



Have You Watched the Impact Hope Docuseries?

Visit [Impact-Hope.org/videos](https://www.impact-hope.org/videos) or scan the QR code below to watch episodes of young refugees finding hope.



Gad is an Impact Hope university graduate who initiated a program called Nurturing Hope at Carnegie Mellon University.

Nurturing Hope

Gad is a full-time graduate student pursuing a Master's degree in Information Technology at Carnegie Mellon University in Rwanda.

"For the first nine years of Gad's life, there was peace and harmony in his small village in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Gad's friends and family worked side by side, nurturing the land, caring for animals, and sharing day-to-day responsibilities with each other. That all changed in 2007 when conflict arose between government soldiers and a rebel group fighting for the rights of Kinyarwanda-speaking Congolese. Gad's family was internally displaced as a result of the fighting.

After a short time of peace, conflict arose again several years later. Gad's family, along with over one million other's, faced internal displacement

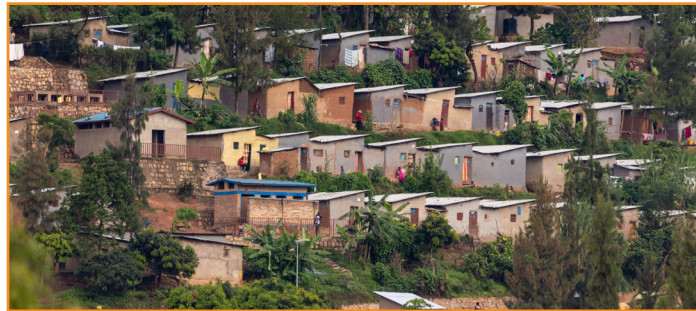
once again. Many of these Congolese fled the country. At this time, it was only Gad and his mother living together. His seven older siblings were older and his father was far away taking care of cattle. Gad's mother stayed for several months in the DRC, hoping they could return to their village. However, they eventually had no choice but to seek refuge in Rwanda. They left everything behind, including Gad's father who they had no way to communicate with where they were going.

In Rwanda, they were sent to Kigeme Refugee Camp. Gad remembers, (Con't inside)

(Cont'd from front page)

"It was terrifying, seeing many people being loaded into one truck. Children crying and people shouting. I did not know what we would face next."

Life in the refugee camp was challenging. There was little food and it was overcrowded. School in the camp went only as far as the ninth-grade and the nearest school for further education was a two-hour walk away. Gad's hope dimmed as he realized that his academic journey would be cut short. However, Impact Hope came to Kigeme Refugee Camp and **Gad was selected to be one of the sponsored students!**



The Christian boarding school Gad was sent to was a world apart from the camp. Nestled in rolling hills, it was an environment that fostered both learning and growth. "Being among the students supported by Impact Hope and attending a good school renewed my hope. Impact Hope not only provided financial support but also offered mental encouragement. We were informed that there was a possibility of continued support up to university level. With this in mind, I worked harder, believing that if they were to select one student, it had to be me. **At the end of my secondary education, I graduated second in my class with high grades.**"

Gad's hard work paid off when he was accepted into university to earn a degree in Information Technology. Gad shares, **"My dreams were coming true...With their [Impact Hope's] support, I completed my university education in 2021."** After graduating, Gad was employed by the Center for Online Evangelism as their web developer.

Life changed significantly for Gad as he started earning his own money. He was able to support himself and chose to pursue a master's program at Carnegie Mellon University that he learned was offering sponsorship. In 2023, he was accepted and awarded the Mastercard Foundation fully funded scholarship!

Gad is currently the scholar representative for Carnegie Mellon University Africa, where he initiated a program called "Nurturing Hope" to support refugees. Gad shares, **"The higher I was going academically, the fewer refugees I was going to school with... I asked myself how I can help those I left behind. This idea came to me to encourage the youth to venture in the field of technology."** The program, with the backing of the university, aims to assist young refugees and currently 32 scholars have joined the initiative. They have been providing uniforms to students and conducting boot camps to train refugees in Information Technology (IT), all with the goal of inspiring young refugees to aim higher.

As a full-time master's student, Gad reflects on his remarkable journey with a profound sense of gratitude. The struggles of his past no longer define him; instead, they fuel his determination to make a difference in the world. **"Whenever I look back at where I was and where I am today" Gad says, "The spirit of helping others has grown in me. To reach this point, I was helped, and I feel compelled to help others in return."**

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Gad expresses his gratitude to Impact Hope. As he looks towards the future, Gad envisions a world where young refugees like himself have the chance to achieve their dreams, just as he was given. **His journey from a refugee camp to a master's program is not just a personal triumph but a beacon of hope for countless others who are still waiting for their own chance to shine.**



You Gave Students A Summer of Hope!

It's always an exciting time of the year to see the large buses full of Impact Hope students pull up to Rwankeri Adventist Academy for the Summer Trade Program. This is one of the only times when Impact Hope students from all the five refugee camps come together. Liz Thomsen, Impact Hope Executive Director, visited the students and gave them all YOUR love! (P.S. They send it back!)

The Summer Trade Program offer's hands-on training in various trades, such as tailoring, hairdressing, agriculture, electrical and plumbing, and culinary arts. Vocational training doesn't only provide practical skills but also fosters a sense of purpose and belonging. With these new skills, young refugees can start to dream big and work towards a successful and independent future. Thank you for supporting these young people as they discover they can one day support themselves and their families!



Plumbing



Hairdressing



Agriculture



Culinary Arts

Center for Hope Business Extension Centers

When Impact Hope students complete their vocational campus training at the Center for Hope, they advance to our business extension centers where they hone their skills under a mentor and connect to the marketplace to learn how to effectively grow a small business. There are currently five business centers. This is a tailoring internship site in Mukamira, Northern Rwanda.





Join Us in Rwanda for an Experience of a Lifetime!

Impact Hope is excited to partner with AWR on a mission trip to Rwanda! Not only will you be serving in the mission field with AWR, you also will have the amazing opportunity to visit students from the Impact Hope project in Rwanda!

2 Mission Trips to Choose From:

AWR360° HEALTH MEDICAL CLINIC IN RWANDA

(Jan 15-26, 2025)

This is your opportunity to use your gifts of healing at the AWR360° Health five-day medical and dental clinic in beautiful Kigali, Rwanda. Not a medical professional? No problem. We invite people with different talents to serve during the five days of our medical clinic. We also need teachers, musicians, barbers, beauticians, helping hands, etc., to help with a number of different assignments.

RWANDA FOR CHRIST – AN EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH

(Jan 22 - Feb 9, 2025)

Join AWR and the General Conference Total Member Involvement initiative as we partner with the Rwanda Union to hold 3,000 evangelistic sites across the "Land of a Thousand Hills". Whether you are an experienced evangelist/pastor or have never preached before, this is an opportunity for you to preach the gospel and help to hasten the coming of Jesus. Sermon presentations will be provided to each speaker.

To Learn More & Apply

Visit Impact-Hope.org/missions or scan the QR code



Ways YOU Can Make an Impact

SPONSOR A STUDENT

\$50 monthly provides a safe education at a Christian boarding school and all living essentials.

DONATE

Whether you make a monthly donation or a one time donation, 100% of gifts goes directly to the mission.

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