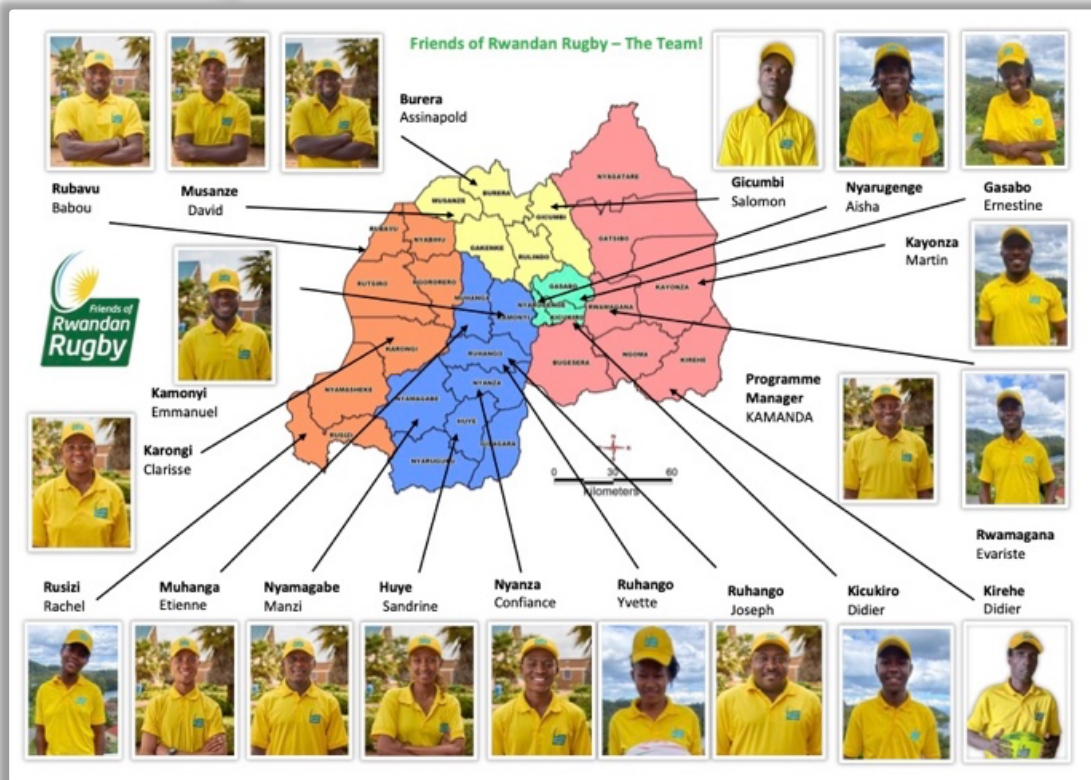




Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026! Our team of RDOs has increased and we have 20 volunteer coaches working across 18 districts in Rwanda. In January our newest RDOs, Didier and Salomon, started to work with schools in Gicumbi and Kirehe (Mahama Refugee Camp)

**Friends of Rwandan Rugby – The Team**



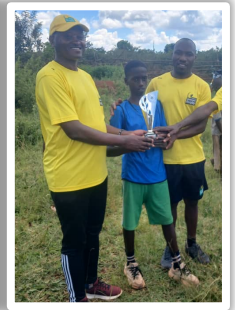
In Term 2, Program Manager, Kamanda, continued to support the RDOs by visiting and observing them coaching in schools and also met with local officials to improve the communication and support that they can offer to the RDOs in order to help them to reach more schools.



In February, Kamanda and Aisha ran two Abana Bato trainings with 22 teachers from Karongi and Kayonza. Clarisse and Martin supported. We had great feedback from the teachers who appreciate the kit provided and the fun ideas of how to use sport in a 'learning through play' approach. All RDOs use the Rugby y'Abana Bato activities in schools and communities but the program for teachers- running since May 2025 and funded by The Dennis and Jane Reese Foundation- has now trained 56 teachers from 19 schools in 5 different districts. We have received further funding from the foundation meaning we can continue the program in other districts. Huge thanks to AJ Hale for coordinating and Dennis and Jane Reese for sponsorship.



TFT (Tag for Teachers) is a program funded by the Bill McLaren Foundation. We train teachers from a cluster of primary schools to become tag rugby coaches. We ran a training in Rwamagana District in 2022 and this March we ran a tournament. The teachers are doing a great job keeping tag rugby going in their schools for four years demonstrating the sustainability of TFT. The teachers helped to referee so further developing their skills.



RDOs run tag rugby tournaments each year with schools. These generally happen in Terms 2 and 3. Joseph ran a tournament in Ruhango district in February and Assinapold, Martin and Etienne organised tournaments in their districts (Burera, Kayonza and Muhanga) in March.



As well as the regular coaching visits to schools, the RDOs also offer community rugby. Rachel has a successful group called Vision Running Rugby- a Saturday club with 10 girls and 14 boys aged 14 and 15. Babou has been very successful introducing rugby and for the first time ever Rubavu has been taking part in all age categories for school rugby competitions run by the school sports association.



Preparations for the annual coaches' tour are well underway. Mary, one of our trustees, spent a few days packing the equipment assisted by 2 volunteers, primary school teacher, Rebekah, who is very excited to be joining the tour in May, and Steve who will join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. We have had some fantastic new resources from Ram Rugby. Big thanks to Tristan from Ram Rugby for being so supportive.



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

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