

**Final Report**  
**Right to Read Rwanda Project**  
**Rwanda, Africa**  
**May 2019**



## **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of an education and literacy-based project that was completed in partnership with Tools for Schools, Rotary International and the Rwanda District of Rubavu for the construction of three (3) nursery school classrooms at Busoro, Rambo and Kinigi Primary Schools in the Nyamyumba Sector of the Rubavu District overlooking Lake Kivu in Western Province of Rwanda.

The Government of Rwanda has placed an emphasis on the development of education and literacy as low literacy rates impede economic development of the country, a country with the highest population density in Africa in a post conflict/genocide era.

The purpose of this project is to build on the successes to date of the Right to Read Rwanda project in order to continue supporting the Rwanda Ministry of Education and individual primary schools in order to enhance the quality of education in rural areas of Rwanda.

More specifically, this project proposed to support the improvement of education & literacy, as well as water & sanitation at three target rural Primary Schools in the Nyamyumba Sector of the Rubavu District in NW Rwanda through:

1. construction of three classrooms (nursery or primary), one each at Busoro, Kinigi (new) and Rambo Primary Schools;
2. provide classroom furnishings for 4 nursery classrooms at each of the 3 target schools, plus some additional furniture at Nkora Nursery School; and
3. installation of 2 water storage tanks at Kinigi and Rambo, the relocation of 1 water tank at Busoro Primary School (installed in 2017-18) and the purchase of 1 water filtration system to increase the volume of water available at 2 schools and provide safe drinking water for Kinigi Primary School.

This project builds on the experiences and successes of past education and literacy-based projects that have been carried out in rural communities of Rwanda for the past 10 years in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga (District 9150) and Tools for Schools - a registered Canadian Charity (#847602059 RT001) that focuses on delivering education projects in rural Rwanda.

On the basis of an assessment of the condition of the Nkora Nursery School, a school for which the Rotary Club of Jasper and Tools for Schools have been supporting for more than 10 years, additional maintenance work was completed including:

- repainting exterior of school building;
- addressing drainage issues in the school yard and fence;
- repainting all exterior fence walls and playground equipment.

The project started in mid-November 2018 with on-the-ground project logistics, preparations and construction contract price quotes. An MOU between Rotary International, Tools for Schools and the Rwanda Ministry of Education was signed on December 19, 2018 for the construction and furnishing of the nursery classrooms. The project was completed, with final site inspections at each of the schools, on April 24-25, 2019.

## **Project Schools**

### **Busoro Primary School**

Perched on the top of a hill in the Rubavu District and overlooking Lake Kivu in western Rwanda, the school has a student population of more than 2,100 students in P1-P6, and a teaching team of 15. Students attend half-day classes and squeeze in 50-60 students per classroom. In 2018-19, the Right to Read Rwanda Project built and furnished a P1 classroom, as well as provided books and furnishings for the establishment of a library in an existing, but under-utilized storage room. The Project also installed a 5,000 litre water storage tank and facilitated the installation of a Naiade solar water filtration system by the Impala Foundation in order to provide safe drinking water. With more than 190 nursery school students and only one very old classroom, there was a need for an additional classroom and furnishings for 50 Nursery 3 students, along with an additional water storage tank to meet domestic and drinking water needs for the school.



Primary 1 classroom build in 2018-19, with school perched up on the hills overlooking Lake Kivu in Western Rwanda. Photo courtesy of Rotarians Greg Fenton and Libby Weir.

### **Rambo Primary School**

Located close to the city of Rubavu, near the small villages of Rambo and Rubano, perched on a plateau above the Bralirwa Brewery (Brassieres et Limonadieres du Rwanda), with a spectacular view of Lake Kivu, surrounding countryside, and on a clear day the volcanic outline of Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The School consists of two sets of red brick buildings with metal roofs, bisected by the main road. Built in 2003 to replace two older buildings which the student population had outgrown, it consists of 13 classrooms for Primary 1 – 6, one office for the Head Teacher, a small library/resource room and a storage room. The School also has several 5,000 litre above-ground water storage tanks that harvest rain water off the roofs of the buildings, water used for domestic cleaning and often drinking water for students and surrounding community residents even though it is not safe.

The school has more than 2,000 students and a teaching team of 30 teachers. It is one of 6 primary, two secondary, and four nursery schools (some of which are co-located with Primary Schools) in the education Sector, an area administered by a Sector Head who reports to the District Education Officer. The schools in the Sector are supported by a teacher team of 175 primary and secondary teachers, 6 nursery teachers (who are classified as teacher learners), and the Head Teachers for each of the schools and have a total student population of 12,000!!

