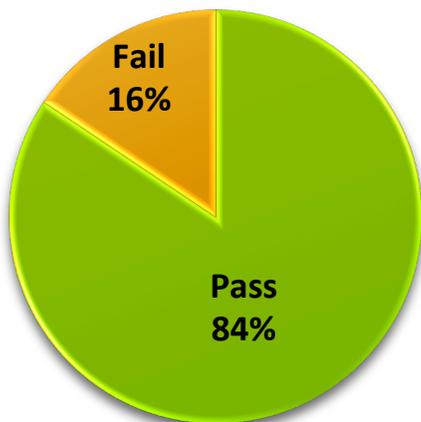
REAP Joined RENCP (Rwanda Education NGOs Coordination Platform)

RENCP is a body for NGO representation, information sharing and coordination within Rwanda's educational sector. The group is now made up of 60+ member organizations, which collaborate with the ministry of education to ensure the quality of education.

REAP and Duha School hosted the launching of the "Cleanliness and Hygiene" campaign.

Thanks to REAP's impact, Duha was chosen (one of 2 schools in the eastern province), to host a nationwide campaign aiming at promoting hygiene & cleanliness to prevent diseases and facilitate learning. Government officials, including members of parliament, attended the event.

**Grade 9 National Exam Results 2014 (128 candidates).
Success Rate 84.3%**



Saturday School students scored an average of 30% higher than students who did not attend Saturday School.

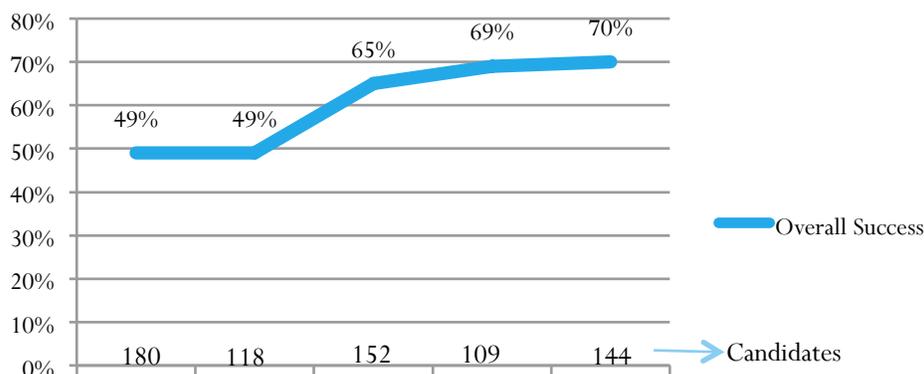
71% of 107 students who passed the national exam attend the Saturday school.



Duha Complex School provides a basic 12-year education in a high poverty environment. Students who pass Grade 6 or Grade 9 national exams are eligible to attend Rwandan national boarding schools, the best public education available. Unfortunately, due to economic disadvantage, a low percentage of Duha students are able to attend Rwandan national boarding schools. REAP currently supports 15 students with three(3) year scholarships of \$500 per year provided by our generous donors. With your help, we hope to be able to offer future scholarships to 100 students that passed the Grade 9 national exam

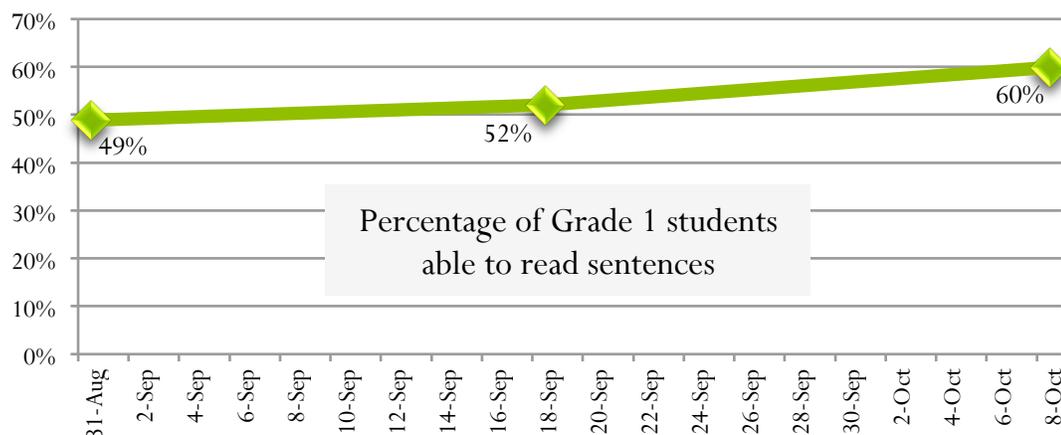
THE 6th GRADE OVERALL PASS RATE INCREASED TO 70% IN 2014

