Despite the turmoil of our unprecedented times, Burundi Friends International (BFI) remained on task in our past fiscal year, to reduce poverty through education and empowerment in Burundi. COVID-19 accelerated our plans to reduce U.S. staff costs while increasing women and youth leadership roles. We added monthly COVID-19 training, and remained flexible and patient with the timing of programming implementation. At the end of this year’s race, we still crossed the finish line.

We are immensely grateful to each of you who have continued to support BFI’s efforts when you also faced your own challenges. We thank our new donor family members too and believe lessons learned from the past year will make us incredibly successful for years to come. We are tired but filled with joy for our shared success.

In gratitude,

Julie Marner, Executive Director
Jeanine Niyonzima-Aroian, Founder

MISSION: BFI unites and educates youth, women, and men leading to economic empowerment, building self-sustaining communities in Burundi, East Africa.
Burundi Friends International (BFI) aspires to raise world awareness of the beauty and challenges that exist across Burundi, located in East Africa. BFI strives to reduce inequalities and create sustainable change, directed by Burundi leadership with U.S. support. Now officially in our 13th year of operation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in California, we are deepening our impact on education and economic empowerment by developing a more targeted strategy to provide high quality programming and training.
EDUCATION

Through education, BFI supports the government of Burundi in the implementation of its National Plan for Development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students Receiving Certification</th>
<th>Suzuki Music Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,012 – English Beginner Level</td>
<td>13 Violinists,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53% Boys, 47% Girls</td>
<td>1 Cellist,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 – English Intermediate Level</td>
<td>1 Flautist,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204 – Information Technology</td>
<td>1 Keyboard Player</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teachers and English Clubs</th>
<th>BFI Libraries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 – English Volunteer Teachers Trained</td>
<td>137 Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>154 – English Clubs Completing Training up to Certification</td>
<td>4 Information Technology Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,008 – # of Monthly Readers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 Education

50,000 Burundians Educated about COVID-19

CLICK HERE TO LEARN ABOUT OUR PANDEMIC SUPPORT IN BURUNDI
GLORIA NISHIMWE
BRAINBUILD CLUB, RUMONGE LYCÉE, RUMONGE PROVINCE
“Thanks to the sessions of leadership and the role of women in societies contained in the training module of this BFI English club, I was transformed. Before joining this English club it was quite impossible for me to be a team leader in a classroom practice exercise, but now I am convinced that a girl is also able to prove good leadership.”

NOÉL-CHEYSSON TUYIKEZE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLUB, ECOFO KARURAMA, MUBIMBI COMMUNE, BUJUMBURA PROVINCE
I am 19 years old and this BFI English club is the wonderful gift I have received. Before I could join this club, I had problems in almost all skills; writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Now, socially, I have become popular in my village; people call me “Cheysson the English speaker,” I am proud of it. Each Saturday evening I provide free English lesson to unprivileged little children of my village. It is my pleasure to give back to my community.

CHADIA INGABIRE
NGOZI III ENGLISH, NGOZI PROVINCE
“I am 18 years old, and the BFI English club is transforming my life, now I am a girl with responsible behavior who plans for a better future. The topic “zero undesired pregnancy at school” introduced by a teacher in our English club inspired me to engage for girls’ rights and to be a mirror in my community. Before, I was not aware of most of the values of a responsible girl in her community and how she contributes for a sustainable development of her nation.”

BFI Education: Changing Lives

Since 2010, BFI has shipped over 140,000 English books and supported 47 individuals with college tuition. BFI English and IT classes provide opportunities for individual growth and job placement. BFI’s Suzuki music classes provide excellence in musicianship, increased self-worth, and psychological healing of the mind, body, and soul of all participants.

SUZUKI VIOLIN PROGRAM

In 2014, Aime Ndayirukiye was introduced to the sound of a violin through a TED talk shown to him by BFI Executive Director, Julie Marner, while in Burundi. Already musically gifted, Aime enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to learn all about the beautiful instrument. Julie’s friend, Susanna Han, director of the San Diego Suzuki Heritage Center, began volunteering for BFI and providing weekly violin lessons via Skype.

Aime is currently completing Suzuki level five. He has also instructed 12 other young adults and children on violin. BFI also has a student learning cello and a flute is already in Burundi to add to our ensemble. BFI hopes to create Burundi’s first orchestra.

Click here to watch video of the Rose Quartet
EMPOWERMENT

BFI Women Empowered (WE) savings program participants find self-worth, serve as role models to their children, and follow their dreams to a better future.

In Burundi, discrimination and harmful social norms toward women are the primary drivers of unequal access to economic opportunities, with particularly severe consequences for those living in rural areas. On average, each Burundian woman has five children while also having the burden of doing all household chores. Burundian women are trapped in a cycle of hard work to meet basic needs.

