



Root Foundation Rwanda
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WHO WE ARE

In 2012, two young Rwandans, Patrick Kiruhura and Muragwa Bienvenue, founded **Root Foundation**, based in Kigali, as a reply to the high number of street children in the capital city of Rwanda. In 2014, the organization was provisionally granted the certificate to operate in Gasabo district as a non-governmental organization. In 2016, the Government of Rwanda officially granted Root Foundation the permanent legal personality to operate nationwide.

WHY WE EXIST

In line with our long term vision which is to create a world where all vulnerable children develop their potentials and grow up to become valuable community members, **Root Foundation**'s mission is to end the root causes that push children to living in streets, dropping out of schools and losing the chance to grow up in a good family.

Recognizing the civil society as an integral actor in initiating youth development activities rather than leaving the responsibility to fix the alarming situation solely to the government, **Root Foundation** has been entirely devoted to provide children from vulnerable backgrounds a safe space where they are encouraged to learn and develop personally, socially, emotionally and academically.



WHAT WE DO

As from our experience, there are three root causes why children spend their days on streets: poverty, conflicts and ignorance. **Root Foundation** advocates for a holistic approach to help children affected by these issues tackle them from the root. This is reflected in the three programs that the organization offers: Personal Development Program, Education Program and Parents Program.



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Personal Development Program

We want to provide vulnerable children the [opportunity to gain self-reliability and resilience to build on their own future](#). Therefore, we offer them a [diversity of activities](#) at our Children's Center through which we intend to let them discover their talents and, at the same time, contribute to a [lasting, positive effect on their character development](#), focusing on their self-esteem and self-efficacy.

The currently offered activities include our brass bands in cooperation with the NGO "Brass for Africa", traditional dancing and drumming, singing, theatre, reading, soccer, belly dancing, painting and the [Umwali program, a platform for teenage girls](#) to let them share their issues, enhance their self-confidence and advise them on relevant topics such as reproductive health and feminine hygiene.



Education Program

We currently offer [scholarships for selected children](#) of all different school levels. We enable them to continue or [gain access to school education](#) by covering their school fees, school materials and health insurance. To follow up and advise on their individual educational situations, [Root Foundation visits students regularly](#) at their schools. Sometimes, we also offer subject-specific coaching.

Furthermore, we organize the ["Learning to Learn Program"](#) for a changing group of children which follows a 3 months lasting curriculum. This curriculum was mainly designed to enhance a variety of children's basic learning skills, such as listening, reading and writing.



Parents Program

We involve children's direct environment into our work: their families. Root Foundation's volunteers [regularly visit affected families](#), listen to their stories and offer them counselling. We invite all parents for [monthly fellowship meetings to engage, support and advise them](#) in their efforts to manage their children's education.

Through the [mothers' cooperative](#), we have an impact on the income mothers make. They receive 50% of earnings made through their hand-craft products. 20 % are reused for material purchase, 20% contribute to Root Foundation's operations and 10 % are saved for a sustainable purpose that the mothers agree on, currently for their health insurance. We intend to [alleviate their struggles to provide for their children](#).

