



January – April 2021

Coronavirus continued to cause big problems. Schools were schools open but no sport and no outside visitors were allowed. Consequently, our RDOs were unable to deliver any coaching sessions in schools or in clubs as sport is still prohibited other than individual non contact sport such as running.

The RDOs took part in online coaching courses to make sure that when they were able to restart coaching they can conduct their trainings in a Covid secure manner. They have also been working hard to stay fit and healthy with personal training.

The charity obtained funding for some new RDOs to join the team as soon as we are able to deliver trainings in schools. In preparation for this the RDOs worked together to compile an RDOs handbook to ensure work we do is consistent across the districts and the document will be a useful reference for both the current team and the new RDOs when we are able to employ them. This bilingual handbook is available on our website.

Throughout the whole pandemic, FoRR has continued to pay the salaries of the RDOs and we are very thankful for our sponsors who are funding two of the RDOs – Frederic in Nyamasheke District by a private sponsor and Joseph in Ruhango district sponsored by Enzygo. We are delighted to be one of the main charities supported by Enzygo. More information about the company can be found at www.enzygo.com

We were delighted to receive a third offer of sponsorship from Heb Ffin, a welsh charity. Heb ffin means “without frontier” in welsh and the charity works to support individuals and small charities working in Africa and Wales. Heb Ffin has granted us money to sponsor Laurien, RDO in Muhanga for 3 years. More information about the charity can be found at www.hebffin.com

In April we were delighted to receive a donation from Gareth Roden who has supported us in the past with a regular annual donation. We usually use Gareth’s money to fund a tournament and we are eagerly awaiting the time we can spend the money on a children’s rugby tournament.

The Monsanto Pensioners’ association sent a cheque for £25 to the charity. Our trustee, Mary Watkins, had written an article for their newsletter and it was voted by the readers as the best article which wins the prize of £25. Thanks MPA – that means 25 children can receive regular rugby coaching for a whole year!

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors and supporters.

May/June 2021

It was hoped that we would be running our rescheduled Rugby Foundations Tour and Players' Tour postponed from May 2020 but sadly the virus is still making travel impossible. The current plan is that we will run the tours in May 2022.

There was a glimmer of hope in May as schools with a playing field within the school grounds were allowed to start doing some sports.

Some schools have been able to invite the RDOs in to deliver training. Although full rugby coaching has not been possible the children have really enjoyed doing physical education often without the use of any balls.

The children have not been allowed to play sport for over a year. The RDOs have reported that the children are very happy to be doing some organised physical exercise again and are really looking forward to being able to take part in proper rugby coaching when this is allowed.

The RDOs submitted the following photos of their recent visits to schools:

Joseph – RDO for Ruhango district



“Now I’m happy to be again in my lovely game as coach because I like it so much. I’m proud to have more children playing rugby again”

Donatien – RDO for Rusizi district

“Getting back to rugby coaching has been great and the children are very happy. We were very unlucky because we were just one week away from our tournament in March 2020 when the lockdown started.”



Pupils from ECPS Tara Primary enjoying relay races.



First rugby session at Nyamagana Primary school.

Emmanuel – RDO for Kamonyi district



GS Murehe taking part in socially distanced training with Emmanuel.



Kamanda – Programme Manager and RDO for Kigali district

Kamanda is based in Kigali city where the number of Covid cases has been high and there have been several lockdowns that have closed the schools. It has been difficult to start training again but he has managed some training with a school at Gikondo.



Fitness training with Gikondo Academy



TVET Kayenzi before the Covid restrictions wearing donated kit from Gwernyfed RFC.

Jean de Dieu - RDO for Nyamagabe district

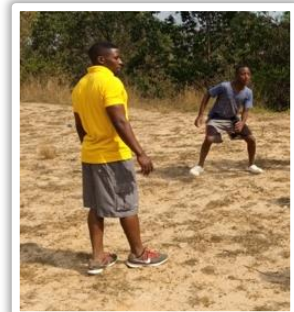


Jean de Dieu has been taking whole classes for PE as part of the school timetable. Our plan going forward is for schools to use the RDOs as specialist PE teachers.



Jean de Dieu - RDO for Gasabo district

Kigali city has been badly affected by Covid and Jean de Dieu was not allowed to deliver any sessions in schools. He did manage to train on a Saturday morning with some children.



Assinapold - RDO for Burera district

Assinapold worked with 4 schools in Burera. Training has been limited to fitness work and the players all wear face masks.



Frederic - RDO for Nyamasheke district



Frederic has been working with schools in Nyamasheke on simple fitness training. Many schools in the district are not allowing sports activities as they don't have a playground within the school grounds.



He has not been able to do much coaching but in May 2021 he married the love of his life – Beatrice. Many congratulations to the happy couple!

Focus on an RDO - Laurien –Muhanga district

Our focus RDO for this newsletter is Laurien who is now sponsored by Heb Ffin.

Laurien is 33 years old and first came across rugby in 2003 when he started playing in school. Later he played club rugby in Kigali before forming a club in his hometown, Muhanga. He is now one of the most experienced RDOs. Laurien is brilliant at working with large groups of children, keeping all involved. His sessions are a joy to watch - enthusiastic and energetic.

Covid 19 brought many difficulties – all coaching stopped and Laurien says he struggled with loneliness. Despite the restrictions on numbers of attendees at weddings, Laurien had a lovely day and married Beatrice in August 2020.

They now have a beautiful daughter, Laura.

Laurien lost both of his parents in the 1994 genocide so we are delighted he now has his own family. As he said, “My family has become the joy of my life”.

As schools started allowing some sport, Laurien negotiated with the headteachers and has been delivering a sport lesson as part of the school timetable. The children were very happy. Here he is with a large group from GS Gitarama.



Laurien, Beatrice and baby Laura



Update on COVID-19 in Rwanda. A surge in cases in June has led to the early closure of all schools and reintroduction of restrictions and lockdown.

Unfortunately, this means that once again our RDOs are not able to deliver coaching sessions in schools or with children in after school clubs. Our thoughts are with the Rwandan people as they face a difficult time. We will of course continue to support our staff in Rwanda.

#1for1for1 - £1 pays for 1 child to have regular rugby coaching for 1 year. Help us reach more children by donating at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/friendsofrwandanrugby>

<https://friendsofrwandanrugby.com>

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