BFI answers the above challenges by offering expanded opportunities to participate in our Women Empowered (WE) program, in partnership with Project Concern International (PCI), A Global Communities Partner.

The WE program provides a way for rural Burundian women to overcome roadblocks, reach economic resilience and integrate into the business sector.

5.1
Average number of children per Burundian woman*

48%
Percent of women between the ages of 15-49 who experience intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.**

20%
Percent of women who are married before the age of 18.**

*NIA Factbook 2020  ** UN Women: Burundi
Meet Aline Kwizera. At age 32, Aline wanted to improve life for her husband and three children in Gitega province, but she didn’t know how to save money or ask for a loan. A friend invited Aline to join a WE savings group—and what a difference it made!

With a microloan of $17.86, Aline launched a small retail business making donuts. Subsequent loans from her group enabled her to open a small donut shop and begin raising pigs. After saving for six months, by share-out time in July 2020, Aline had saved $60. With interest, she received a total of $85! With that money she reinvested in her group’s next savings cycle, purchased a goat, and is happily working on her 5-year plan to move her business from retail to wholesale.

128 Women Empowered Groups Created

3,200 WE Group Members
3040 Women
160 Men
Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. There is a very high risk of major infectious diseases and lack of access to clean water. Land is scarce, yet Burundi has the third highest population growth rate in the world.

- **Burundi is land-locked** and comparable in size to the state of Maryland.
- **3rd highest population density** in Africa.
- **90%** of the population relies on subsistence agriculture.
- **66%** urban.
- **64%** of population is under the age of 25.
- **60%** of children have chronic malnutrition.
- **2%** rural.
- **64%** access to electricity.
- **1 Doctor per 10,000 people** (2017).

Source: CIA Factbook (2020)
BFI: IMPACT

Over BFI’s past fiscal year, we specifically focused on Quality Education and Gender Equality goals within the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SD). Our mission is to one day achieve SD Goal #1 in Burundi: **No Poverty.**

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 that temporarily shut down BFI programming, our staff, teachers, students, and musicians remained resilient and accomplished great success.

**3,682** Students certified or empowered in English education or IT training

**3,200** Rural women and men Economic Empowerment participants

**200** English teachers trained and certified

**128** Economic Empowerment savings groups created

**200** English classrooms formalized with an average of 20 learners per class

**98%** Participants who successfully completed business training

**88,162** BENEFICIARIES SINCE 2008

**BFI Suzuki Heritage Center Music Students**
**Burundi–US Project**

Starting in 2014 with one violinist, the BFI Suzuki Program now has **13 violinists, 1 cellist, 1 flautist**, and **1 keyboard player**
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

12 Mos. Ended 6/30/2021

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT
Contributions* $368,000
Donated in-kind service & materials 14,000
Total revenue and other support 382,000

EXPENSES
Program services
Education 111,000
Economic empowerment 108,000
Total program services 219,000
Support services
Management and general 62,000
Fundraising 12,000
Total support services 73,000
Foreign exchange loss/(gain) 20,000
Total expenses 312,000

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets** 70,000
Net Assets, Beginning of Year 61,000
Net Assets, End of Year $131,000

* Contribution income does not include $29,000 in PPP income classified as a loan as of 6/30/21.
** During the COVID crisis program and administrative activities slowed which affords BFI the opportunity to build a reserve fund to cope with future economic uncertainty such as was faced during COVID-19.

FINANCIALS

SOURCE OF FUNDS

46% Foundations & Grants
36% Individual Contributions
6% Corporate, Church, & Organizational Contributions
4% Gift in Kind
8% COVID Support (PPP)

USE OF FUNDS

38% Education Program
37% Economic Empowerment Program
21% General and Administrative
4% Fundraising
SUPPORT BFI

Please make a tax-deductible donation today to bring the people of Burundi out of poverty. Every contribution, however big or small, has a powerful impact.

Keep BFI’s momentum moving forward by making a financial investment:

- 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
- Make a gift of appreciated securities, including stocks or bonds — an easy way to make a gift to BFI and receive a charitable income tax deduction, you may also avoid paying capital gains tax.

Donate online: [www.bufri.org](http://www.bufri.org)

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

Learn more about supporting BFI through monetary or other donations, please contact BFI board member Barbara Kelly at 619-800-2340 or [info@bufri.org](mailto:info@bufri.org). Thank you!

Stay up to date on BFI’s efforts by subscribing to our monthly mailing service at [www.bufri.org](http://www.bufri.org).

BFI is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, registered with the IRS.
Empowering Burundi Today for a Brighter Tomorrow

WWW.BUFRI.ORG