



i. Introduction

The Rwanda Rugby Federation, in collaboration with the UK-based charity Friends of Rwandan Rugby, has initiated a Rugby development program with the objective of providing organized sports activities in Rwanda. The primary focus is to educate children and youth in essential life skills, including the core values of Rugby: Discipline, Respect, Solidarity, Integrity, and Passion. The program aims to promote health, well-being, safety, social values, goal-setting, and turning challenges into motivational drivers. Recognizing the significant work done by the UNHCR in the Mahama Refugee Camp, particularly considering the demographic data from the February 2023 factsheet (58,248 refugees, with 50.2% under 18 years old in addition to the youth over 18 years old), the initiative was extended to introduce Rugby to young people in Mahama Refugee Camp starting from September 2023 when it was agreed to appoint a rugby development officer (RDO) in Kirehe District who is responsible for delivering regular organized sport sessions that can be accessed by young people from the refugee camp via their schools.

ii. Training Sessions

Since we started with the program in September, organized Rugby training sessions are conducted twice a week, catering to different classes at Nursery, Primary, and Secondary levels. The table below summarizes the number of sessions and participants in each category. Figures up to the end of December 2023.

Level	Number of Sessions	Number of Participants
Nursery Mahama	6	240
Primary GS Pysannant L(A,B,C,D,E)	42	1,680
GS Pysannant SecondaryL(A,B,C,D,E)	42	627
TOTAL	90	2,547

iii. Photos



Children from GS Pysannant (Primary) expressing joy during a rugby session with our Rugby Development Officer, Emmanuel.



GSPysannant(Secondary) after rugby session with our RDO Emmanuel.

iv. Related Quotes given by teacher, Student and RDO

- 1. "Through rugby, students enhance their social interactions, exchange ideas, share advice, and discuss their academic progress. Engaging in the sport fosters a love for the school, prepares them for goal-setting, and equips them for a better future. Rugby inspires good behavior, discipline, and teamwork, acting as a deterrent against drug abuse. Above all, it contributes to maintaining their overall health. Upon**



graduation, students are assured to improve their lives due to enhanced relationships with their peers. This gives me hope that the game will persist in inspiring values and diversity, thereby promoting good citizenship and humanity," stated RDO Emmanuel.

2. Before being introduced to rugby, we perceived it as a dangerous game. However, upon commencing our training, we discovered that it is not only a highly enjoyable sport but also one that can be embraced by both genders—girls and boys, men and women alike.

Engaging in rugby brings us a sense of relaxation, and we find that it enhances our learning experiences. Moreover, our coach consistently encourages us to develop peaceful relationships with our peers and emphasizes the importance of hard work for a better performance. In my case, rugby entered my life later than expected. As student Uwimana Swazinegar stated, "We get relaxed when we play, and we learn better."

3. "Of course, we are delighted with the positive impact of the Rugby game, as it has significantly enhanced the solidarity among our students, making it easier for us to facilitate their education and socialization. I express the hope that this game will be spread all over the country. It is evident that such engagement will not only contribute to the academic development of our children but also foster essential life skills, ultimately leading to the overall progress of our nation. Expressed by Teacher Pacific NIYIKOMEYE."



v. Cross cutting Issues.

Human Rights and inclusion	Through doing organized sport the participants enjoy the right to play and learn to respect people of all abilities no matter their background.
Gender Balance	Through the sessions children are taught the importance of Gender Balance and practice in team work. (Primary & Nursery)The RDO has a plan to introduce rugby sessions at secondary level to encourage female participation.
Language development	Sessions are conducted in English as well as Kinyarwanda) and this play a role in language development by promoting inclusivity, cultural relevance, and language skills improvement.

vi. Conclusion:

The Rwanda Rugby Federation and Friends of Rwandan Rugby are committed to contributing to the comprehensive education of refugees, not only in Mahama Camp but also in other refugee camps. The success and enthusiasm witnessed in Mahama Refugee Camp demonstrates the potential for Rugby as a tool for education, skill development, and fostering positive values among the youth in challenging circumstances. The collaboration aims to extend the program's reach and impact, positively influencing the lives of refugee children and youth in various camps.

Done on 25th January 2024.