

Early childhood in Rwanda

1. Map of Rwanda



2. Demographics on young children

Health Indicators

Population & Medical Personnel

- **Total population: 8,2 millions**
- **Per Capita GNP: 250US \$**
- **Doctors: 1/50,000 inhabitants**
- **Nurses: 1/3,900 inhabitants**
- **17% of Nurses in rural areas**

Infant Mortality and Maternal Mortality

- **Infant mortality: 86/1000 (DHS,2005)**
- **Under 5 Mortality: 152/1000 (DHS, 2005)**
- **Maternal mortality: 750/ 100,000 (DHS, 2005)**
- **Assisted deliveries: 38.7% (DHS, 2005)**

HIV/AIDS and other epidemics

- **HIV prevalence: 3% (DHS+2005)**
- **Malaria: Cause of 40% of consultations in health facilities**
- **TB (2003): 6,046 cases in the country**
- **60% of HIV patients are diagnosed with TB**

Family Planning

- **Contraceptive prevalence: 17% (DHS,2005)**
- **Use of Modern Contraception Methods:**
DHS 2000 = 4%
DHS 2005 = 10%

Other Health Indicators

- **Under 5 years severe malnutrition: 19.4% (DHS, 2005)**
- **Access to Health facilities (Health centers): 37.9%**

Child care

The government of Rwanda is strongly committed to improve the health situation of the Rwandan population , in particular the health of mothers during childbirth and the survival of their young .Sadly current maternal and child mortality rates are alarming : for every 100,000 live birth , 750 mothers will die during delivery . Young children also face daunting statistics 86 out of 1000 newborns will die before reaching the age of one year old and 152 out of 1000 children will not celebrate their fifth birth anniversary .

Children in Rwanda continue to die fom communicable and preventable diseases , such as diarrhea , malaria , pulmonary infections , malnutrition and HIV/AIDS .

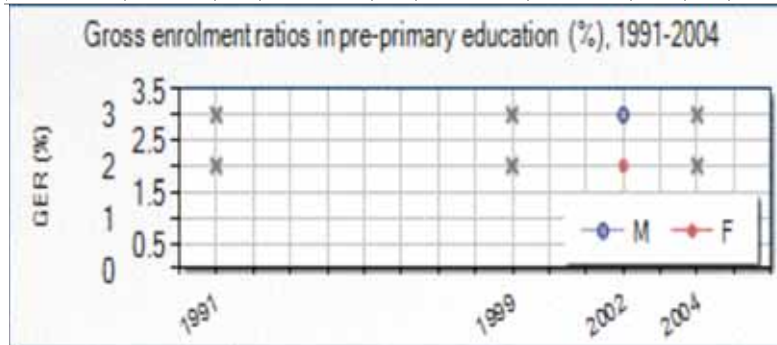
Even though child mortality is high in the country , it has been proven that family and community' s interventions are key to reduce child mortality . Thus to continually prevent and stop our children from dying , parents , teachers , communities' leaders need to take responsibility right now . We cannot afford to continually watch our children die one after another if we want to grow as a nation and reach the millennium development goals .

Source : www.moh.gov.rw/health_indicator.html

% of children attending an early childhood program

Pre-primary enrolment

Pre-primary		1991	1999	2002	2004	2004 Regional average		
GER (%)	MF	...	...	(3)	3	...	(3)	12
	M	...	...	(3)	3	...	(3)	13
	F	...	...	(3)	2	...	(3)	12

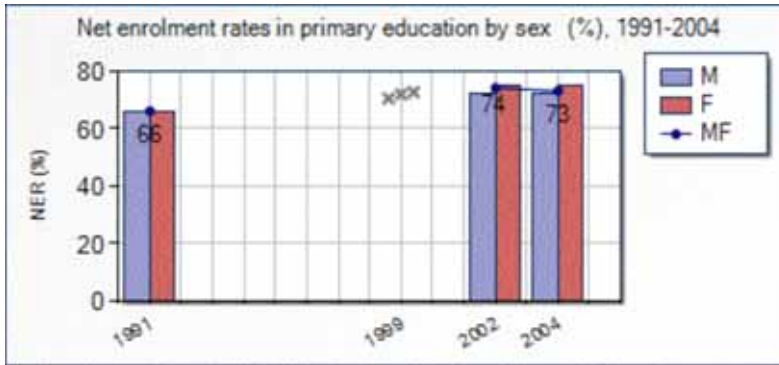


Source : www.uis.unesco.org/profiles/EN/EDU/countryProfile_en.aspx?code=6460

Percentage of children enrolled in Grade I, dropout and repetition rates.

Primary enrolment " 75 % of girls and 72 % of boys are in primary school

Primary		1991	1999	2002	2004	2004 Regional average	
GER (%)	MF	70	99	102	119	91	
	M	71	100	103	118	96	
	F	69	98	102	120	85	
NER (%)	MF	66	...	74	73	(3)	65
	M	66	...	72	72	(3)	67
	F	66	...	75	75	(3)	63



Source : www.uis.unesco.org/profiles/EN/EDU/countryProfile_en.aspx?code=6460

c. ECD National Plan of action

EARLY CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT

ECD is commonly defined as:

- The education provided for children 0-3 years in Day Care Centres and for children 3 years to under 6 years in Nursery schools
- A community-based, low-cost project for the holistic development of the child from 0-6 years
- Refers to a comprehensive approach to policies and programmes for children from birth to eight years of age, their parents and caregivers; its purpose is to protect the child's rights to develop his or her full cognitive, emotional, social and physical potential.

National ECD policy in Rwanda

The Planning, Policies and Capacity Building Unit is encharged with Education planning and national school map, Policy of National high education and continuous training, Capacity development of related institutions, National policy in matter of fundamental Research, Planning and resources Mobilization .

It is in charge of planning policies related to education matters and ECD . It has published statistics on pre-primary Education and can be accessed on www.mineduc.gov.rw/IMG/xls/copy_of_synthese_prescolaire_2004.xls

What ministry (ministries) is responsible for ECD in the government?

The ministry responsible for ECD in the government of Rwanda is the ministry of education (www.mineduc.gov.rw)

Is there a coordinating body?

The coordinating body is the unit Policy planning unit .

d. Funding for early childhood

The Ministry of Education is working to ensure attainment of The Government of Rwanda policy of universal primary education by 2010 and Education for All by 2015, as outlined in the MDGs and the Dakar agreements. The Government has implemented a policy of fee-free primary education in which school fees have been abolished and replaced by a capitation grant, which has increased to 2,500FRw (USD4.50) in 2006. Shortfalls in financing at the school level nevertheless persist, with parents typically being invited to contribute to finance this gap. Non-fee barriers to primary education also remain and are thought to have some effect on access to education (for example, the cost of school uniforms and learning materials)

e . Ensuring the rights of young children (children under age 8)

Rwanda launches campaign to keep girls in school (

1 March 2007 – A new campaign promoting gender parity in Rwandan schools was launched by the First Lady of Rwanda and the Rwandan Ministry of Education.

“We need to help Rwandan girls strengthen their self-confidence so that they can confront the challenges that exist in life,” said Rwanda’s First Lady, Jeannette Kagame. “Women can do everything that men can do; they should not be intimidated.”

Rwanda has made great progress in recent years to encourage equal opportunities for women and men, and as a result many more girls are enrolling in the 2,295 primary schools throughout the country. However, girls are far more likely than boys to drop out of school. Only about half of all girls who

enroll in primary school actually complete their education. The main factors contributing to their drop-out rate include demands of the household, gender-related violence and improper sanitation facilities at schools.

Source: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/media_38507.html