

Empowering Communities in Burundi and Rwanda

h2 Empower has provided scholarships, supplies, water and hope to Burundians in Rwanda and Burundi. This report will help show some highlights from our work.

Education



Burumbura, Burundi

These orphans now have access to attend school which is free up to only grade 6. h2 Empower has paid for their school fees along with some secondary school students and trade school students. Over 25 scholarship students have graduated and are working in various professional fields such as medicine, nursing, teaching, social work, psychology, nutrition, and more.



The symbols on the map represent our accomplishments:

- *Awarding scholarships
- *Donating educational materials
- *Financial support for small businesses
- *Providing much needed water resources.





Burundi

Paying it forward

One of our premiere examples of 'paying it forward' is Yves, a university graduate who is now financing his cousin's university fees to study architecture. Yves stated, "You supported me and now it is my turn to support others." So many graduates are working in their communities providing a variety of services and all are helping to support their families. One scholarship recipient, Aloys, has started his own Nonprofit, Umwizero, in partnership with his sponsor, Arnt. Currently they operate 4 community centers, cooperative farming projects, job training, tree planting and are sending 300 deserving students to boarding school. We found that helping one person ends up providing benefits to countless other individuals, families and communities.

"You supported me and now it is my turn to support others."

-Yves

Rutana, Burundi

We congratulate Belyse, our first university graduate, who is now a teacher. Belyse will now empower students to learn, grow, and achieve their dreams.



Belyse, University graduate



Bringing Water to a Rural Community



Gitega, Burundi

H2 Empower's water project brought water to a rural school and three villages, housing for 1,000 people. This water project ensures clean water, eliminating waterborne disease plus it releases women and older children from the difficult challenge of regularly bringing water to their family. Now they have more time to be productive for themselves and their families.



See this video of school children who now have water



A successful path for scholarship winners



Kigali, Rwanda

Our *Edward L. Nyankanzi Burundi Scholarship* winners graduated with a degree in Medical Laboratory Science and became Medical Doctors from universities in Rwanda. Jeanine, at left, was able to leave the Mahama Refugee Camp with her family to attend university. She is the first mother who was awarded our scholarship and is completing her studies in Medical Laboratory Science. She is grateful to now have a bright future.



Listen to Jeanine's testimonial.

Kigali, Rwanda

These ambitious young adults formed a cooperative business where each person worked in the store, setting up a system to save a percent of income to improve their business, for personal emergencies, and for salaries. They were able to move their business to a bigger store, provide temporary housing for Burundians in an emergency, offer support, referrals, and a place of camaraderie, which has been a safe haven for Burundi refugees in Kigali, Rwanda.





Learning the English language



Mahama Camp, Rwanda

h2 Empower provided hundreds of English books for Burundian adults to learn English while living in the UNRC Mahama Refugee Camp. In Burundi, the national languages are French and Kirundi. Now in Rwanda, English has been added as a national language. Students realize the value of increasing their English language skills for future school and job opportunities.