



As part of our 'Advancing the Right to Read' programme in Rwanda, Save the Children is implementing Literacy Boost, our evidence-based approach to strengthen the five core skills of reading (alphabetic knowledge, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension) and supports children's reading practice both inside and outside school walls. It uses three components - rigorous assessment, teacher training and **community action** - to identify reading gaps and demonstrably improve children's reading skills.



COMMUNITY ACTION

Working together with Umuhuza, a Rwandan child-focused NGO in Gicumbi District, Save the Children aims to develop a culture of literacy and learning in which communities understand the value of literacy and create opportunities to practice and enjoy reading together.

With **34.1%** of adults in Rwanda unable to read or write, Literacy Boost is helping to make parents aware of other, creative ways to enhance their child's literacy and numeracy skills through community parenting sessions.

Solange and her husband Jean Marie-Vianey have been involved with the community parenting sessions in Rukomo, Gicumbi since earlier this year.

“It’s an opportunity I never had. Now, I have hope that my children will be able to read, unlike me”



CASE STUDY: MUKAMANZI SOLANGE

Solange and her family live together in Rukomo, a small, rural village nestled in the hilly landscape of Gicumbi District, Northern Rwanda. Both Solange and her husband, Jean Marie-Vianey, are involved with Literacy Boost’s community action programme, attending weekly parenting sessions to learn about the value of early childhood literacy development.

Having not been read to as a child, or having learnt to read or write during her childhood, Solange used to struggle to relate to her children learning these crucial skills at school. Both Solange and her husband explained that attending the parenting sessions run by Umuhuza, has helped them to realise how she can help her children learn to read and count. Parents are taught by local volunteers how to make learning materials out of objects and food packaging they have at home, meaning that parents are now able to do different activities with their children, such as asking them to identify colours, numbers and shapes of the plates and bowls in the kitchen.

Solange emphasised that these activities have not just helped to develop her children’s literacy and numeracy skills, it has brought her closer to her children: “I like to ask my children what they have done at school each day...”, her husband commenting that “the children are more talkative now. They are not afraid to ask us questions anymore.”

Solange and her husband explained that as a result of the discussions held with other parents in the sessions, many have changed their attitude towards using more positive discipline at home, further strengthening the relationships between parents and their children.

TOGETHER WE CAN
TRANSFORM PEOPLES LIVES.