



# Initial Guide to Volunteering with Burundi Youth for Christ



## Background

Burundi is an amazing country. Small but beautiful, it has struggled under many years of civil war and extreme poverty, leaving it constantly ranked amongst the world's poorest countries. Despite this, there is a real hope and passion for change, particularly among the young people.

Burundi Youth for Christ was founded by Freddy Tuyizere in the year 2000 and concentrates on the vision to raise up a generation of Godly leaders to transform the country from within. They aim to do this through housing orphans, providing excellent education in their primary and secondary schools, leadership training, and supporting local communities with their Health Centres.

## Is Volunteering right for me?

Burundi Youth for Christ enjoys welcoming volunteers; we believe the children in our care thrive from exposure to many different cultures, and passionate self-sacrificing individuals who have come to work alongside us.

We believe that a good volunteering experience benefits both the local community and the volunteer. Our application process is designed to make sure that your skills, talents and passions are matched up with our needs and requirements as far as possible.



We don't like saying 'No' to potential volunteers, but we hope you understand that this does happen occasionally if we don't have enough information about your abilities, or feel there are no vacant roles which match your skill sets. We really don't want you to get bored or feel undervalued, and we have to use our resources wisely, focusing on the needs of our children.



We ask you start this application process prayerfully. Pray that if Burundi YFC is right for you, then God will make it clear, and show you where you can fit into the larger picture of our activities. Read through our volunteering opportunities below, and see where you think you could fit in.

When filling in your application form, try to be as specific and detailed as possible.

*"I've helped on a youth camp, organising outdoor team games for children"* is much more useful for revealing your skills and helping us place you than *"I'm passionate about young people and want to serve"*, (which we hope is true about all our volunteers regardless of their individual skill-set!)

Talk with people who know you well if you're struggling to sell yourself. The more specific information you can give on the application form about how your skills will be useful to us, and how you can fit into our work, the easier it will be to find you a placement.

You know your skills and abilities better than anyone, certainly better than we do!

## Volunteering Opportunities

These are our main projects and 'needs' for volunteers.

They are provided so you can read through and think about where your skills and experience might tie into our vision to raise up a Godly generation of young people. Please indicate where you see yourself possibly fitting into YFC projects on your application form.

Our needs differ and change from time to time depending on what volunteers we already have out. This list is just a starting place, and not a guarantee of any availability.

If you have different specific skills that you feel would be useful to BYFC, but don't fit easily into our categories, please let us know.

### Gitega International Academy

GIA is our English speaking, boarding secondary school. We need qualified and experienced teachers for all school subjects.

The academic year runs from September to July, with a 5 week break for Christmas and 2 weeks at Easter. To avoid disruption to pupil learning, we ask teachers to commit to an entire academic year.

We also need volunteers with experience working with teenagers to run after school sports and activity clubs, as well as worship leaders and discipleship mentors for the chapel.



### Future Hope Schools

We need English and basic IT teachers for our primary schools. Ideally, candidates should have some experience teaching English, and/or have completed a TEFL course.

But we are flexible if candidates work well with young children and have plenty of enthusiasm.

The academic year runs from September to July, with 2 week breaks at Christmas and Easter. To avoid disruption to pupil learning, we ask teachers to commit to an entire term, if not academic year.





## Homes of Hope

Homes of Hope are our orphanages. Most of the children are at school during term time, but in the summer holidays volunteers can plan and run summer programmes, games and activities with the children.



## Shammah Health Center

We currently operate one community health center in Gitega, with the plans to open a second in Cibitoke soon. We are Burundian staffed, but we are always open to medical volunteers who want to join our team. Whether you are a physician, a registered nurse, or lab technician, we'd love to have you come and serve with us, for any period of time. Those with experience in hospital administration and management, even small-business, your time and advice would be welcomed. For those with trade skills (plumbers, electricians, builders, etc.) there are always projects we have available to tackle. If you are passionate about bringing healthcare to those in desperate need of it, regardless of your skill set, we'd love to hear from you.



## Communications Assistant and Volunteer Support

This role is mostly based in the Head Office in Bujumbura, with visits to the different projects. Applicants should be comfortable writing reports and newsletters as well as updating Facebook, the blog and the website to promote BYFC over social media and often to a Western audience.

The role also includes supporting volunteers from their first application email through to in-country support and mentoring if appropriate, and hosting short-term mission teams in the summer.



## Summer Internship

This pilot scheme will allow volunteers to move between different projects and tasks over the summer months.

This can include anything from mission events with kids (sports, drama, craft, evangelism alongside Burundian volunteers), to teaching office staff computer skills, preaching/teaching or mentoring with teenagers, or even manual work such as painting, building or weeding, depending on our needs.

We ask that volunteers be flexible to moving around and changing schedules, working sometimes in teams, sometimes alone, with a mixture of busy days and quiet days.



## Things to Consider

### Support Raising

All our volunteers are asked to contribute US \$400 a month towards their living costs. This money is used to cover all expenses: food, accommodation, essential in-country travel etc. and any excess is plugged back into supporting the different BYFC projects.

This may seem like a large sum to raise, but we believe that support raising is Biblically grounded, and a great way for friends and family to get involved with your walk with God and the work of Burundi Youth for Christ.

If your application is accepted, we will provide you with our guide to Support Raising, with tips and experience from people who have already been there and done it.



## Living Conditions

Living conditions depend from project to project. Most accommodation is shared, which means you should get your own bedroom, but will share communal bathroom and living facilities. Many projects have limited electricity, only available in the evenings, and some projects do not have running water. We will try to let you know what to expect when we know where you will be placed.

## Code of Conduct

We need all our potential volunteers to understand that Burundi is a country that has seen much trouble, and is not as safe as where you live. Regardless of how much independence and freedom you have at home, we need you to understand that any rules, curfews or regulations imposed by BYFC are there for your own protection, and we ask you to prayerfully consider if you can accept these before volunteering to come out. We ask all volunteers to sign a code of conduct.

## Application Process

If you would like to volunteer with Burundi Youth for Christ, the application process goes as follows:

- 1) Fill in an application form and return it to BYFC
- 2) The BYFC team will contact your referees and attempt to match up your skills and abilities with the vacant positions in the different projects. This will require talking with several team leaders and can take a few weeks. Please be patient!
- 3) BYFC will inform you whether or not your application is successful.
- 4) If successful, we will send you a welcome pack including more information about Burundi and tips for support raising
- 5) Burundi YFC will do their best to support you in the months leading up to your arrival, by answering any questions and keeping you updated with our progress.

