Burundi Friends International

Empowering Communities

Eliminating Poverty

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

INTRODUCTION

Burundi Friends International (BFI) listens to the needs and dreams of Burundian youth, rural women, and families, and has offered missing opportunities in education and economic empowerment to 80,846 beneficiaries in our past fiscal year. Despite the difficulties of COVID-19, BFI has strong momentum positioning us for continued excellence and exponential growth in the future.

BURUNDI

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MISSION

BFI unites and educates youth, women, and men leading to economic empowerment, building self-sustaining communities in Burundi, East Africa.

A MESSAGE FROM BFI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings BFI Donors and Supporters.

Whether you are a one-time BFI donor or an ongoing supporter, we thank you for entrusting us with your invaluable contributions to our mission. Jeanine and I hope you find inspiration within this year's annual report. You will read about outstanding results in our Women Empowered (WE) savings groups, thanks to our ongoing partnership with Project Concern International (PCI), A Global Communities Partner. In our education efforts, we've implemented IT training for youth, while improving upon our teacher trainings, English curriculum, and class size in English clubs. The number of BFI libraries expanded, and multimedia was added to existing container libraries.

It remains our joy and privilege to work in Burundi. As we embark upon the decade leading up to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we commit yet again to do our part to eliminate poverty in Burundi. We can only do this with your continued support. Thank you for another successful year!

In gratitude,

Julie Marner
BFI Executive Director

Jeanine Niyonzima-Aroian
BFI Founder & Advisor

WE TOGETHER

48 Savings Groups

50.5% Return on Savings Rate

33% Return on Assets

EMPOWERMENT

WOMEN EMPOWERED PROGRAM

The data about BFI's Women Empowered (WE) savings groups shows Burundians know how to save, start small businesses, and serve others in their community.

PCI continues to be vital in the success of our goal of creating dignified work, business opportunities, and sustainable communities. PCI's Women Empowered (WE) methodology, along with their coordinated management support and data collection, provide the necessary framework and ongoing support leading to programming excellence.

The WE programming for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 was funded primarily by our partner Del Mar Rotary Club and supported by Rotary Club Bujumbura. The financial support of BFI donors like you provided additional facilitation of management, communication, and transportation.

WE Results, Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020

- **Participants 1,056** (56% Women, 44% Youth)
- **Savings Groups, 48**
- **Attendance Rate 97.3%,** (World average, 87%)
- **Return on Savings Rate of 50.5%** (World average, 16.6%)
- **Total Value of Group Savings $44,007**
- **Average Annualized Savings per member $46** (World average, $30)
- **Dividends Paid $16,112**
- **Return on Assets 33%** (World average, 12%)
- **Indirect Beneficiaries, 5,139**

*Statistical data provided by PCI.

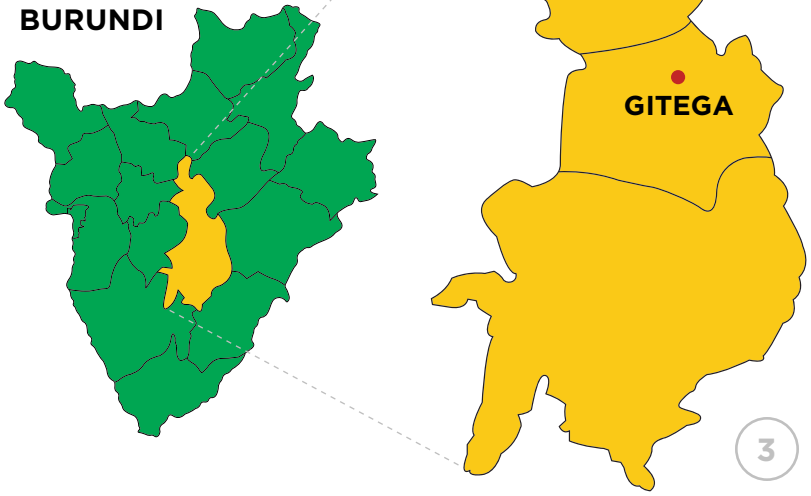
> Economically, before I joined, I could use up all my money I get for leisure or buying things I didn't plan. Now, I learned to save and plan for a goal I can achieve.

– Emelyne Hatungimana,
Youth WE Participant,
Group Member of *Dutegurekazoza*,
'Let's Plan for Our Future'

THESE ARE THE 48 WOMEN EMPOWERED SAVINGS GROUPS SPREAD OUT ACROSS GITEGA, THE CAPITAL OF BURUNDI.

