

# Newsletter

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

August 2019

## Dear Friends and Partners of RTSS

almost a year passed since our last newsletter and many things happened at Rubengera Technical Campus (RTC).

Since January we have 65 students in our 3 Levels while 30% of them are female.

Our Graduates from the last year have all succeeded in the national exams - many of them with excellent results.

This encourages us to keep our efforts high in teaching of our students but also in training more people from Karongi and other areas in Rwanda.

Due to bigger changes in the TVET System (Technical Education) in Rwanda, this year raised a lot of challenges. There were many issues where we had to figure out how to handle new regulations and sometimes even the responsible authorities were not sure how to implement certain ideas.

Now we started in the last trimester and finally got the information that also in future our students will pass a national exam. This was actually not planned before but as we actually expected this, we are sure that our students are well prepared.



## Master Instructor in Carpentry (MIC)

Since 2014 we have conducted ToT (Training of Trainers) programs at RTC in cooperation with GIZ. During this time the School has developed from a facility provider to a service provider.

Finally we could set up a collaboration with German partners from BuBiZa & Finger Haus to conduct an assessment for the participants of those trainings.

The goal was to design a new degree which proves that Craftspeople are excellent in practice but also good trainers. These Master Instructors shall work in TVET Schools but also in Companies to change the culture from keeping knowledge to sharing knowledge for a better future.

For the Assessment in March we had two German assessors and 15 Participants who all succeeded. Finally they could receive their certificates and Uniforms during the Graduation Ceremony together with our 20 RTSS Students.

This Project is somehow unique in Development work - A local provider who sets up a high quality education & degree. But we hope that it will not be the last one.



## Production Unit

The Production Unit continues to run well.

We are lucky that this year we had once again 4 encouraged graduates who started to work in December and performed well during their first months in the company.

Since some weeks the Workers are mainly busy with a big project in Kibuye. They produce doors, wooden floors and several furniture for a new five star hotel where they have to prove that they can compete with international quality standards.



## Training new Craftspeople

As our mission is, to provide quality training to the youth and to support them to get jobs, we are now conducting a short course program which is supported by SDF - Skills Development Fund.

This Worldbank program is sponsored by coordinated by WDA and has the target to support companies in training their future staff according to their own needs. At the moment we have 26 trainees in the period of 4 months. They study in 10 different modules. By the end of the training some shall start their own businesses but some shall also support the Production Unit & future construction Projects.

SDF has also other target „windows“. We hope that in future we can also apply for other trainings which could increase the impact of RTSS in the labor market.

Meanwhile it also seems that there is an increasing demand for modern kitchens & Parquett floors.

This confirms our plans to start new modules of Kitchen Construction & Parquett flooring in our Training program.



## Maintaining & extending

Since most of our buildings have been constructed some years ago, we already see the need of maintenance. Therefore we used the last months to add some paint, do some repairs & make our campus shine again.

Still there are many things to do but this occasion also gives us the chance to re-think some installments and to optimize our working places for example by building a new stair for our WTRC after getting some training from a GIZ-Expert. We are thankful for all support we get in this.

Meanwhile we are waiting for the final construction permit of our female-Boardinghouse and hope that it can be ready before we start the new year 2020 with new students.

Dear Friends and Partners,

We are grateful for all support and prayers you sent us during the last year and we hope that with this we can continue and increase our impact in the lives of young people in Rwanda.

Yours, **Sr. Marie-Louise NIYONSENGA**



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