About EDD

Empower Develop Dignify (EDD) is a nonprofit organisation based in Ndera, Kigali, Rwanda. We work to create opportunities for children from vulnerable backgrounds through quality education, holistic care and a supportive environment in which they can learn, grow and develop their potential.

Our Story

EDD's work began in 2002, when founders Tajdin and Khatun Jaffer started providing food to children living on the streets of Kigali. Recognising that children needed more than a meal, they donated land in Ndera and helped establish Enfants de Dieu, which grew to provide education, care and opportunities for children to rebuild their lives. In 2020, EDD shifted its focus towards early intervention, supporting younger children before vulnerability can limit their opportunities.

Our Current Education Programme

Today, EDD provides free pre-primary and primary education and school meals to 177 children aged 3–9. Our programme follows Rwanda's Competency-Based Curriculum and draws on Early Childhood Development (ECD) principles to support children's academic, social and emotional development.

The school currently operates seven classes three pre-primary classes and four primary classes and teaches up to Primary 4. EDD aims to continue expanding its primary programme towards Primary 6 as children progress and the organisation grows. Our teaching team includes 14 teachers, supported by administrative and other staff who help the school operate each day.

How Our Approach Supports Children

1. Quality education: Teaching aligned with Rwanda's Competency-Based Curriculum, supporting academic learning and the development of practical skills.
2. Early childhood development: A focus on the formative years, when children benefit from supportive relationships, curiosity, play and a strong foundation for lifelong learning.
3. Holistic development: Attention to children's social and emotional growth, positive relationships, respect for others and confidence in their abilities.
4. A supportive school environment: School meals, teachers, learning spaces and day-to-day resources that help children participate in learning and progress through school.
5. Preparation for the future: A commitment to broadening children's knowledge, skills and opportunities, including preparing them to engage with a changing world and the 21st-century economy.

The Challenge We Address

Poverty and inequality can make it harder for families to meet children's needs and access quality education. Children from vulnerable backgrounds may have fewer opportunities to benefit from the learning resources, nourishment and supportive environments that help them develop academically, socially and emotionally. Without these foundations, children's potential may remain unrealised, limiting their future opportunities and their ability to contribute positively to society.

What This GlobalGiving Project Supports

This GlobalGiving project supports the ongoing operation of EDD's education programme. Because we do not charge school fees, we rely on donations and the generosity of our supporters to sustain our work and provide children with free education and daily school meals.

Contributions help cover essential school operations, improve children's nutrition and provide learning resources, including computers. Access to computers will introduce children to technology and help them develop essential digital skills needed for further education and future opportunities.

By supporting EDD's work, donors help us maintain a consistent learning environment, respond to children's needs and plan for future classes as the school grows. Every contribution helps us provide children with the opportunity to learn, grow and build a brighter future, regardless of their background or financial circumstances.

2026 Academic Year Budget

EDD's 2026 budget covers the costs of running its education programme, including staff salaries and social security contributions; enhancing the school meals and food supplies; uniforms, shoes, stationery and classroom furniture; education and training expenses; utilities, maintenance and repairs; administration, transport, insurance, taxes and security.

The budget also includes planned capital investments in computer lab equipment and internet connectivity, building roofing, CCTV cameras and other occupation permit requirements.

EDD relies on donations and partner support to sustain its work, as we do not charge school fees.

Our Long-Term Aspiration

We envision a future where every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to learn, thrive and reach their full potential. Through quality, holistic education, EDD aims to nurture lifelong learners who grow into confident, compassionate and responsible individuals, equipped to pursue further education, explore diverse career paths and embrace

the opportunities of a changing world. By fostering civic responsibility, respect for human diversity and peaceful coexistence, we hope to empower a generation that challenges inequality, values others and contributes to a more inclusive and equitable society.

Organisation and Accountability

EDD is registered as a nonprofit organisation in Rwanda, with legal status granted on 6 August 2004. The organisation is overseen by its leadership team and Board of Directors, who are responsible for governance, management, operations and organisational policies. Support received through this project contributes to EDD's ongoing work and is managed in accordance with organisational priorities and applicable requirements.

Be Part of a Child's Journey

Every child deserves the chance to learn, discover their potential and build a future filled with possibilities. But this journey takes more than a classroom; it takes dedicated teachers, a supportive learning environment and the resources to keep education accessible to every child. Because EDD does not charge school fees, your generosity helps make this possible. By supporting EDD, you help keep children learning, growing and moving towards a brighter future, regardless of their circumstances.