



COUNTRY PROFILE



USAID sponsors radio programming that spreads messages of community reintegration to help Burundi heal following 12 years of near-constant conflict.

OVERVIEW

In 2005, Burundi completed the transition mandated by the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Accords with five rounds of national elections that were praised by the international community. The new government is taking over the leadership of a country that remains extremely fragile in many respects. Burundi's greatest challenge over the next few years will be to move on from the historic elections to begin the difficult process of consolidating the



peace and enacting reforms that can provide a framework for increased stability and economic growth. To help with this process, USAID is working with the Burundian government and civil society to support local reconciliation movements, enhance agricultural production, create opportunities for economic development, and improve access to health care.

PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND FOOD SECURITY

Despite the progress made toward peace in 2005, ethnic conflict still destabilizes some parts of the country. USAID played a central role in reconciling and reintegrating communities in 11 of Burundi's 17 provinces and in training community members to prevent and mitigate local conflicts. Through USAID-funded activities, nearly 42,000 Burundians helped rebuild school and water sources, and therefore helped to rebuild their communities. Over the course of the year, over 1,500 workshops were held on conflict prevention and mitigation for community groups.

Improved security and USAID programs contributed to an overall improvement in the nutritional situation of vulnerable populations in most of Burundi; the chronic malnutrition rate decreased from 57 to 44 percent between 2000 and 2005. USAID programs focus on ethnically-mixed areas with high numbers of returnees and ex-combatants. Over 24,000 households formed 146 farmers' associations and received improved seeds and fertilizers and training in environmentally sound agricultural practices. Communities came together through these associations to establish community veterinary pharmacies, tree nurseries, and communal storage facilities; install a community water conveyance system; and multiply and distribute livestock to vulnerable community members.

BURUNDI SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1962
Population: 7.2 million (estimate)
Income per person: \$90 (yr)

Source: World Bank Development Indicators

USAID IN BURUNDI

www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/countries/burundii

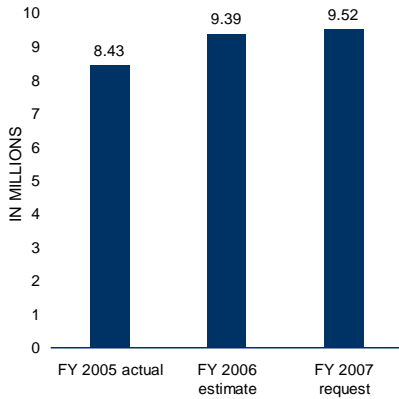


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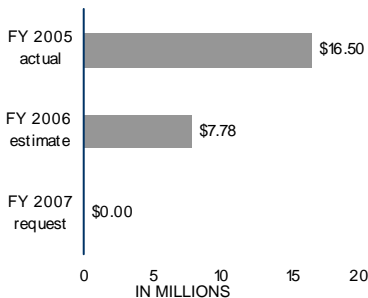
BURUNDI

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI



USAID FOOD AID TO BURUNDI



For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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Meanwhile, USAID-funded vocational skills centers in Gitega and Ruyigi provinces trained nearly 2,000 ex-combatants, returnees, internally-displaced persons, and other vulnerable people in trades such as masonry, roofing, carpentry, sewing, brick and tile making, and bread making so that they are able to reduce dependency on farm income. Demand for these skills has been high; in Ruyigi, graduates are only filling 1/20th of the demand for skilled laborers in trades such as masonry and roof carpentry.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND HEALTH CARE

USAID works to strengthen the legitimacy of Burundi's new government through activities that build the capacity of the government to engage with civil society and increase accountability. A law on the new local government administration was passed in 2005 with substantial input from a USAID-supported network of civil society organizations. As a result of the organizations' input, the law as passed contains landmark new provisions that institutionalize the accountability responsibilities of the newly-elected communal councils to their constituents through regular reporting and open meetings.

The effectiveness of the new government will be bolstered through activities that bring the government and civil society together to improve the provision of basic services in health and HIV/AIDS. Malaria and HIV/AIDS have devastated the economic and food security of thousands of Burundian families, as family members become sick and are no longer able to cultivate their fields. USAID health programs focus on improving the availability and quality of health care at the local level and on teaching people how to take care of themselves and their families. Over the course of the year USAID partners trained over 1,300 community based health workers on topics including the importance of Vitamin A supplementation and fever management. These workers then gave over 2,400 health education sessions in their communities and went on more than 11,500 home visits.

In response to the chronic malnutrition problem, over 81,500 individuals were treated in 70 feeding centers in Kirundo, Muyinga, Rutana, and Bujumbura Rurale provinces. A youth-friendly voluntary HIV counseling and testing center was established in Bujumbura through USAID support. By the end of 2005, the center had tested more than 2,700 clients and trained 20 peer educators (10 male, 10 female). USAID also supported seven Burundian organizations providing services to people living with HIV/AIDS, and these local partners provided care and support to over 1,500 Burundians living with the disease.