1. We Can
2. Promote Ourselves
3. Let's Awake Each Other
4. Go Forwards!
5. Work to Promote Ourselves
6. Commit to Work
7. Be Skilled
8. Let's Unite Ourselves
9. Woman, Go Forwards
10. Fight Against Poverty
11. Include Women!
12. Be Sharp
13. Woman, Go Forwards
14. Pursue Our Work
15. Let's Support Each Other
16. Let's Plan Our Future
17. Let Us Promote Ourselves
18. Better Future
19. Let's Support Each Other
20. We Can
21. Better Future
22. Let's Plan Our Future
23. Let Us Promote Ourselves
24. Let Us Love Each Other
25. Let Us Help Each Other
26. We Can
27. Work Zealously
28. Woman, Go Forwards
29. Let Us Support Each Other
30. Trustworthy
31. Be Zealous
32. Sharp Women
33. Let Us Invest
34. Let Us Get Skilled
35. Let Us Support Each Other
36. Let Us InSpire Each Other
37. Let Us Support Each Other
38. We Can
39. Let Us Life Each Other
40. Let Us Be Together
41. Fight Against Poverty
42. Let Us Promote Ourselves
43. Woman, Be Sharp!
44. Be Sharp!
45. Let Us Be Industrious
46. Go Forwards
47. Be Sharp!
48. Let Us Promote Ourselves

WE TOGETHER



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Education: A Focus on Quality & Gender Equality

In early 2019, BFI's English classrooms, called BFI English Clubs, numbered 922, averaging nearly 60 students per class. Due to the challenges of demand, we identified the need to develop pilot projects within the existing areas of beginner and intermediate English classroom learning to improve upon our teacher trainings, build stronger English curriculum, and limit class size to under 25 students.

In thanks to the support of the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, our vision of creating Information Technology (IT) Think Tanks also began. Adding IT training and multi-media to existing container libraries offers job creation opportunities across Burundi. All of BFI's education efforts focus on long term sustainability, both for the individual learner, as well as the community.

Beginner English Pilot Project & IT Training & Education Results

- Trained 200 English instructors
- Developed BFI Teacher & Student Beginner English Manuals
- Organized 4,000 students into new BFI English classes, 20 students each
- Created 4 IT Think Tanks
- Trained 10 IT instructors
- Trained 123 IT students in learning Microsoft Office Suite and HP Life courses

Intermediate English Pilot Project Results

- Trained 4 English instructors
- Developed BFI Teacher & Student Intermediate English Manuals
- Organized 180 students into new BFI English classes, 20 students each

EDUCATION

IMPACT

69,445 Students utilizing **122** BFI Libraries and **4** IT Think Tanks

1,056 Number of Individuals Trained in WE Savings Methodology

210 Leaders Trained in Peacebuilding

47 College Students Funded

13 Violinists and **1** Cellist
BFI Suzuki Heritage Center Music Students

FINANCIALS

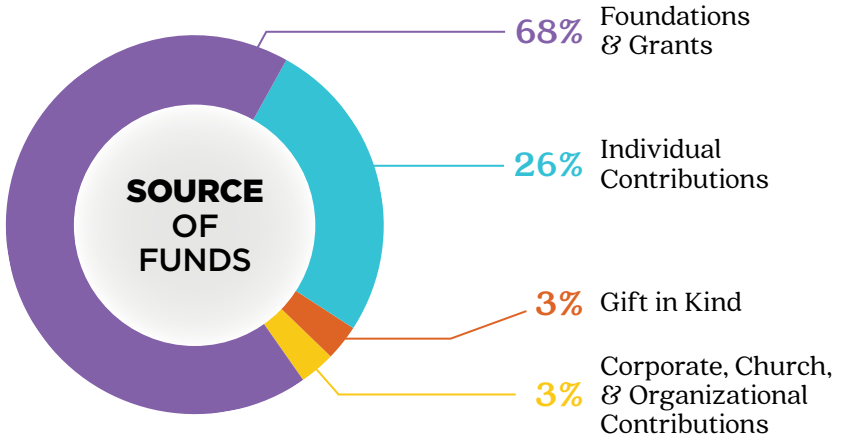
2019-2020

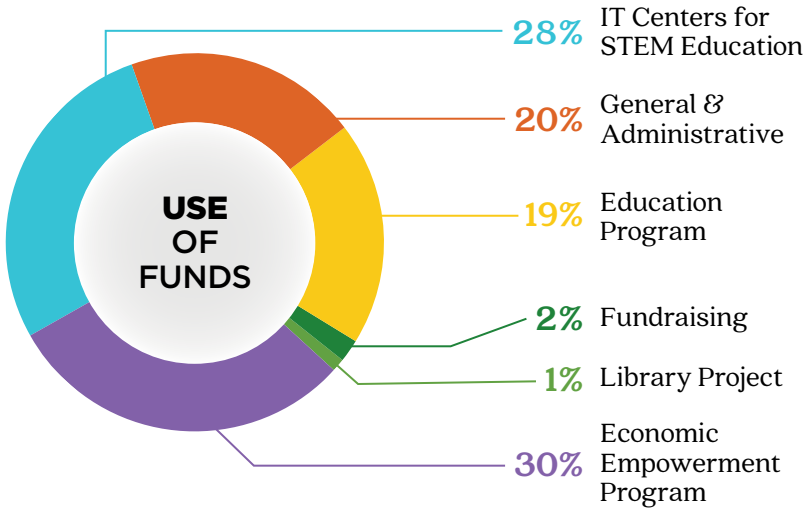
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

