“Sport has a unique and irreplaceable capacity to unite people, going far beyond ethnic, religious or social differences. I am convinced that sport can be at the long-term service of peace”

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, Peace and Sport Hght Patron
**TABLE SOCCER FOR PEACE**

### The Project

Entitled «Baby-foot pour la Paix» («Table Soccer for Peace»), this pilot project intends to use the core values of table soccer: courage, effort, compliance with the rules, respect for the adversary, discipline and the constant search for progress to work with communities in **Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda**.

ITSF invested in this project through financial donations, training and continuous support in the development of a social responsibility program. ITSF partners, table manufacturers Roberto Sport and Garlando, donated **5 foosball tables to 5 youth centers in the Great Lakes region**: Gihanga and Gitega in Burundi, Luvingi and Bwegara in DRC and Bugurama in Rwanda.

### Program aims

- Integration of ITSF in initiatives undertaken to **promote peace, social cohesion and reconciling communities**
- **Facilitating dialogue and communication** between communities through Table Soccer
- **Encouraging education, training and responsibility** amongst vulnerable youth, through the practice of Table Soccer
Beyond the Games
Building the foundations for sustainable peace in this region that has suffered many decades of conflict.

In partnership with Peace and Sport, in 2013 ITSF provided official foosball tables and training to five youth centers based in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

This initiative made a difference to vulnerable young people giving them access to the benefits of table soccer and sport through the youth centers.

Develop the practice of table soccer
Teaching tables soccer as a game and as a sport

An ITSF qualified referee and trainer taught 28 educators who then went on to train a further 90 young people in the international basic skills and rules of the game.

Download Table Soccer basic guide HERE
Download ITSF basic rules HERE

This enabled the young people to develop their skills, enjoy playing table soccer in the youth centers and represent their country at the Friendship Games.

Participation into the Great Lakes Region Friendship Games
Culmination of an extensive peace building program.

The Table Soccer for Peace initiative enabled young people to play table soccer in the 2013 and 2014 Great Lakes Region Friendship Games. The Games, a 2-day multi sport event where young people from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda meet to play a variety of sports in the spirit of friendship, aim to foster good relations between young people in the region as part of conflict prevention.

More photos available HERE
ADAPTED SPORT AND EQUIPMENT

In addition, as part of Peace & Sport’s adaptive sports programme, young people created their own improvised foosball tables, along with other sports equipment.

Adapted sports and equipment enable people to enjoy the fun and benefits of the game in deprived areas that have limited infrastructure or access to sports equipment. Tables are made from recycled items (cardboard, packaging, clothes) and natural resources (bamboo cane).
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