The Right to Read Project has been working at the Rambo Primary School since 2014 when it delivered two, 1-week teacher training workshops to more than 140 teachers from Rambo and other schools in the catchment area. Since then, the Right to Read Project has also established and furnished a small nursery classroom converted from a storage room; established a small library, facilitated the installation of a Naiade solar water filtration system by the Impala Foundation in order to provide safe drinking water. With a nursery school student population of 80 students (40 in the morning and 40 in the afternoon), they were in need of a new nursery school classroom to support the growing student population.



Nursery Classroom, students and teacher. Headmaster and primary students outside nursery classroom. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Jill Fenton.



Library established in 2016-17. Photos courtesy of Rotarians Libby Weir and Greg Fenton.



Teachers at completion of training workshop in November, 2015. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.

## Kinigi Primary School

Is located in Western Rwanda, perched high on the hills overlooking Lake Kivu and the city of Rubavu on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has a student population of 1,100+ students and 12 teachers. It was identified as a candidate for a new nursery school classroom to replace an old, dilapidated and crumbling building for its 160 nursery school students: 80 in the morning and 80 in the afternoon. This is the first time that the Right to Read Rwanda Project has worked with this School, although it is in the same education sector as both Rambo and Busoro Schools.



Rotarians Jill Fenton and Libby Weir during project assessment in 2018, with School Principal and Sector Education Officer. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.



Old Nursery Classroom, now used for storage – note no windows, dirt floor and storage of old and broken furniture. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.

The school was also identified for an additional water storage tank as it only has two 5,000 litre water storage tanks and 1 water station for more than 1,100+ students and teaching staff.



Rotarians Libby Weir and Jill Fenton inspecting the two 5,000 litre water storage tanks and 1 water station for more than 1,100 students. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.

### **Roy Everest Junior (Nkora) Nursery School and CAFERWA**

The Nkora Nursery School located on the shores of Lake Kivu, north of the city of Rubavu in the Rutsiro District of Rwanda. The nursery school was built in partnership with CAFERWA in 2011 in order to facilitate quality early childhood education for children of the coffee farmer families that work for or supply coffee to the coffee washing station.

**CAFERWA (Coffee of Rwanda)** is a Coffee exporting company which started its operation in 1995 with an objective of exporting coffee to different parts of the world. It currently owns NKORA washing station in Gisenyi, which is the biggest coffee washing station in Rwanda with a capacity of producing 500 tons of parchment coffee per season. CAFERWA works with more than 1,000 farmers and their families who are grouped together in an association at Nkora. The company encourage coffee growers by giving them incentives in form of bonus and also supplies fertilizers and others pesticides to the farmers.

The Roy Everest Jr. Nursery School at Nkora was officially opened in January, 2013 after one large complex was created, comprising a 30-student classroom, eco-toilet facility, water station and playground all contained within a low walled compound. Tools for Schools also provided furniture for the school, recruited teachers and provided on-going teacher training and ensured that the students had smart uniforms to wear. The Right to Read Rwanda project has also provided blackboards, bulletin boards, a small library/reading corner and upgrading to the resource/teaching materials for the 80 nursery students who now attend each day.



Roy Everest Junior Nursery School. Jill & Neil Fenton with the two teachers at the school.



Exercises and song with the Nursery students



Rotarian Libby Weir, Peter Claver (Coffee Station Manager) and Jill Fenton at the Nkora Nursery School.



Rotarian Libby Weir and Emily Fenton at the eco-toilet blocks.

## Project Partners



There were four (4) partners who contributed to making this project the success that it was.

### **Rotary District 5370 Partners,**

- Rotary Club of Jasper who contributed financially to the project, with several members actively helping with the successful coordination and implementation of the project in Rwanda, including Rotarians Jill Fenton, Libby Weir and Greg Fenton.
- District 5370, who contributed financially towards this important project, with support from the District Designated Fund.

### **District 9150 Partners (Rwanda),**

- Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga, who continue to provide logistical support for all of the Right to Read Rwanda projects in rural Rwanda.

### **Tools for Schools (Canada),**

- a registered Canadian charity (#847602059 RT001) established in 2009 by Jill and Neil Fenton 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 working in Rwanda since 1999 as a teacher and administrator, 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 15 years.

### **Rwanda Ministry of Education and Busoro Primary School**

- responsible for the delivery of educational programming and operations for all schools, including the Busoro Primary School, with in the Rubavu District.

### **Alberta Culture**

- who contributed financially towards to this important project through a Community Initiatives Program, International Development stream grant.

## Project Activities

### **Agreement Signing**

Signing of agreement on December 9, 2018 between Tools for Schools, the District of Rubavu Education Officer, Principals of each of the Primary Schools, Rotary International and the construction contractor. The Agreement outlined the roles and responsibilities of each of the



partners in relation to the construction and provision of furnishings for each nursery classroom at each of the three (3) Primary Schools.

