

main dans la main



Newsletter – January 2019

Dear members of Main Dans la Main,
Dear friends,
Dear benefactors,

We hope that you started 2019 on a good note and **we start this newsletter by wishing you a new year filled with lots of joy, good health, prosperity and success in all your endeavours.**

This is our first newsletter for 2019 and it is a rather special one for us, since **it comes bearing some wonderful news about our school ICYUZUZO***, which is **the first project of Main Dans la Main.**

In this newsletter we will cover 3 key areas:

- The results of the 'end of primary school national exams' for the Year 6 pupils of ICYUZUZO school.
- The outcome of our event "Repas Solidaire" which took place in Brussels in October 2018
- The most pressing need for the ICYUZUZO school: Roof repairs that we would like to carry out and complete before the next rainy season

** ICYUZUZO is a word in Kinyarwanda that means 'Complement'- chosen since our school complements the education received at the regular schools attended by the children, by plugging the gaps in knowledge and understanding of the subjects studied.*

1. Outstanding results for the children of ICYUZUZU school, at end of primary school national exams

50% of ICYUZUZU pupils from Year 6 passed the end of primary school national exams with flying colours!



This equates to 9 pupils out of 18 who obtained the minimum overall pass rate of 81%, required by the Ministry of Education in order to secure a place at a good public secondary school.

Children who fail these exams go down a different stream of low quality education, which often translates into a bleak future down the line.

This result presents a major win for the Project iCYUZUZU school as it addresses the very core objective that led to this project being created in the first place.

For many years, the pass rate for the children in the rural region where ICYUZUZU school is situated was extremely low, with only 2% of children achieving the pass note required to go to a good national school. ICYUZUZU school was therefore created to address this challenge and the objective of ICYUZUZU school is defined as:

'To awaken the motivation of primary school kids, by providing adequate tutoring, whilst maintaining a regular engagement with the 5 schools in the area as well as the children's parents.'

A true collaborative approach that ensures that we are able to influence change.

These results are a testament that our project is already making a change and we couldn't be prouder!

2018 was also the first year that we took on year 6 children at ICYUZUZU. These children had been with us since we opened our doors in 2016 – they were in Year 4 at the time.

This level of success is quite exception in this rural region and it is very encouraging to everyone involved with the project.

It goes without saying that we achieved this due to:

- The Year 6 kids themselves, who studied very hard to prepare for these exams
- The ICYUZUZO teachers who have been teaching these children since 2016, particularly the Year 6 teacher who gave himself tirelessly to boost and prepare these children in order to get them ready for these national exams.
- The parents who kept their children motivated and focused
- And of course, all of you members and benefactors of Main Dans la Main for your support; financial or otherwise and for your encouragement, without which we wouldn't have been able to get this project off the ground.

2. The “Repas Solidaire” event in Brussels – October 2018

On 20th October 2018, Main Dans la Main held a “Repas Solidaire” - a Solidarity Dinner, which was part of the Month of Solidarity in collaboration with the Etterbeck Commune in Brussels.

We organised the event with 3 objectives in mind:

- To use the event as an opportunity to thank all the members, benefactors and friends of MDM for immense support and their undying generosity
- To raise awareness of MDM and its project iCYUZUZO to those who are not as familiar with our objectives, our way of working as well as give an update on how we are doing across the board
- To raise funds for the project ICYUZUZO school.

The event was a major success for Main Dans la Main and we achieved our objectives: We had a total of 49 adults attending on the day and we raised just over €1,200 thanks to ticket sales as well as donations collected as part of that event

It was our 1st event of the kind and it took a lot of efforts to pull together and it provided us with quite a lot of learnings that we will certainly incorporate in future events for this charity.

- **We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to attend our event**
- **We would also like to say a massive thanks to all of our benefactors, who despite being unable to still made donation to support our project. We hope to welcome you at our next event later this year.**
- **We would also like to particularly thank all of you who helped out with the various task on the day.**

3. Our most pressing need for the project ICYUZUZO

We are currently raising funds to repair the damaged roof on our classrooms. The roof got damaged during last year's heavy rain season and we are trying to get these repairs completed ASAP in order to beat the next rainy season.

Currently whenever it rains, our classrooms get flooded and lessons are interrupted as the kids need to find refuge in one corner of the classroom. It is imperative that we fix these issues sooner than later to avoid further damages to our classrooms.

We are looking to finish the works by end of January / early February the latest

We are counting on your usual generosity to help fund this work and we thank you so much in advance.

2019 got off to a very good start for Main Dans la Main – The national exams results are extremely encouraging and are testament that ICYUZUZO School is going to transform, not only the lives of the children who attend it, but also their communities. The best is without a doubt yet to come.

We would like to use this opportunity to THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Together we can make a difference!

Best Regards

Will Libera

President of Main Dans la Main

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P.S. Please make this project YOURS

- Please raise awareness of it amongst your friends and acquaintances
- Share with them our website: maindanslamain.ngo
- To make a donation, please go to: maindanslamain.ngo/donate