



## Project Description

### **The Vision**

Rwanda is a small, land locked central African country about the size of Maryland with a population of 13.5 million people and history of genocide. But rather than be remembered for the genocide, Rwanda has its eyes on the future and aspires to afford its citizens a middle-class life by 2050. It is well on the way to doing so with an annual GDP of 8%.

Toward this effort, Rwanda established English as an official language in 1996. In 2008 Rwanda phased out French and mandated an English-only curriculum beginning at the secondary level and incrementally adding grades until 2019, when all grades are to be taught and tested in English.

### **The Reality**

82% of Rwanda's population is young, poor and lives rurally. In fact, nearly half of the rural children live in extreme poverty.

### **The Challenge**

Less than 5% of rural Rwandan teachers speak English well enough to teach the English-only national curriculum, severely hampering the chances of students passing the national exams, secondary education, college, higher-paying jobs, and an escape from poverty.

### **Our Solution**

The Rwanda English Project provides teachers and student teachers with daily 90-minute in-person spoken English by trained Rwandan instructors and managers for up to 2 years. Over the past 8 years, the Project has taught over 500 classroom teachers and 1,000 teacher training college student teachers spoken English. And it is working. Teachers' and student teachers' English improves at least 300% after 1 year of instruction. Students are passing tests, teacher training college professors are speaking fluent English, and student teachers are starting their careers speaking English.

### **More Information**

The Rwanda English Project is funded by private donors and a foundation. All money is used to pay for equipment, training, instructors, coaches, and managers.

Please visit our website: [rwandaenglishproject.org](http://rwandaenglishproject.org)

Project Director: Deborah Steely, [maestradeborah@gmail.com](mailto:maestradeborah@gmail.com) +1 541 912 6179