The construction contractor was selected as a result of a procurement tendering process in which proforma invoices / estimates were received from 3 different contractors known for their abilities to construct classrooms as per the Government of Rwanda standard. The contract proformas received were reviewed by each of the project partners, with a final decision being made by Jill Fenton on behalf of Tools for Schools.

This same contracting process was used for the procurement of other services and products, including classroom furnishings, the purchase and installation of water storage tanks at each of the Primary Schools. The only variation was that it was the representatives of Tools for Schools and Rotary International that made the final selection of contractor for these contract services.

### **Nursery School Classroom at Kinigi Primary School**



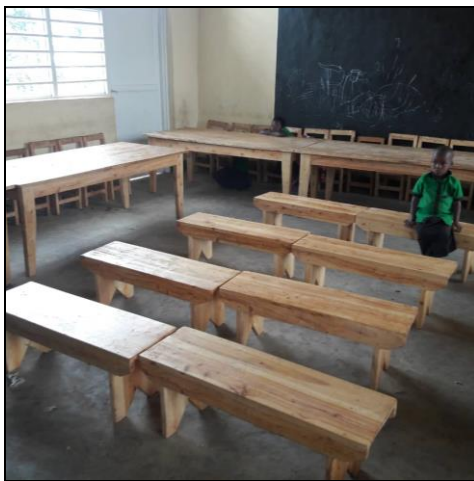
Site preparation for nursery classroom in December, 2018 – site preparation by members of the Community. Rotarian Libby Weir giving a helping hand. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.



Under construction – January, 2019. Photos courtesy of Silas Harindintawari., construction contractor.



Completed nursery classroom and watertank, along with some appreciative nursery and primary school students - April, 2019. Photos courtesy of Construction Contractor, Silas Harindintawari.



Completed nursery classroom and furniture – with nursery school students! April, 2019. Photos courtesy of Construction Contractor, Silas Harindintawari.

### Nursery School Classroom at Busoro Primary School



Classroom site preparations and construction materials arriving on site on December 26, 2018. Being constructed next to Primary 1 classroom built last year. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton



Under construction – January, 2019. Photo courtesy of Construction Contractor, Silas Harindintawari.



Completed Nursery classroom and water tank, March, 2019. Photos courtesy of Silas Harindintawari.

### Nursery School Classroom Construction – Rambo Primary School



Site preparations and classroom foundation on December 25, 2018, with Rotarian Libby Weir for scale. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.



Under construction – January and February, 2019. Photos courtesy of Silas Harindintawari - contractor.



Completed nursery classroom and water tank - March, 2019. Photos courtesy of Silas Harindintawari .



Completed nursery school classroom and water tank – May, 2019. Photos courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.

### Safe Drinking Water

The provision of safe drinking water was an additional project element added to compliment the needs of each of the primary schools who received a nursery school classroom, as well as to increase the positive impact of the Right to Read Rwanda Project. A water storage tank of 5,000

litres, with water harvested from the roofs of the new classroom buildings was donated and installed at each of Rambo, Kinigi and Busoro Primary Schools.

In past years, several Naiade Solar powered water filtration systems were donated and installed at several of the Right to Read Project schools, including Rambo and Busoro, by the Impala Foundation. They are a Netherlands-based not for profit Foundation who have been operating in Rwanda for the past several years. While the systems are easy to use, the Foundation was not doing the necessary follow-up with schools to ensure they were being used correctly or in being responsive to the periodic maintenance requirements of the units.



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.

The project partners continue to work with Impala Foundation for the units currently installed and being used at Right to Read Rwanda project schools. However, in an attempt to determine if there is a more cost effective water filtration system that requires minimum maintenance, is easy to use and has a long use life, research was carried out by project team members. This research resulted in a SkyHydrant GEM water filtration system being purchased from SkyJuice Foundation of Australia. Once received, it will be installed and tested on a pilot basis at one of the Primary Schools.

The SkyHydrant GEM is a simple construction water filtration system that uses microfibers within a plastic pipe which is quick to install, easy to use and easy to maintain. It filters up to 5,000 litres of water per day and has an estimated lifespan of 10 years prior to the microfibre filaments needing replacement. Disaster Aid Canada, USA and Australia all use SkyHydrants for all disaster relief efforts by each of these 3 countries in which drinking water is required.



SkyHydrants treats most non-saline surface and ground waters using chemical-free filtration – a patented “Passive Membrane” technology combined with “Shake ‘n Flush” cleaning. With high-volume output, the units suit domestic and community use. They can be freestanding or wall-mounted, used standalone or configured into multi-unit banks to satisfy short- and long-term potable water needs. Quick and easy to set up, SkyHydrants produces clean water immediately, with no technical skills or special knowledge to set up, operate or maintain the unit. Benefits include:

- High volume;
- Low capital cost;
- Lightweight and portable
- Simple, 20-minute setup
- Hassle-free manual operation; easy cleaning
- Filter lasts up to 10 years or more without replacement



**Kinigi Primary School Water Tank** – installed adjacent to the Nursery School Classroom, harvesting rainwater from the classroom roof. Photos courtesy of Jill Fenton.



