



RSVP January 2009 Newsletter

We hope you are sitting comfortably as we have lots to tell you about this month.

Meet the 13 pupils going into secondary school in 2009.

This month has seen the children at Mihabula achieve record results. The results were as follows: First Class Grade - 8, Distinction Grade -10, Satisfaction Grade -11, Pass Grade -10, and Fail Grade - 2. There was understandably great celebration at the school when the results were announced.

Unfortunately, this turned to disappointment for some as the requirements for secondary school places included “*aggregated points*”. This meant only 13 of the 18 children who achieved First Class and Distinction Grades qualified for secondary school places.

Among the successful 13 is Solange, who is featured on our [video](#). Would you manage to recognize her? She is pictured 1st on the left.



One of the things standing out from the results is how well Mihabula has done in comparison with the other four schools in the village. It accounted for 42% of the children who will go on to secondary school from the village, whereas it represents only 15% of the number of village children who took the test.

RSVP believes these results substantiate the work we are doing with Mihabula and our hopes to extend this to all 900 children in the school and to the other village schools. The school is really starting to see the results of your support.



The official notification letters advising pupils of their boarding schools didn't arrive until 29 Jan 2009 and pupils were expected to report at their schools by 2 Feb 2009!

So, there was absolutely no time to implement the bursary selection process. We have therefore decided to pay fees and purchase the most expensive compulsory item

listed on the boarding schools letters for all 13 children. The two children who are looking on are going to the Nyamasheke School for girls, run by Nuns. This school provides mattresses.

The parents of the children were very grateful for this startling support. They gathered together to hear a presentation from the Rwandan team and teachers aimed at:

- Explaining the decision to provide bursaries for all 13 children for the first term only;
- Commending their children on working hard, making their school proud, keeping free of HIV, and knowing they study for their families, village and country; not just for themselves!



Since 7 of the 13 pupils attend the Church hosting the school, the help toward mattresses and first term fees has generated further enthusiasm for the project!

First Name & gender	Boarding School	Yearly fees
Elisee - Male	Gishoma (1)	91,200 RFW (+/- £90)
Rahabu - Female	Bugarama (2)	69,000 RFW (+/- £69)
Christine - Female	Gatsibo (3)	81,000 RFW (+/- £81)
Anaclet - Male	Kibogora (4)	69,000 RFW (+/- £69)
Gedeon - Male	Gishoma (1)	91,200 RFW (+/- £90)
Francoise - Female	Gihundwe (5)	75,000 RFW (+/- £75)
Denis - Male	Rangiro (6)	90,000 RFW (+/- £90)
Sara - Female	Rambura (7)	54,000 RFW (+/- £54)
Odette - Female	Mururu (8)	75,000 RFW (+/- £75)
Solange - Female	Bugarama (2)	69,000 RFW (+/- £69)
Yvonne - Female	Nyamasheke (9)	75,000 RFW (+/- £75)
Jean Baptist - Male	Nyamasheke (10)	69,000 RFW (+/- £69)
Godelieve - Female	Nyamasheke (9)	75,000 RFW (+/- £75)

Table 1: All pupils are sent in the same region, except Christine and Sara who are going in the North East & West respectively. The head teacher is talking to 1 of the parents who isn't keen to sending his daughter that far. It has been even a battle keeping the girl in education!

In addition to the two bursaries, we would very much like to provide sponsorship for Solange. Solange and her family have so unselfishly allowed us to film the details of their lives to help both themselves and their neighbours.

We hope her story will inspire someone to offer sponsorship for her 6 years of secondary education. Her fees, which cover accommodation, meals and tuition at Bugarama boarding school is only 69,000 RFW (approx. £84) per annum. That is only £7 each month.

Next month, we shall report on the progress of the 10 pupils who passed the National Test in 2007; save to say all 8 who attended our holiday English and revision courses moved into their second year. The parents of the other two moved away to Gishoma. The vacation-support- programmes will ensure such children will have enough motivation to report to the Rwandan Team during their holidays. This will be a chance to assess their progress, offer revision lessons for those with resits and keep them motivated and free from HIV threat!

The Rwandan team has now enough time to complete the bursary selection process and identify the children to receive the two bursaries for 2008 cohort.

Those two sponsorships have already so kindly been covered by two people from Aberdeen.

Our bursary selection process tries to identify the poorest of the poor i.e. those who cannot finance their children's education. But those families who do pay for their children make significant sacrifice to do so.

