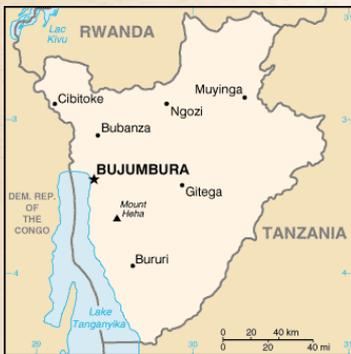




Burundi

Brian David Melnyk/CARE



Country Snapshot

Population:	8.3 million
Life expectancy at birth:	51 years
Adult literacy rate:	66%
Access to improved water source:	72%
GDP per capita (PPP)*:	US\$ 403
Infant mortality rate:	101 per 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality rate:	620 per 100,000 live births
HIV prevalence:	3.3%

Sources: UNICEF State of the World's Children 2011. *UNDP Human Development Index 2010

Program Overview CARE originally established an office in Burundi in 1994 to help people affected by civil unrest by distributing non-food items to internally displaced people and returning refugees. During the following years of upheaval within the Great Lakes region, CARE managed refugee camps inside the country and across the border in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. After successfully conducting democratic elections, Burundi's government faces many challenges, including rebuilding infrastructures, governance structures and the economy while fostering a climate of trust amongst the population. This post war setting provides multiple opportunities for CARE to support civil society, in particular women, to take a more active role in moving Burundi towards peace and economic security. CARE has designed a long-term program strategy to effect the social changes needed, much longer than the 5 year cycle frame around which NGO projects are normally based. It is for this reason that CARE Burundi has decided to implement an approach over 15 years, comprising 3 programs: Women's Empowerment, Children's Empowerment, and Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR.)

Women's Empowerment Program

Kirumara is a women's empowerment project which works with local partners to address issues of economic empowerment, women's rights, gender based violence and advocacy. CARE works to promote the savings and loans solidarity groups while other partners address the psychosocial needs of women victims of violence and the implementation of the national gender policy, as well as other conventions.

Girijambo addresses the socio-cultural problems causing violence against women, as well as women's and girls' vulnerabilities in the area of sexual and reproductive health. It also improves women's access to information and services for sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), and sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

Umwizero II is a capacity building project for women members of solidarity groups, focusing on economic, social and political aspects which enable the women to become empowered. The target group for this project is poor women living in rural areas, aged 15 and over. Through the project's activities, their economic security will be strengthened and their life skills improved; they will have greater capacity for organization and strengthen social networks between women and girls; men, women and local leaders will promote and defend the rights of women and girls.

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Inheritance and marriage laws are still mainly regulated by customs in Burundi, even though they should be regulated by law. Given this legal gap, **Giriteka** uses sensitization activities to educate men and women about the importance of women's right to inheritance. The main objective is to contribute to gender equality by supporting non-state actors in their efforts to promote access to the right to property for women in Burundi.

The **Great Lakes Advocacy Initiative (GLAI)** is a regional advocacy initiative which advocates for policy changes to prevent SGBV and provide support to survivors. Based on UN Resolution 1325, the initiative underpins the projects within the women's empowerment program.

The **Men and Boys Engaged Initiative (MBEI)** was born out of the recognition that men are key agents in women's empowerment in Burundi and seeks to engage them as partners in changing behaviour and transforming gender relations. Within this initiative, the *abatangamuco* movement is an organic social movement of ordinary men who testify against issues such as gender based violence and act as positive roles models for change.

Children's Empowerment Program

Ishaka is a program in urban areas that seeks to address the empowerment needs of adolescent girls., focusing on savings and loans solidarity groups as well as education on rights, literacy and sexual and reproductive health. The goal is to build leadership skills and economically empower 20,000 girls through credit and loans activities and financial education.

Nabacu works with young ex-combatants, many of whom are former child soldiers, as well as other children who have been traumatized by the war in Burundi. The project offers both boys and girls psychosocial support, as well as facilitating their socio-economic reintegration.

Izere addresses the socio-cultural barriers that prevent children (especially girls) who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS from accessing quality education. The aim is to create a better educational environment for these children and provide them with leadership skills.

The aim of **Inkerebutsi** is to provide vulnerable children with leadership skills through quality education and also through sport. Using sporting activities as a platform for sensitization, it addresses issues such as socio-cultural barriers that prevent girls from accessing education.

Transversal Program: Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

The emphasis of the **Pamoja** initiative is on capacity building within civil society to directly tackle poverty and thus facilitate sustainable development, as well as advocacy on local, national and international levels. The initiative works with demobilized ex-combatants, survivors of SGBV, people living with HIV/AIDS, displaced people and returnees, orphans and street children, widows, teachers, and school committees.

The focus of the **Inabigega** initiative is to increase agricultural production through increasing seed variety, promoting livestock rearing, and combating soil erosion and deforestation. Through technical training, capacity building and sensitization, the aim is to reduce poverty and food insecurity. It also provides information and sensitization on HIV/AIDS.

Lagafa forms part of an initiative across several countries which aims to advocate at local, national and international levels for greater food security and more and better nutrition policies, programs and initiatives. The idea is to use civil society organizations (CSOs) to carry out these advocacy activities, and the initiative works with a total of 45 CSOs in Burundi, Malawi and Zambia.

Biraturaba is a transversal initiative focused on addressing poor governance as an underlying cause of poverty and vulnerability. Promoting good governance will contribute to achieving CARE's vision for each impact group. Through the Biraturaba initiative, CARE and its partners can improve governance in the post conflict context.

Major Donors

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Strategic Partners

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