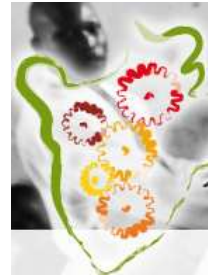


Award for the Non Governmental Organisation of the Year:

## **TURIKUMWE**

### **Turikumwe in 2009**



In 2009, the Turikumwe project expanded considerably thanks to backing by international higher authorities such as the International Judo Federation (IJF) or even Olympic Solidarity. In accumulated time, we provided almost 6 months of physical presence in Burundi in 2009.

The centerpiece of the operation was the organization of a 3-month long training session. It began in July and ended in October 2009. Its goal was to train 20 or so new judo instructors who would then be capable of intervening in already existing sports associations, as well as in associations being created. All throughout this period we have assisted and accompanied the Burundian Judo Federation in order to optimize its organization so that it can be more efficient in its response to the numerous requests regularly received.

Burundi is in the process of social reconstruction after years of bloody conflict. We use judo, not as an end in itself, but as a powerful tool that carries strong values of mutual aid and prosperity. Below, you will find a short summary for 2009 of Turikumwe's field of action both within the framework of the aforementioned training course and within that of long-term projects.

#### **Training 20 new instructors**

Twenty young judokas, aged 16 to 46, were trained to be educators/judo instructors, with an emphasis on social work undertaking people in need. For a month and a half, they attended core curriculum classes based on the one hand on technical improvement and on the other on in-depth approach to judo values which they would then put into practice and defend in population zones the hardest hit by the crisis. We then worked with them on thematic group projects linked to the development of judo as a vector of peace and social prosperity.

#### **Group 1: Development of women's practice**

In a country where sexual crime was used as an instrument and weapon, we have put particular emphasis on the practice of judo by women. A group of young women and men was created and has been actively working on the setting up of projects to favor and encourage access to sports practice for women. A promotional film is in the works and before the end of the year, a course of action will be proposed.

#### **Group 2: Development of practice for handicapped people**

It is not easy to be handicapped in a country that is devastated by a social and economic crisis. Since November 2008, we have been active in a center that cares for mentally handicapped youth. Thanks to judo, we have helped them to regain confidence, teaching them to better apprehend the dangers of daily life (falling, reactions of others, expressing themselves...)

The results of this on-going action are extraordinary.

### **Group 3: Gihanga**

Gihanga is an ex-rebel zone about 20 km from the capital. As it was severely affected by the war, this zone is trying to rebuild. Sports, and judo in particular, are strong vectors of social cohesion. Since August 2009, we have been working in this zone weekly thanks to a tatami and judogis that we transported to Burundi over the course of the summer (10 tons of material were delivered). We are transferring skills by giving responsibilities to local forces. Now, it is the young trainees that are in charge of the sessions and very soon they will be capable of completely taking charge.

### **Group 4: Translation of the judo moral code**

The judo moral code is a fantastic creation which allows us to increase public awareness of the projects we have undertaken. But it would remain worthless unless it could be expressed in the mother tongue of local people, such as Kirundi. A group is actively working on its translation, as well as on setting up projects that will see that this moral code does not become a simple “moral code” that is hung on the wall somewhere and soon forgotten.

**courtesy | courage | sincerity | honor | modesty | respect | self-control | friendship**

### **Group 5: Development of school practice**

In a country where removal from school is a calamity, it is important to offer structuring activities to children who attend school, but also to children who have dropped out of school. Thanks to sport, we hope to draw them back into the classroom. We have tackled this issue for several years now, and we have continued to follow it through in 2009 by supporting partner schools pedagogically and with educational material. All the target schools are in deprived districts of the capital. An assessment of scholastic needs is underway.

### **Group 6: Rumanura**

An association has been created bearing the name of “a non-violent war leader” (real or presumed), who contributed to the unification of the country in 1500. The aim of this association, which we accompany and support, is to find new channels for possible development of sports practice in the social context of Burundi. The founding members of this association are the instructor trainees.

2009 also saw the arrival of the first container of material destined to fulfill the needs generated by the development of activities. Four tatami surfaces and more than 200 judogis were collected from French sports associations and then sent to Burundi, as were 10,000 school books for partner schools and ten or so computers which will allow a training center to be equipped.

We have also begun the building of the National Judo Federation head office, thanks to the support of the IJF. The headquarters will be a gathering place, a welcoming site and a

training center for Burundian youth who, we hope, will therefore perhaps be less inclined to take up weapons. We also hope that this center will be the point from which judo spreads beyond Burundi's influence, past its borders, and thus become a unifying force all throughout the Great Lakes region of Africa (Rwanda, DR Congo...)

Finally, in October 2009, the Turikumwe project was the co-organizer of the first Judo for Peace Seminar, placed under the aegis of the International Judo Federation, with the support of the Burundi government, of the National Olympic Committee and of Peace and Sport.

2009 is an important year for the development and structuring of projects linked to Turikumwe in Burundi. There are numerous challenges and much work is still ahead, but all the project participants, both in Europe and in Burundi, are totally committed to the promotion of sport and of judo as a tool for the consolidation of peace and for the values of mutual aid and prosperity (the judo motto), to which we have added "they are not just words".