



# CHANGING LIVES THROUGH YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES



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01

YOUTH ENJOYING  
SFR SUPPORT FIGURES

507-YEWE CLUB

**Non-Schooling girls reached through awareness on their Reproductive Health and Rights**

OVER 1000

**Graduated TVET -Students**

OVER 100

**Shelters constructed for the most vulnerable youth**

MORE THAN

10000-

**Schooling adolescents reached through awareness of their Reproductive Health from 10 Secondary schools in Rusizi and Nyamasheke Districts**

OVER 500

**Youths economically empowered projects like Apiculture(Bee) farming**

# ABOUT SFR



Strive Foundation Rwanda. (SFR) is a local non-governmental, non-religious, non-political, and non-profit making organization that was founded in 2003 to promote the social and economic welfare of vulnerable communities.

The organization operates with a legal personality No: 04/08.11 with the Rwanda Ministry of Justice that was published in the official gazette of Rwanda on the 15th of February 2010. The organization also has compliance with the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) with No: 04/2012 of 17th/02/2012.

SFR operates from the most rural-based communities in Rwanda, where it also encourages community direct involvement of beneficiaries towards their own development. SFR intervention in the communities follows our 4 main programs i.e. Health, Education, Women and Youth Empowerment, and Good governance with crosscutting programs of Inclusiveness, Gender, and Environmental protection.

# Introduction



The initiatives include among others the “ Youth Connect platform”, designed to connect the youth for social and economic transformation with the aim of connecting them to their peers' role models, resources, skills, and economic opportunities.

Still, the initiatives have built strong creative, innovative, and economically independent mindsets to tackle unemployment. Effective youth empowerment requires a holistic and flexible approach that recognizes the diverse needs and potential of young people.

According to NISR(National Institute of Statistics Rwanda) around 70% of the population are youth with 27.6% between the ages of 16 and 30years with the the current projections showing that Rwanda's population is estimated to continue growing for the rest of the century and reach 21 million by 2050, and 30 million in 2076.

Therefore, the government of Rwanda has designed several initiatives to empower youth in order to build their capacities through mindset change.

By combining these approaches, communities, governments, organizations, and individuals can help youth develop the skills, knowledge, and self-confidence they need to become active, responsible, and engaged members of society.

Regardless of the government’s initiatives, the level of poverty and illiteracy due to limited resources to access education are still high mostly within the youth in rural areas and this hinders youth from attaining their life development goals.

SFR designs projects that are meant to empower the youth through comprehensive education, vocational training, and decent work opportunities for vulnerable youth, which helps them to develop skills, confidence and provides relevant support to succeed in life



Youth unemployment is a critical issue plaguing many countries today. In Rwanda, numerous young individuals migrate to urban areas in search of employment opportunities. However, the allure of cities often comes with high living costs, leaving little room for savings. By focusing on developing the agricultural sector, we create sustainable job opportunities for youth in rural areas, enabling them to contribute to their local economies and lead fulfilling lives in their own communities.

Empowering youth involves a multi-faceted approach that includes education, mentorship, support, and opportunities for personal and professional growth. Strive Foundation Rwanda plays a crucial role in empowering vulnerable youth through various initiatives, which contribute to improve the lives of rural youth through financial inclusion, sexual and reproductive health human rights, and skilling intervention school club initiative that fights teen pregnancies.

SFR has made all possible efforts to provide direct services for imparting education and evidence-based life skills to poor youth to enhance their community participation and develop ownership while influencing the minds of government policymakers to persuade progressive changes to battle the current challenges through robust advocacy strategies.

SFR's programs provide these young people with activities that build their self-esteem, help them believe in themselves, and develop their analytical, decision-making, and life skills. At SFR, we believe it is essential to raise socially responsible citizens, not just provide material and technical support.

## Areas of intervention

SFR aims to reach the most vulnerable youth communities in Nyamasheke, Rusizi, who are most vulnerable in poor household communities with young young adolescents to help them realize their full potential and actively participate in their society as self-reliant, engaged, and responsible citizens and this has helped them believe in themselves, and develop their analytical, decision-making, and life skills.

Nyamasheke District in particular is Rwanda's poorest district which clearly indicates that the number of vulnerable populations mostly the youth is high and troublesome hence calling for immediate interventions.

Modern agricultural activities designed by SFR like apiculture and livestock farming have been instrumental in generating income for our youth hence changing the narrative of their poverty statuses.

### ***SFR'S CATEGORY OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM***

The youth empowered by Strive Foundation Rwanda include those from child-headed households, orphans, vulnerable communities, schooling and out-of-school adolescents, and single mothers, the programs focus mainly on encouraging them to participate in social awareness activities that prepare them for a better future. Knowing their sexual reproductive is also part of our concern, whereby we intend to improve the Sexual Reproductive Health status of young people by supporting youth and adolescents to access ASRH services, including Menstrual Health, Youth Friendly Services, and Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

The program also focuses on the advocacy for a conducive policy framework for young people; and youth empowerment through the roll-out of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for in and out-of-school adolescents and youth, including access to vocational skills and Interventions on HIV, teenage pregnancy prevention, gender transformative norms, and Menstrual Hygiene Management among others.

# 06

# Pictorials

*Improved agricultural practices for food security and income generation*



*Improved livestock farming practices for nutritional benefit, manure production and income generation*







## *Improved Apiculture farming for vulnerable youth in Rusizi and Nyamasheke Districts*



## *Technical and Vocational Trainings for the vulnerable youth*



## Way Forward

Empowering vulnerable youth in Rwanda using the best approach is SFR's continuous dream, as young children people will always need an environment where they can realize their potentials by finding solutions to related challenges they face every day that might be a hindrance to their development.

### IN CONCLUSION;

SFR's Empowerment projects have proven to be extremely beneficial for vulnerable youth in Rwanda. By contributing strongly towards the common goal of empowering vulnerable youth in our community, we can build a stronger nation. It is our responsibility to ensure that no vulnerable youth in Rwanda is left behind. This will result into an empowered generation of responsible youth that we can be proud of.





Strive Foundation Rwanda



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