

TRF Global Grant Project Report
Right to Read Rwanda
Rwanda, Africa
April, 2018

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of several components of an education and literacy-based TRF Global Grant project that was completed in partnership with Tools for Schools and Rotary International (Districts 3230 India; 9250 Rwanda; and 5370 Canada) and involved a number of hub primary and nursery schools in rural Rwanda. Global Grant #1419493, in the amount of \$66,500 USD was approved in 2014 and has recently been completed. This report is intended to briefly summarize project results in support of three (3) project elements, including:

- libraries, including furniture and books;
- school furniture and bulletin boards; and
- signs to recognise Rotary International and project partner signs.

An additional two ancillary project elements were added to the overall Right to Read Rwanda Project utilizing resources (funding, in-kind support and donations) from other project partners and donors.

These ancillary projects included:

- water tanks and solar powered water filtration systems for the provision of safe drinking water for students and teachers; and
- playgrounds at primary and nursery schools.

This project report also provides information regarding additional partners that supported the Right to Read Rwanda Project during the period of its implementation between October, 2014 and April, 2018.

Project Partners

There were four key partners who contributed to making this project the success that it was.



Rotary International

Including the Rotary Club of Jasper (District 5370 – Canada), the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga (District 9250 – Rwanda), and four (4) Rotary Clubs from District 3230 (India) including Chennai Info City, Madras East, Madras Marina and Chennai Towers.

Tools for Schools (Canada)



A registered Canadian charity (#47602059 RT001) whose goal is to improve education in Rwanda. The focus of their activities are teacher training, provision of resources to impoverished schools in rural Rwanda, as well as the construction of nursery schools and libraries at Nursery and Primary Schools in rural Rwanda. Jill Fenton, the President and CEO is a retired school principal from Jasper, Alberta after having worked in the field of education as teachers and administrators in Canada for over 30 years. She has been teaching in Rwanda since 1999 and is an active Rotarian as a member of both the RCs of Jasper and Kigali-Virunga. Jill has professional training and considerable experience, working in a post-conflict developing country, having successfully worked with the project partners in the delivery of similar projects in rural Rwanda for the past 10 years.

Bralirwa Brewery

The past General Manager of the Bralirwa Brewery and his wife donated the use of their guest house and staff at Rubavu to support the Right to Read Rwanda Project team of 7 people for a three week period in 2014 while teacher training workshops were being delivered at the Nkora-Vumbi and Rambo Hub Schools. Bralirwa is one of the largest beer brewing and beverage companies in Rwanda.

The guest house was a beautifully situated house on the shores of Lake Kivu only 1 kilometer from the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This amazing contribution, conservatively estimated at \$10,000 USD, meant that the financial resources that would normally have gone to hotel accommodations for the 7 team members, went directly to other activities of the Right to Read Rwanda Project.

Impala Foundation

Is a not for profit, charitable organization based in the Netherlands, with operations in Rwanda. They have been installing solar-powered Naiade water filtration system at schools, health clinics and other locations in Rwanda to support the provision of safe, clean drinking water. The Naiade unit up to 2,000 liters of safe drinking water for students, teachers and administrators each day. The units cost 6,000 – 8,000 Euros (\$9,000 - \$12,000 USD) each to purchase and install purchase and installation, with funding made possible by a number of Rotary and Service Clubs in the Netherlands. More information about the Impala Foundation and Naiade Water Filtration units can be found at their website:

www.impalafoundation.com.



Green Hills Academy

Green Hills Academy (GHA) is a private, family of four international Schools from Nursery to Secondary 4 and linked to Cambridge IGCSE and International Baccalaureate Programs. Located in Kigali, Rwanda

and established in 1997, they are committed to preparing leaders of the future for both Rwanda and the World by providing excellence in education. GHA has been a strong supporter of the Right to Read Rwanda Project, providing specialized training for librarians, nursery school teachers, Principals, as well as providing used books, classroom furniture and playground equipment – all towards improving the quality of education at schools in rural Rwanda. More information about the GHA can be found at their website: www.greenhillsacademy.rw.

Rotary Interact Club of Green Hills Academy Chartered in September 17, 2016, the Rotary Interact Club of GHA comprises approximately 20 members who provided volunteer community services during several work bees to wash and clean the used primary and nursery school furniture donated by GHA. More information regarding the GHA Rotary Interact Club can be found at the following weblink: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_Lw0SEqz24

Project Activity – Libraries

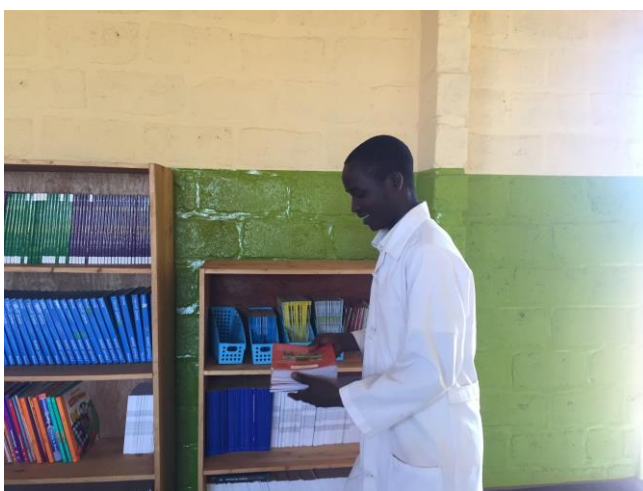
The Right to Read Rwanda Project included the establishment of libraries at 4 hub schools, including: Tare, Nemba, Rambo, and Nyamata Primary Schools. A reading corner was also established in the Nursery School at Nkora-Vumbi. The libraries established at each school included tables, chairs, book shelves, cabinets, book and reading resources, as well as training for librarians and teachers from each of the schools in how to administer and use libraries and library resources effectively in support of learning.



