



# Africa Christian Teaching Service

## Education in Action

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Charity Commission  
For England & Wales

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### Herridge School Burundi - update April 2026

Last year was particularly productive for HTS and ACTS, its supporting charity. Much has been achieved in increasing the size of the school building, and widening the range of ages of students. More needy young people will have a better chance to raising themselves out of poverty through higher education and job opportunity.

#### School Buildings

The building of two dormitory buildings that was started in 2024 is now completed, allowing boarding students to attend. The construction faults were corrected, and water and power supplies were improved, so the school can use the building as intended. The new buildings have 20 bedrooms each with 4 beds, as well as the necessary showers and toilets, so they are obviously the envy of other schools.



#### Teaching Staff

The school continues to achieve very good results in the National Exams, and intends to concentrate on high performance, so the school's reputation attracts further boarders. The school now has some year 7 pupils, as well as boarders, so more teachers are now employed.

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Although there is a general shortage of qualified teachers in Burundi, many going abroad for better pay, HTS is able to pay enough to make their jobs attractive. They get daily meals from the school, as part of their pay, which is a significant incentive with food prices above normal.

The school needs a nurse to assist the boarders, but the cost would be above that of a teacher, and exceed the available means.



### **Conditions in Burundi**

Burundi is dependent on subsistence farming, and was fortunate in that last year's rain came as expected, so that those with land were relatively well provided. The majority of people are suffering through job loss, high prices for food, and fuel shortage. There are also refugees from the DRC, who are coming to Burundi without money, and making more demands from the poor resources. The country still has difficulties with its neighbour Rwanda. With these various challenges, HTS has made many compromises to exist on a small budget. The school has recently been able to buy rice and beans for the next few months, and using its grounds to grow some food, gives a little help in the near famine conditions.

### **Forward planning**

With unlimited resources, the school would benefit from things like:

- some transport for food collection, and access to medical assistance,
- a more practical kitchen,
- solar panels, to supplement the erratic power supply.
- mosquito nets

However, at present, we should pray for health of the staff and pupils, and that the Burundi authorities act justly, respecting the rights of all the people in the country.

Thank you so much again everyone for your generosity; you have blessed Herridge beyond measure.       Geoffrey and Georgette