Forum for African Women Educationalists

FAWE Rwanda Chapter

FAWE Rwanda’s contribution to gender equality in education for girls

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**FAWE**

**Vision:** A world in which all African girls have access to education, perform well and complete their studies, and where gender disparities in education are eliminated.

**Mission:** To promote gender equity and equality in education in Africa by fostering positive policies, practices and attitudes towards girls education.

FAWE works in 33 countries and 34 chapters:

What FAWE does?

- **Influence policy** change and practice
- **Demonstrate good practices** using our tried and **tested gender responsive models**
- **Research** informs all our work
- **Engage** governments, communities and beneficiaries at the heart of our work
Education is a **human right**

Empowering girls and women through education also has **economic benefits**

Many African girls are not in school. Among those that do go to school, many are **not performing well** or are **dropping out**.

**Why we do it?**
FAWE Rwanda

- FAWE Rwanda established in 1997
- Girls access is no longer an issue, gender parity in education is achieved (MDGs 2,3)
  - At primary level since 2005
  - At secondary school since 2015
- Issues: low performance, high drop outs (5.6%), low enrolment in higher education (45.3% overall, only 34% in public sector institutions), under representation in TVET

(Source: MINEDUC statistical yearbook 2017)
Policy and advocacy for girls’ education

- **Constitution:** equal rights, at least 30% women in all decision making positions

- **Strong high-level advocacy:** the First Lady is one of the champions!
  - Best performing girls award, Imbuto Foundation

- **Influencing policies:**
  - National guidelines/standards for girl-friendly schools (provision of a girls’ room in all schools)
  - Engage in policy dialogue for gender mainstreaming
Interventions to promote girls’ education

- **2 Centres of Excellence**: FAWE Girls Schools in Gisozi and Gahini offering STEM curricula
  - Trained Teachers in Gender responsive pedagogy
  - TUSEME clubs (SPEAK OUT)
  - Scholarships for smart girls from disadvantaged households
  - Mentoring and support
  - STEM camps and clinics

- This package is currently replicated in 17 other public schools
STEM FOR GIRLS

Why do girls underperform in STEM?

- Negative cultural perception about girls and STEM
- Teacher pedagogical skills
- Lack of female role models in STEM
- Stereotype curriculum content, Teacher and Learner, etc
Other interventions to promote STEM for Girls

- Organisation of science camps/clinics for girls
  - So far, 500 girls trained in coding, robotics
  - STEM mentorship camps for 200 girls in S1 (or grade 7)
- Organisation of STEM Expo for girls
- Exposure visit to industries for students
- STEM Competitions
  - Girls in ICT: Miss Geek (now Africa competition)
  - STEM Olympiads (coming up)
  - Community outreach to educate parents (together with AIMS, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences)
FAWE GRP, one of the flagship programs

GRP **aims** to build the capacity of teachers to adopt teaching practices that promote equal treatment and participation of girls and boys within the school learning environment.

“GRP trains a teacher to **inspire hope, ignite the imagination and instil a love of learning** in both female and male learners”

*Brad Henry*
FAWE trained 54 national trainers drawn from partner schools and the FAWE alumni in GRP.
Disaggregated data of GRP training offered by FAWE Rwanda with partners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Females trained</th>
<th>Males trained</th>
<th>Total number trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CoEs FAWE Gisozi &amp; FAWE Gahini</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF in child friendly schools</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Rwanda in the PPA2 Program</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIMS/REB/CE-RUKARA</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>251</strong></td>
<td><strong>471</strong></td>
<td><strong>722</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Swahili for “speak up”.

Tuseme is a youth empowerment program in which both boys and girls are trained to scan their environment, find out their problems, analyse them, look for their role in them, propose solutions and speak up through songs, theatre and poems.

There are 17 Tuseme clubs (one in each partner school). These also impact on neighbouring schools.

Implementation with different partners, such as UNICEF, Plan International Rwanda and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program.
FAWE partners with like minded organisations to provide comprehensive scholarships to bright yet economically challenged boys and girls to acquire quality education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTNER</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDDI/AED/AGSP</td>
<td>1885</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual donners</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHF International through CHAMP</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REACH</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard &amp; Lucil Parchard through ASRHR</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beautiful World Canada Foundation</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>14321</td>
<td>6200</td>
<td>20524</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The alumni of FAWE - both the ones who have been at the CoEs and those whose lives were impacted by FAWE - engage in **mentoring activities** to “give-back” to the community.

For example, in 2018, they organised an Open-Air Mentoring where they reached more than 300 girls and their parents.
FAWE Rwanda 20th Anniversary Report
WAY FORWARD

- The success of FAWE programs in impacting women leadership through girls’ education is propelling it to greater things.

- Maintain achievements at primary and secondary levels

- Greater focus on tertiary level:
  - parity not achieved, small progress:
  - Few girls enrolled in STEM related courses about 27% (2016-2017) compared to 66.6% in non-STEM
  - Girls in TVET-STEM related courses
  - Transition-readiness to employment
    - Career guidance and counseling
    - Personal development
Conclusion

STEAMING GIRLS!

- Expose Young Girls to STEM
- Encourage participation in special programmes
- Support learning opportunities in the community
- Serve as mentors
- Take charge and educate
THANK YOU
FOR
YOUR ATTENTION