BFI Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020*

	12 Mos. Ended 6/30/2020
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	
Contributions*	451,000
Donated in-kind service & materials	13,000
Total revenue and other support	**464,000**
EXPENSES	
PROGRAM SERVICES	
Education	196,000
Economic empowerment	124,000
Library project	4,000
Total program services	**324,000**
SUPPORT SERVICES	
Management and general	83,000
Fundraising	10,000
Total support services	**93,000**
Foreign Exchange Loss	2,000
Total expenses	**419,000**
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (Cash)	
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	46,000
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	15,000
Net Assets End of Year (Cash)	**61,000**

* As of June 30, 2020, BFI has approximately $20,000 of restricted funds.





LEADERSHIP

ODETTE HABONIMANA

We are proud to introduce you to new BFI Country Director, Odette Habonimana. Since 2015, Odette spearheaded empowerment programs fostering entrepreneurship, family planning, hygiene, peace-building, and economic advancement for rural women in 15 provinces. She is a past BFI college tuition recipient and completed her master's degree in Organizational Leadership. Previously, she worked at the U.S. Embassy and as a gender specialist and peacebuilder for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Burundi.

PEACE AWARD NOMINEE

Odette's past work has been recognized by the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). Odette has been selected by the USIP as one of 10 finalists for the prestigious Women Building Peace Award. The award honors the vital role of women who are working every day in fragile or conflict-affected countries or regions in the pursuit of peace. The Inaugural Women Building Peace Award Ceremony, a USIP online event, is September 15, 2020, at 12 p.m. EST.

LOOKING AHEAD

FY 2020-2021 Economic Empowerment Goals

- Train 2,000 more rural Burundian women and youth in WE savings program
- Expand business training for existing WE participants allowing greater entrepreneurship opportunities
- Continue supporting WE participants as they create sustainable, healthy communities

FY 2020-2021 Education Goals

- Create 4 IT Think Tanks and 25 BFI Libraries
- Expand upon pilot project efforts in English classroom learning and IT training
- Build upon Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education for women and girls

THANK YOU!

BFI TEAM

BFI Board of Directors FY2019-2020

- Liz Clarke, *Board Chair*
- Barbara Kelly, *Treasurer*
- Val Quick, *Secretary*
- Krista Freitag
- Nicholas Kawuka
- René Keres
- Patricia Kidwingira
- Ashleigh Subramanian-Montgomery
- Thierry Yungenge
- Tracy Cambron West

Advisory Board

- Jeanine Niyonzima-Aroian, *Founder*
- Prosper Gahunga
- Leonce Ndikumana
- Alice Niyondagara
- Doug Novak

U.S. Staff

- Julie Marner, *Executive Director*
- Melissa Flores, *Program Manager*

- **Special thanks to the following individuals for their extraordinary work and support of the WE program:** Audifax Bakundukize, Valérie Siniremera, Marie Louise Nsabiyumva, and Dugan and Philippe Lamoise

Partners

- Patrick J. McGovern Foundation
- Anonymous
- Project Concern International
- Del Mar Rotary
- U.K. Embassy

Supporters

- Rotary Club Bujumbura (Doyen), *Burundi*
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church, *Hills, IA*
- Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, *San Diego, CA*
- The Immaculata, *San Diego, CA*
- San Diego Downtown Breakfast Rotary Club, *San Diego, CA*
- U.S. Embassy, *Bujumbura, Burundi*
- San Diego Rotary Club 33, *San Diego, CA*
- Café Moto, *San Diego, CA*
- Ocean Knoll Elementary School, *Encinitas, CA*
- Knights of Columbus, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, *Encinitas, CA*
- Altar Society, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, *Encinitas, CA*
- Holy Spirit Catholic Church, *San Diego, CA*

DONATE

Burundi Friends International

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> **Your humanitarian and charitable actions are changing many lives. Most importantly, your contributions in youth empowerment are playing a vital role in soul and community transformation for a better world to live!**
>
> —Edouard Nzisabira, *BFI Volunteer*

Keep BFI's momentum moving forward by making a financial investment in one of the following ways:

- Make a one-time donation
- Become a monthly donor with our "Walking Together" program
- Encourage friends to donate on your birthday or anniversary
- Donate in honor or memory of a loved one
- Contribute monetary gifts with pledges and corporate matching gifts

Donate online: www.bufri.org

Donate by check:
Burundi Friends International
4321 Eastgate Mall Rd.
San Diego, CA 92121

For more information supporting BFI through monetary or other donations, please contact BFI board member Barbara Kelly at 619-800-2340 or info@bufri.org. Thank you!

Stay up to date on BFI's efforts by subscribing to our monthly mailing service at www.bufri.org.

Connect with us on social media.

BFI is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, registered with the IRS.