



Background & Fact Sheet

1.0 Who We Are

HOPE is a faith-based, non-profit organisation that brings together church, government, NGO's, private enterprise, healthcare and individuals, to provide practical solutions to countries devastated by war, genocide and poverty.

Our primary objective is to assist developing nations reduce poverty, achieve sustainable development, and to bring spiritual strength and social justice to every segment of society.

2.0 Our History

In 2004, when Mark and Darlene Zschech and their family were on a mission's trip to Africa, they learned the horrific history and current situation of this beautiful country and its people. With this knowledge they found it impossible to be passive about helping their Rwandan brothers and sisters in need. Together with many humanitarian aid organizations, churches, medical professionals, teachers, builders and volunteers from all across the globe, Mark & Darlene Zschech launched "Hope Rwanda: 100 days of Hope" to replace the 100 days of horror in 1994 with 100 days of hope in 2006. This initiative is still moving forward today.

2.1 The Genocide

- One million Rwandans were murdered in 100 days in 1994. 300,000 of these were children.
- The genocide was planned as an ethnic cleansing by the government of the time.
- International intervention was practically non-existent.
- The weapons most commonly used were clubs and machetes.
- About 100,000 children were left orphaned as a result of the genocide. Virtually all Rwandan children witnessed unspeakable horror. Thousands of children were victims of brutality and rape.
- Nearly two thirds of the Rwandan population still lives below the poverty line.

2.2 A Snapshot of the Impact: 2006-2010

- A total of 53 life-saving open-heart operations were carried out by a team of 35 surgeons from Operation Open Heart.
- Every prison in Rwanda was visited and 70,000 prisoners received a hygiene pack and free literature.
- Over 1000 teachers trained to train others in a strategic partnership with the Rwandan Ministry of Education.
- 26 brand new, structurally sound, 3 bedroom homes in 'The Village of Hope'.
- 150,000 gift packs handed out through the Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' program.
- 1,000 children sponsored through Compassion.

3.0 The Village of Hope

The Village of Hope (VOH) is a self-sustaining, holistic model providing for the complete needs of the child, widow and community. In addition to homes, the village is constructing a community centre and a school, which includes facilities for counseling, skills training, as well as work opportunities, a clean water source and electrical power.



The homes themselves accommodate one family unit, with an average of 6 people per house. The families consist of up to eight children and a housemother, or are sibling headed families (over 18). The houses consist of:

- three bedrooms,
- an outdoor kitchen and rain water tank,
- living area and bathroom,
- Fully furnished with bunk beds for the children, living and dining room furniture.
- The house is constructed of brick and has windows with shutters, porches, flowerbeds and clotheslines.

The Village of Hope is located in the Gasabo District, Kigali Rwanda.

3.1 Outcomes

- 26 houses currently occupied by the most needy and desperate families.
- Living standards have been significantly improved due to availability of clean water, adequate shelter,
- Support from living in community as well as income generating activities and training in health and hygiene.

4.0 HOPE: Education Project

Since 2005 Hope Rwanda has partner with the Rwandan Education System and Ministry of Education to improve their education systems and provide ongoing teacher training and mentoring.

Our primary motivation behind our programs is to reinforce the value in the profession of teaching and to convey the importance of its role in developing the future of Rwanda's leaders.

4.1 Facts

- Education standard for a Rwandan teacher is only a high school certificate. Current teachers have no tertiary qualifications. The average class size is between 40-60 children.
- Government legislation has changed the national language of learning from French to English. All teachers (31,000) must be taught English and then to teach in English by 2012.
- Quality nursery training has been identified as a key solution to women re-entering the workforce and reducing child abuse.
- There is no special education training currently given to Rwandan teachers outside the Hope Education training.

4.2 Outcomes

- Over 1,500 teachers are currently in various stages of the 'Train the Trainer' Pathway. These teachers were identified as the 50 best in their district.
- 150 English trainers (Hope graduates) are employed by the Ministry of Education.
- 40 Nursery trainers (Hope graduates) are employed by the Ministry of Education.
- Potential collaboration with the University of Newcastle to make our training accredited.
- In July 2010, train 100 Rwandan university lecturers in current methods of teaching using English curriculum and information technology.
- In July 2010, train 150 Ministry of Education staff, District Inspectors and Principals who assess teaching standards in learning methods, English, Nursery and Special Education.