**Grade 6 National Examination
2010-2014
Overall Success**



Overall Success	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Overall Success	49%	49%	65%	69%	70%

Early Literacy (768 first graders)



Percentage of Grade 1 students able to read sentences



As a result of our recently implemented intervention program which includes:

- ◆ extra help to struggling students
- ◆ parent involvement
- ◆ bi-weekly formative assessment
- ◆ team planning and sharing
- ◆ teaching effective strategies

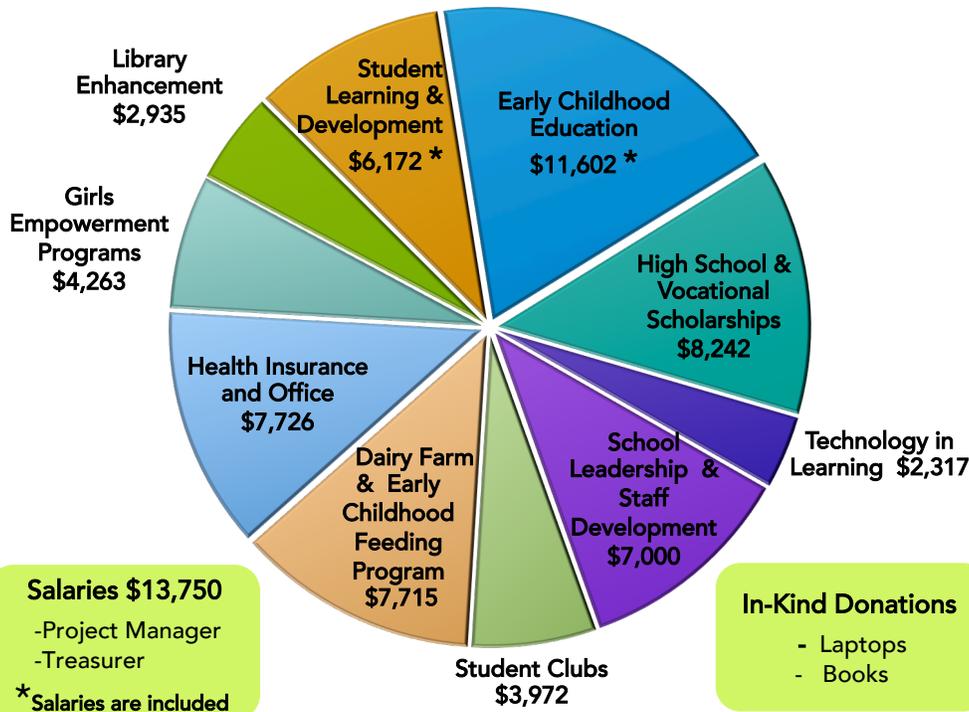
In Grade one, Kinyarwanda literacy rate increased from 49% to 60% and retention rate (students held back) dropped from 27% in 2014 to 5% in 2015.

We're accountable to you, our donors and sponsors...

Over the 2014-2015 budget cycle, REAP, with your help, has contributed over \$75,000 to our school-based operation. REAP's holistic approach necessitates the wide distribution of funds throughout our diverse initiatives. Because of your support, we continue to feed, educate and nurture the leaders of tomorrow. Here's how...



Where your money goes...



Leadership

President/Executive Director
Edward M. Ballen, LCSW

Treasurer
E. Annette Nash Govan, MBA

Secretary
Robin Bezark, LCSW

Board of Directors
Gary Flaum
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Judith Schmidt, PhD
Mark Schulman, AIA, LEED AP
Sindy Solomon, MD
Jack Zitomer

Director of Operations
Andrew Brown

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER...



"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love"

Mother Teresa

From our inception in 2008, REAP has dedicated itself to working with economically disadvantaged children in rural public school settings. Whether bringing joy by introducing new games and clubs, inspiring parent participation by building a new community learning center side by side with parents, or training teachers to gain access to new technology and the larger world, REAP has worked from the ground up to effect systematic change. Through the smallest gestures, we see each child's potential so that everyone can experience the emotional, social and academic success as their fundamental birthright.

Rwandan Staff

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NOT JUST SCHOOLING BUT LIVING....

Our work at a large, complex school like Duha demonstrates that when resources are effectively utilized, an exemplary learning centered school can emerge to help most vulnerable and impoverished youth. Creating better schools for a better future relies upon REAP's notion of inclusion and holism. It is our umbrella approach that helps provide not just an education but also the physical and mental components that sustain it.

RWANDA EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE PROJECT

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