



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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## BURUNDI

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### FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

The United States Government (USG) goal in Burundi is to support Government of Burundi (GOB) efforts to consolidate peace and democracy, improve social services, and stimulate economic growth. The United States is among Burundi's largest bilateral donors, providing approximately \$26 million in FY 2009 for good governance, health, HIV/AIDS prevention, and economic growth.

After four years of democratically elected leadership, Burundi still faced a number of challenges related to policymaking, civil society reinforcement, fighting corruption, women's participation in political process, and preparation for the 2010 elections. U.S. assistance is focused on supporting collaborative policy reform processes, and support for the preparation of peaceful and transparent elections. Activities in this area were complemented by conflict mitigation and peace-building interventions.

In the social sector, HIV/AIDS remains a serious public health threat for the Burundian population. Maternal and child health and nutrition indicators are among the worst in Africa. In this sector, U.S. assistance focused on improving and expanding access to quality HIV/AIDS services and on strengthening the capacity of local providers of HIV/AIDS prevention and care services (including local nongovernmental organizations and provincial government and private health facilities) in three target provinces. In conjunction with the Burundian Ministry of Public Health, U.S. assistance focused on improving maternal and child health by enhancing the skills and capacity of health care providers at provincial public health clinics, and on renovating and equipping these facilities in two target provinces. In collaboration with the World Food Program and other partners, the United States provided nutrition assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS and children.

The agriculture sector, which employs more than 90 percent of Burundi's population and contributes up to 80 percent of foreign currency earnings, is the country's engine of economic growth. The United States continued to focus assistance on agriculture and agribusiness development. Activities included transferring improved farming techniques to vulnerable households in three food insecure provinces to help them increase their food production, and thus improve their nutritional status and economic welfare. Through U.S.-funded trainings and

assistance, horticulturalists and coffee and dairy farmers were able to increase the production and marketing of quality products that can elicit the highest rates of return. U.S. assistance also supported applied agriculture research in improved cassava, rice, and fruit and vegetable varieties, which in the short term is expected to support increased production that will feed farmers and generate a marketable surplus. Because access to credit remains a challenge, especially in the agriculture sector, the United States designed and launched a loan guarantee program targeting lending to farmers and agro-entrepreneurs.

## **HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**

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### **Governing Justly and Democratically**

U.S. assistance supported the implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, and policies; promoted transparent and accountable government institutions across all sectors; and contributed to preparation of peaceful and transparent presidential and legislative elections in 2010.

- Activities supported discussion among members of the executive branch, political parties, civil society organizations, religious groups, and media in order to learn about international standards for elections, and to develop a consensus on the process of revising the electoral code
- With U.S. assistance, two policies on water resource management were developed, addressing water quality and water use for irrigation and reducing water pollution. An institutional framework on water resource management was created based on an institutional assessment of ministries responsible for water conservation and water resource management.
- USG support also helped to develop women's leadership skills, increasing the capacity of 229 women leaders to participate in the political process through study trips and trainings on anticorruption and conflict resolution.
- The USG funded 52 trainings for rural women leaders in gender and development issues, including a segment on combating injustice and inequality.
- USG assistance enabled members of Burundian civil society to advocate with government officials, serve as agents of policy reform, and participate in government decision-making processes. USG-supported training programs promoted the ability of women-led and civil society organizations to help citizens competently engage government and serve as watchdogs, which fosters greater accountability and transparency within government. Efforts also promoted anticorruption activities, citizen participation in political processes, and capacity building, which has encouraged civil society and female leaders to engage in strengthened advocacy campaigns.
- USG resources were used to enhance the civic participation of 453 victims of torture. During the reintegration process, victims of torture were identified and provided with legal and psychosocial services to facilitate their active inclusion and participation in their communities. In addition, civil service organizations received financial assistance to expand outreach across the country to address concerns facing victims of torture. This support has enhanced the GOB's effort to build an environment conducive to improving its constituents' social and economic welfare.

## Investing in People

The USG supports activities aimed at improving and expanding access to critical quality HIV/AIDS services and strengthening the capacity of local HIV/AIDS prevention and care providers to deliver services in three northern provinces. USG assistance had several results:

- Assistance increased the number of service sites providing voluntary counseling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and preventive therapy services.
- A total of 44,358 pregnant women attending antenatal visits accepted HIV testing, and 41,373 (93 percent) received their test results. Among the 443 pregnant women testing positive for HIV, 427 (96 percent) were provided with antiretroviral prophylaxis according to national protocol.
- In collaboration with the Clinton Foundation, USG support helped launch HIV testing on infants born to HIV-positive mothers. Of 156 infants tested, seven (4 percent) tested positive for HIV and began treatment.
- From the general population, 63,741 people were counseled and tested for HIV/AIDS, and 61,773 (32,566 women, 29,207 men) received results.
- Antiretroviral therapy was administered to 2,409 people (1,575 women, 834 men).
- Six thousand orphans and vulnerable children under 17 years old (2,877 girls, 3,123 boys) benefited from an assistance package that includes education, health care, protection, shelter, care, and psychosocial support. In total, 5,556 orphans and vulnerable children (2,644 girls, 2,912 boys) benefited from one or two services, and 444 (233 girls, 211 boys) benefited from three or more.
- A total of 1,321 health providers and community health workers have benefited from capacity building for prevention strategies, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, counseling and testing, laboratory assistance, palliative care, protection of orphans and vulnerable children, and family planning.

