FUTURE FIRST GLOBAL IS NOW INHIVE.

THIS RESOURCE WAS PRODUCED PRIOR TO THE ORGANISATION’S REBRAND.
ALUMNI NETWORKS: RWANDA
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HEALTH POVERTY ACTION

OVERVIEW

Future First Global is working in partnership with Health Poverty Action to build alumni networks at 28 schools in the Southern Province of Rwanda.

The initiative, part of the UK Government’s Girls’ Education Project, will support young people by connecting them with former students of their school – who are a relatable source of advice and can provide access to opportunities relevant to their local community.

The project, which started in September 2017, has already made significant progress with a decline in absenteeism, improved careers advice and a boost to the school’s financial resources.

A mid-line review has identified further progress, as well as revealing areas for improvement in the latter phase of the programme.

By the time the project ends in May 2020, the partnership will have supported thousands of students and the schools will be ready to run the alumni networks without external support.

The steady stream of students graduating means the approach is an inherently sustainable way to strengthen the impact of schools.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Establishing alumni networks, as with most education initiatives, requires a long-term view to see significant results.

However, as we saw on this project, alumni engagement can have an immediate impact too.

Small committees made up of former students were established early on and they wasted no time in getting to work.

Within months of the project start, they had collectively hosted twenty village meetings as well as numerous mentoring talks, house visits and after-school clubs.

The impact of this activity was immediate. Twenty young people were encouraged to return to school and financial commitments had been made to over 80 pupils.
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT UP 41%

At the half-way point in the project, a thorough evaluation took place to assess the impact of the work so far. The progress across the board is encouraging, with indicators up on almost all counts and clear areas for improvement identified too.

All schools perceive alumni work as moderately or very important, with a reported increase in the strength of alumni engagement. The average engagement rating of 1.25 out of 5 went up to 3 out of 5 - an increase by 41%.

Encouragingly, 89% of schools said they only started to think about alumni engagement when or after the project started – demonstrating it’s a new idea that gained traction fast. Further evidence of this includes the fact that no schools had any way of managing alumni data at project inception but now 96% are recording alumni data.

Finally, schools were set six action points to complete and progress has been strong. 71% have completed four or more actions, with 54% having completed five or more.

Further impact-related results are below.

MAKING AN IMPACT

All 28 schools reported that alumni is supporting with the key challenges identified by the school.

59% of children returning to school were persuaded by alumni to go back. That's 284 more pupils in class.

27% of all Mentorship interactions were with alumni. That's alumni benefitting 353 students.

91% of all financial donations to schools came from alumni, contributing to essential resources like books and equipment.

93% of schools now have a formal system for engaging alumni, from a standing start of zero schools.

722 students in after-school clubs run by alumni, with 34% of all attending students engaging with alumni.

For more information please contact:
Abi Nokes, CEO
abi@futurefirstglobal.org
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