



The new year started well with our RDOs busy with school visits in term 2. One of our newest RDOs, Emmanuel, works in Kirehe District and he is working twice a week with the children and adults at Mahama Refugee camp. The children from the camp attend Paysannat L school which is also used by local children. The school caters for more than 20,000 children so Emmanuel is very busy!

He works with children from the nursery, using our new Rugby y'Abana Bato program, as well as primary and secondary school children. Teacher, NIYIKOMEYE Pacific, said, "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."

UWIMANA Swazinegar stated, "We get relaxed when we play, and we learn better."



Photos showing nursery, primary and secondary school children from Paysannat. Thanks to Monmouth RFC for providing a set of shirts for the secondary school team.

In February another of our new RDOs, Rachel, in Karongi district, organised a tag rugby tournament with 7 schools. Last June, four schools had been introduced to tag rugby as part of our tour so we were impressed that Rachel had another 3 schools 'tournament ready' in just a few months. Well done to Gatwaro primary for winning the girls' tournament and GS Nyegabo for winning the boys' tournament. A big thank you to Aisha for supporting Rachel making this our first ever tournament run by two female RDOs.



In March Joseph, RDO for Ruhango, ran tag tournaments with 12 primary schools, with a total of 108 boys and 108 girls playing. Thanks to Yvette from Nyanza district for assisting Joseph. Joseph's son was awarded the player of the tournament – proud dad moment!



Loic with his medal from his dad and Yvette



We have 12 districts that have received our TFT (Tag for Teachers) program. The RDOs run trainings and provide equipment for teachers so they can deliver Tag Rugby in their schools. There is a high demand but we are limited by the amount of equipment we can send to Rwanda. The British High Commission helped us greatly when they transported 100kg of tag belts and balls from the UK to Rwanda. We were delighted to welcome Omar Daair, the British High Commissioner, to the TFT training in Kicukiro district where Shaloom is our RDO. He even took part in some of the drills and could experience first-hand the fun and joy that tag rugby brings!



Omar Daair presenting TFT equipment to a school teacher and taking part in the practical activities in the training and receiving a rugby ball from Kamanda FoRR Program Manager.

Jean de Dieu in Nyamagabe district has started working with children from Kigeme refugee camp. He visits every weekend and his sessions are proving very popular. He is planning to start a team at the camp.



Joseph, Kamanda and Sandrine ran a very successful TFT day for all of the teachers at Bright School in Muhanga. The school organised lunch, so FoRR just provided the coaches and one set of tag rugby kit. Sandrine ran practical activities for Rugby y'Abana Bato for the nursery teachers at the school.



Preparations are well underway for the 17th annual volunteers' tour to Rwanda. We have a group of 18 volunteers signed up and are looking forward to introducing tag rugby and T1 rugby to Musanze district in northern province. With the help of funding from World Rugby we will be running training over four days for all RDOs and holding the first ever T1 tournament in Rwanda in May.

#1for1for1 - £1 pays for 1 child to have regular rugby coaching for 1 year.

<https://friendsofrwandanrugby.com>

info@friendsofrwandanrugby.org.uk



@rwandanrugby