In the maternal and child health sector, the USG supported a program in two northern provinces. The support took different forms, from building the capacity of health providers to renovations and equipment of health structures. In conjunction with the Ministry of Public Health, USG assistance contributed in various areas:

- The USG supported capacity building for 1,404 health providers and community health workers. Among these trainees, 643, or 46 percent, were females.
- A total of 27,604 deliveries with skilled birth attendants occurred. The USG project organized visits to households and regularly monitored pregnant women, encouraging them to get prenatal care services and use health centers for deliveries.
- The USG supported the reference system for difficult deliveries and provided medical materials to make health structures more welcoming, including beds, mattress, gloves, delivery tables, scales, sterilizers, delivery kits, manual and electrical aspirators, and gynecological lamps.

- To increase the number of children covered by immunizations, the USG supported routine immunization activities as well as immunization campaigns. Direct logistical support for the transportation and distribution of vaccines as well as relevant trainings was provided. A total of 53,731 children under a year old received the diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccination.
- With USG assistance, 129,137 people gained access to improved drinking water, and 26,028 people gained access to improved sanitation facilities.

In nutrition, USG assistance supported training on community management of acute malnutrition for health center nurses, hospital nurses, paramedical staff, and medical doctors (178 people). In collaboration with World Food Program and other partners, USG assistance brought supplemental nutrition assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS. A USG-supported nutrition program reached 68,284 children through outpatient therapy and supplementary feeding programs.

### **Economic Growth**

U.S. support for agriculture and agribusiness sector development comprised four different and complementary interventions: a USAID multi-year assistance program (MYAP) aimed at improving food production and livelihoods of vulnerable households in the three most food insecure provinces; an agribusiness development program focusing on increasing the production and improving the marketing of coffee, horticulture, and dairy products; a higher education partnership between a U.S.-based university and a Burundian university to enhance agronomy teaching, agribusiness teaching, and applied agriculture research; and a Development Credit Authority (DCA) loan guarantee program targeting lending to farmers and agro-enterprises. These interventions covered 10 of the 17 provinces of Burundi, and benefited approximately 23,000 households and 67 small and medium-sized agriculture-linked firms.

Through the three-year MYAP:

- Eight associations of vulnerable households received training to improve soil conservation, control animal and crop disease, and better manage shared watersheds
- A total of 1,350 farmers received improved and diverse seeds at seed fairs.
- Disease-resistant cassava varieties were tested and multiplied for distribution to farmers in the target area.
- The rehabilitation of dams in three marshlands is underway, which will allow farmers to utilize previously unusable fields.

Through the agribusiness program:

- A total of 4,463 coffee and horticulture farmers and processors received trade and investment capacity training.
- Various types of training were delivered to 363 farmer associations to build their capacity to form economically viable farmer cooperatives. As a result, the number of legally registered farmer associations increased from 29 to 159, the number of farmer cooperatives with notarized agreements increased from nine to 11, and the number of cooperatives registered with the Ministry of Commerce increased from none to eight.

- Eleven of the most advanced companies were assisted in the development of their individual company expansion plans, which included contracting out farmer associations for fruits and vegetables. Two of these companies have concluded buyer-supplier contracts with 31 farmers associations for the production and purchase of apple bananas and patchouli grass.

Through its higher education partnership program, the USG is enhancing agronomy teaching, agribusiness teaching, and applied agriculture research that will further enhance agricultural productivity in Ngozi Province. In FY 2009:

- Two short agribusiness courses, two short entrepreneurship programs, and an agribusiness professional program were designed and scheduled to begin in December 2009.
- Farmers and paraprofessionals who will assist with outreach were selected and trained.
- Integrated pest management training and testing of improved rice and new fruit and vegetable varieties were conducted at four experimental research stations.

The United States established the first DCA loan guarantee program with a local commercial bank. The guarantee agreement covers \$3 million of lending to qualifying agro-enterprises and microfinance institutions over seven years.

- Through this program, \$551,453 was disbursed in FY 2009 to finance a dairy processing facility, the construction of three new coffee washing stations, and a rice development project.
- To mitigate risks of non-performing loans, potential loan seekers and loan recipients received training and coaching, notably in the design and planning of revenue generating activities and on business plan development and financial management.

The USG signed a memorandum of understanding with the Netherlands Development Cooperation for a \$2,027,027 Dutch cash gift to the U.S. Agency for International Development. The memorandum established a business incubator that will foster small business development and Burundi's integration into the East African Community. The incubator baseline assessment and business plan development has been completed, and the program is in the process of being launched.

Additionally, the USG continued to play a leading role in assisting the GOB and donor community in strategic planning coordination, and currently chairs or participates in several prominent donor coordination groups, including the country coordination mechanism for the Private Sector Coordination Group and the Steering Committee, which consists of the Global Fund, the World Bank, Highly Indebted and Poor Countries, the Government of Burundi, donors, and civil society.