**Busoro and Rambo Primary Schools** – 5,000 litre water catchment and storage tanks at each of the new nursery school classrooms. Photos courtesy of Jill and Greg Fenton.

### **Roy Everest Junior Nursery School at Nkora Coffee Washing Station**

Tools for Schools, with the financial support in past years from Rotary International and other private donors, continues to support the operations and maintenance of the Roy Everest Junior Nursery School at Nkora since it was built in 2013.

This year's maintenance work was to include painting of the exterior of the school, as well as the interior and exterior of the small fence that surrounds the school. As a result of a maintenance needs assessment, it was determined that more extensive maintenance was required to deal with a number of drainage issues on the school property which was contributing to the poor condition of the fence and paint on the fence.

As a result, the maintenance work that was completed this year involved: improved drainage both inside and outside the cement wall surrounding the school; fixing and replacing rain gutters on the school roof; painting the interior and exterior of the property fence; and painting the exterior of the Nursery School.



New drainage ditches inside property fence, with new sand fill brought up from Lake Kivu (in background).



Drainage and path repairs inside school property as well as drainage ditch on exterior of wall.



New and repaired rain gutters, paint inside and out and landscaping to assist water drainage.



The finished product – panorama view, with Rotarian Libby Weir. Photo courtesy of Rotarian Greg Fenton.





The finished project in May, 2019 with fresh and bright colors – fence, swings and exterior of school.



The beneficiaries of all the work – nursery students with one of their teachers in the classroom (L), mother who works for CAFERWA Coffee Washing Station dropping off her children (centre), and in their new uniforms outside the Nursery School (R). Photos courtesy of Jill Fenton.

## Impacts of the Project

Significant and entirely positive. The nature of this project was to provide additional classroom space for nursery school students and teachers in order to improve the quality of education for student attending Busoro, Kinigi and Rambo Primary Schools. Direct impacts for more than 430 nursery school students and 3 teachers at the three Primary Schools. Additional positive impacts for the two (2) teachers and 80 nursery school students (and their parents) who attend the Roy Everest Junior Nursery School at Nkora, through major maintenance and repairs to the nursery school, new uniforms and resource materials to support learning.

As significant was the purchase and installation of three new water storage tanks that harvests water from the roof of the new classroom to support both domestic and safe water drinking requirements each day for not only the classroom students, but the entire school population of more than 6,500 students and staff at all three of the Primary Schools who received water tanks.

## Public Relations

Public and media relations activities that have been completed and are on-going, include:

- print media in both Canada and Rwanda (planned and in process),
- a photo report prepared by the Rotary Club of Jasper that can be shared electronically within Districts 5370 (Canada) and District 9250 (Rwanda);
- Use of photo report by Tools for Schools with its Board members and for updating its website ([www.toolsforschools.org/](http://www.toolsforschools.org/));
- multiple posts and sharing using social media including Rotary Club of Jasper and Tools for Schools website and Facebook pages, and
- publishing an article in the Tools for Schools newsletter (in progress).

## List of Expenses

Items	Rwandan Francs	Canadian Dollars <sup>1</sup>
1. Nursery Classrooms Constructed (3)	22,681,500	\$34,894.50
2. Classroom paint, railings, splashguards	2,425,800	\$3,732.00
3. Classroom Furnishings	3,130,075	\$4,815.50
4. Classroom Resource Materials – Nkora	1,378,975	\$2,121.50
5. Bank and Money Transfer fees		\$
6. Water tanks (3)	2,529,800	\$3,892.00
7. SkyHydrant Water Filtration Unit	1,416,350	\$2,179.00
8. Nkora Nursery School Repairs	7,089,550	\$10,907.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40,651,975</b>	<b>\$62,541.50</b>

## Funding Partners and Project Budget

Partners	Rwanda Francs	Canadian Dollars
Rotary Club of Jasper	4,218,500	\$6,490.00
Rotary District 5370 – DDF Grant	1,956,500	\$3,010.00
Tools for Schools	18,226,975 and (3,250,000 in-kind)	\$28,041.50 and (\$5,000.00 in-kind)
Alberta Culture – CIP Grant	16,250,000	\$25,000.00
Kinigi Community	650,000 (in-kind contribution)	\$1,000.00 (in-kind contribution)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>40,651,975 and 3,900,000 (in-kind)</b>	<b>\$62,541.50 and \$6,000.00 (in-kind)</b>

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May 14, 2019

<sup>1</sup> Exchange rates: 650 RWF / CAD.