

## Together for Rwanda Partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland-Palatinate

Rwanda: sponsorships for children in secondary school

The state Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany and the Republic of Rwanda sealed the first partnership between a state and an African country in 1982 through an exchange of letters. From the first moment on, they chose a so called grassroots partnership – organized decentrally and straight from the people. The Rwandan community is independently responsible for the development measures. They freely propose projects they find to be most urgent and necessary. The Rhineland-Palatinate partners are committed to provide the necessary financial and material support. The development projects can be understood as a 'help to self-help' policy and are meant to improve the living conditions of the people in Rwanda.

An important aspect of the partnership is also the intense contact of German and Rwandan schools. Due to more than 200 school-partnerships, daily life in Rwandan schools was improved through donations for renovation, new buildings and equipment for furniture and teaching material.

In Rwanda there are still a lot of children and youngsters living in very poor conditions. Their lives are hard and full of want and privation. This applies in particular to orphans or children of poor families. The large part of school children and their parents have difficulties in buying teaching material, school uniforms and tuition fees due to different problems. They are therefore dependant on helpful people who take over godparenthood and support the children not only in a financial way through sponsoring, but also as a friend on their educational pathway. A lot of kids and youngsters are very interested in getting to know their sponsor better through letter contact, or even in person through a visit to Rwanda.



We support a project, where the educational system as well as the social welfare is of main importance. The project includes the building of primary schools, which helps particularly children in rural areas with their elementary education. Older schools are being renovated so that the children can study in an appropriate surrounding. Furthermore, through the financing of the tuition fees, thousands of needy children and orphans are able to go to school. Due to schooling and a professional education, children who would normally live from begging and stealing get the chance to be integrated into society.

The children in need of sponsorships are pupils in secondary school. The graduation after six years (baccalaureate) enables them to attend university. Furthermore, secondary schools are also job preparing, as they all have an individual professional focus. This allows students to choose a profession directly after secondary school. For this reason, secondary schools are indispensable institutions in Rwanda for the training of skilled workers and specialists.



The annual contribution of the sponsorship is about Euro 240 per godchild. Tuition fee, writing and learning materials as well as the school uniform is financed through this amount. At the end of each school year, the sponsor receives updated information concerning his individual sponsorship and godchild as well as the sponsorship program in general, and also gets presented the school certificate.

So far, almost Euro 70 Million have flown into about 1.700 projects. One fifth of the financial resources were raised through citizens' donations only.

With a school sponsorship, you reach out to a young person and give him hope and the chance of a better future.

If you are interested and like to learn more about the sponsorship program, please see the following links:

[www.isim.rlp.de](http://www.isim.rlp.de) (under: "Internationale Zusammenarbeit")

[www.rlp-ruanda.de](http://www.rlp-ruanda.de) (under: "Ruanda – Aktiv")