



## PELAGIE - RUHANGO, RWANDA

Pelagie is a caregiver at an Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD) centre in south-west Rwanda. Last year she held the ECCD centre at a temporary building, where one hundred children were cramped in a single room with little light and barely any resources. She and her assistant Janvierre struggled; it was better than nothing, but far from ideal. Now construction of the new ECCD centre is completed, and the same number of children are in two large, brightly-coloured classrooms with child-sized chairs and round tables. What difference has it made?

“The children feel so proud! Their attendance has improved because every day they feel happy and motivated to sit in chairs like ‘big people’”, explains Pelagie, smiling. She describes the way the room is arranged now: “it is much more sociable: children work together and help each other, we can divide easily into groups for activities, interaction is easier, and the children feel physically more comfortable than when they were on benches or on the floor”.



**Children at an ECCD centre show off their smart new furniture.**

**“The chairs and tables are a teaching resource in themselves: children love to sort the chairs by colours” says Pelagie, “and we can just invent games and activities as we go along.”**

Parents in the community are very impressed by the conditions here, and the ECCD centre is oversubscribed by about thirty children. Attendance has improved and Pelagie laughs explaining that some children even come in early to ensure they sit on a chair of their favourite colour. The improved facilities have clearly had the effect of making the ECCD centre a positive and dynamic place where children and adults alike feel motivated.

Compared to last year’s conditions at the ECCD centre, Pelagie feels extremely positive. “Children are more active here, they feel excited to learn and we feel excited that we’re in a better position to help them learn. When they are so young we have to make things fun!”