

Volunteers are key components of the success of Aid for Education. Those volunteers who travel to Rwanda, offer skills on the ground from health and education to IT and management. The work doesn't stop upon their return to the UK. Their unique insight into conditions in Rwanda and how Aid for Education is promoting strong families, good education and health care to society's youngest and most vulnerable are invaluable. They head out into their own communities to give talks on Rwanda and to advocate for better conditions in Rwanda.



Conor helping to paint the learning centre

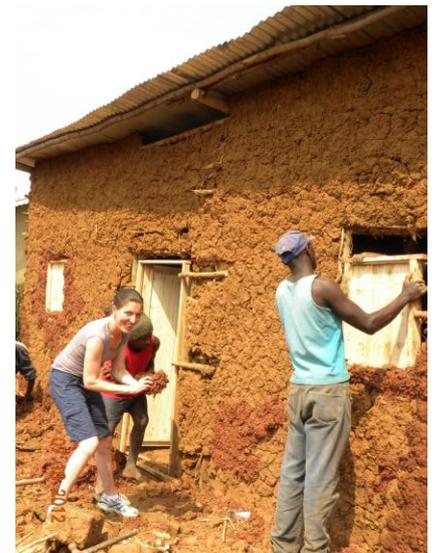
This July, we were joined in Rwanda for two weeks by volunteers Hannah and Conor from Northern Ireland and Arthur from Port Glasgow. We put them to work! The volunteers helped paint the learning centre, construct a house, run children's activities and visit families and local schools. They spent time with people in the community, learning more about the culture of Rwanda.



children join us for a ride in the pick up!

One day, they all joined local leaders and town residents to build a house for one of the families the organisation supports. Aid for Education bought the roof, windows, doors and materials and a group of local people agreed to help with the construction. It was a lot of fun but very messy plastering the outside walls with a mixture of mud, cow dung and water!

Aid for Education supports six of the 10 children in one family. This summer, we bought mattresses and blankets for five of them who had been sleeping in a room on the hard floor. The volunteers were moved by this family's situation, in particular, little three year old Beckham. He should be in nursery but the family cannot afford to send him.



Plastering a house with mud, dung and water



mattresses & blankets for the children



Beckham (front, 2nd from left) with his family

The volunteers enjoyed their time in Rwanda and we enjoyed having people from the UK come and experience it for themselves. They had great fun playing games with the children and were moved by the smiles on their faces. Arthur said that everyone made him feel welcome, our partners in Rwanda and the families we visited. He also told us, "I was most impressed by the community spirit and the smiles on the children's faces. "

The volunteers also had the chance to visit other parts of Rwanda and to swim and relax at Lake Kivu, Rubavu and at the Hotel des Milles Collines, Kigali, where the genocide film Hotel Rwanda was set.



Arthur visiting Christian at home

This summer Aid for Education started a women's farming co-operative called 'Abagore Farming' ('abagore' means 'women') providing land, tools and seeds. The women will grow crops to sell in market, enabling them to earn an income.

In July, we met the mothers to discuss the project and visit the land they will be farming. The women are very grateful for this opportunity to earn some money to provide for their families. We still need about £3,000 to buy another piece of land, so that the project can be sustainable.



women at the Abagore Farming meeting



Abagore Farming land

More than 40 families have also earned an income through the goat project. Many have sold some of the kids of the goat provided by Aid for Education. Others now have more than one goat at home, with the manure being used to fertilise their crops and thus improve their yield.

Aid for Education is still looking for volunteers, whether in Rwanda or here in Scotland. The charity is looking for people with experience in administration, IT, marketing, fundraising, education and other skills. Those who take up the challenge will be helping to give children in Rwanda a more hopeful future. Contact us at info@aidforeducation.co.uk

Why not organise or take part in an event to raise money for Aid for Education? It could be as easy as a sponsored silence or walk, or as difficult as climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.



Thank you once again to everyone who supports Aid for Education to help improve the lives of children in Rwanda.

Remember, you can find us on