Nyamata Primary School Library and reading corner.
Photo courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.



Nyamata Primary School Library and reading corner during a reading session with Rotarian Libby Weir and Impala Foundation Director Sita Humolda. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.



Rotarian Libby Weir and a Librarian-Teacher in the library at Nemba Primary School. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.



Library at Tare Primary School. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.

Project Activity – School Classroom Furniture

The provision of school classroom furnishings at all 5 hub schools, including: Tare, Nemba, Rambo, and Nyamata Primary Schools, as well as Nkora-Vumbi Nursery School. The classroom furniture varied for each of the schools depending upon need, but usually included: student desks; teacher desk and chair, cupboard for books storage and security; and bulletin boards.

One of the project Partners, Green Hills Academy, donated a significant amount of used nursery and primary school classroom furniture that was surplus to their needs. The GHA Rotary Interact Club donated time on a volunteer basis to wash all of the furniture. It was then painted by a local contractor and transported to Nyamata and Nemba Primary Schools.



Rotarian Libby Weir with members of the Green Hills Academy Rotary Interact Club with painted Furniture. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.



Rotarians Greg Fenton and Neil Fenton (retired) helping to load furniture for transport. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.



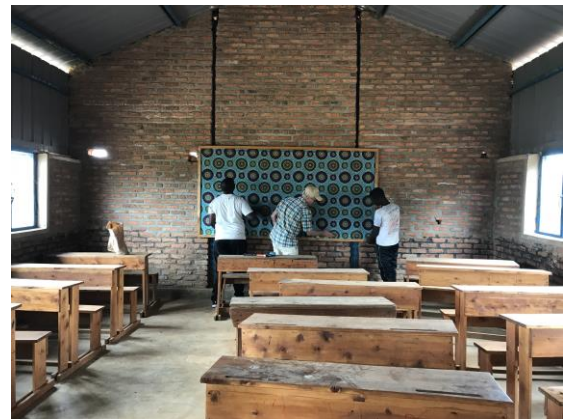
Donated furniture being painted by local contracts after preparation by the GHA Rotary Interact Club. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.



Rotarians Libby Weir and Jill Fenton helping moving painted classroom furniture in anticipation of it being loaded into truck for transport. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.



Refurbished school furniture in use at Nyamata Primary School. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.



Bulletin boards being transported and installed at Nyamata and Nemba Primary Schools. Photos courtesy of Rotarians Libby Weir and Greg Fenton.

Project Activity – Signs

Signs were designed by Rotarian Hugh Lecky (RC Jasper) of Tekarra Color and then assembled and installed at each of the Hub Schools.



Rotary Sign at Nkora Nursery School. Rotarian Libby Weir, Nkora Coffee Washing Station General Manager Peter Claver and Rotarian Jill Fenton. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.



Rotary International and Partner Sign at Tara Primary School. Rotarian Greg Fenton, Headmaster, Rotarian Jill Fenton, Students, Rotarian Saudah Nalule and Rotarian Libby Weir. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.

Ancillary Project Activity – Safe Drinking Water

The provision of safe drinking water was one of two ancillary project elements that were added to compliment both the needs of hub schools and the impact to of the Right to Read Rwanda Project. A water storage tank and stone base, with water harvested from the roofs of classroom buildings was installed at Nyamata Primary School and Naiade Solar powered water filtration systems were installed at 4 primary schools, including Nemba, Nyamata, Tare and Rambo Primary Schools.

Financial resources to support this ancillary project element came from sources other than the TRF Global Grant, including: the Impala Foundation; Tools for Schools; and the Rotary Club of Jasper (District 5370-Canada). At 8,000 Euros each, total cost for purchase and installation of Naiade Water Systems at the four Hub Schools exceeded \$61,500 USD!



Naiade Water Filtration System in operation at Rambo Primary School. Rotarian Libby Weir (far left) and Sita Homalda (Impala Foundation), Headmaster and Deputy Headmaster demonstrating and inspecting the water filtration system. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.



Nyamata Primary School – water tank and base, as well as Naiade Water System in use by students, with Rotarian Libby Weir. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.



Photo of Rotarian Libby Weir with Nemba Primary School students using the Naiade Unit. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir



Rotarian Libby Weir (Rotary Club of Jasper), Sita Homalda (Director, Impala Foundation), Headmaster Jeffery and Rotarian Saudah Nalule (Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga) at Nemba Primary School. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.



Rotarian Libby Weir inspect Naiade Water Unit located in the courtyard of Tare Primary School and discuss its use. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.

Ancillary Project Activity – Playgrounds

The installation of playgrounds at three of the schools was the second ancillary project that was added to the Right to Read Rwanda Project to support safe play into the school learning environment. Used primary and nursery school playground equipment was donated by Green Hills Academy and then refurbished by the Extra Mile Company, a Rwanda-based Technical and Vocational Training School at a cost of only 1.1 million Rwandan Francs (\$1,300 USD) for installation at three of the hub Schools: Nemba Primary; Nyamata Primary; and Nkora-Vumbi Nursery School. The result is functional playground equipment for 3 of only 4 known schools with playground equipment in Rwanda – an excellent addition to learning and play!!



Used playground equipment at Green Hills Academy in Kigali Rwanda. Rotarian Jill Fenton and Director of Extra Mile Company waiting for loading and transport. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.



Playground equipment arriving at the Extra Mile Company Vocational training Centre for refurbishment. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir.





The finished product installed at Nyamata Primary School at the official playground opening in March, 2018. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir and Greg Fenton.



Happy students, teachers, and School Trustees at Nyamata Primary School. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Libby Weir and Greg Fenton.

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