



Result Area: Human Security

The Building Bridges in Burundi (BBB) program is developed to mitigate the root causes of conflict and instability in Burundi. The program aims at transforming the lives of young men and women between 15 and 25 years, by giving them the means to become responsible and resilient citizens. The three result areas of the BBB program are Income Generating and Livelihood Opportunities, Functioning Rule of Law, and Human Security.

Human Security

The aim of the result area 'Human Security' is to reduce violence and improve physical security and freedom from fear by the end of 2021. This is done by assisting youths and their communities to address wide-spread, cross-cutting and interconnected challenges to their survival, livelihood and dignity. This is done by establishing and strengthening youth self-help groups and Cluster Level Associations bringing members from various ethnic groups, political parties and religious affiliations together. This allows the young members to improve their social cohesion and mutual trust, which is very much needed in Burundi's fractured and polarized society.

“ With the arrival of the BBB program in our community, the problems started reducing. Issues such as poverty, idleness of the youth, and domestic violence have really reduced. ”

BBB Participant, Kirundo

Building Bridges in Burundi

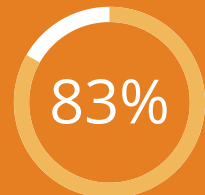
Key results 2020



95% of participants report that the level of violent conflict reduced



81% of participants report they feel more secure at night in the area they live in



83% participants that report a reduction of negative socio-economic interactions across intra-societal divides

ABOUT BBB

The BBB Consortium, comprising Help a Child (lead), American Friends Service Committee, Cord and Stichting CMC Mensen met een Missie as well as ten implementing partners, is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands under the Address Root Causes (ARC) program.



American Friends Service Committee



arcburundi.org

"Our success is beyond expectations"

According to the members of the "Dukore" Association, the Dutsimbataze Amahoro program came at the right time. After receiving training from the Geste Humanitaire association through the program, young natives from Shasha, Giharo (Province of Rutana) chose to work together and set up a sewing workshop.

"Before I knew the program, I was very poor. I cultivated the fields of my neighbors for a meager salary in order to have enough to eat and to dress," says Emmanuel, the leader of Dukore.

"I had no idea that a woman could earn and bring money into the household ever before," says Emelyne, one of the Dukore members. "Like many other Burundian women, I waited for my husband to give me money when I needed anything," she said.

"We would never have believed that we could generate other means to support our families besides agriculture."

The members of Dukore all agree on one thing: the workshop greatly improved the living conditions of themselves, their families and other people around them. "We would never have believed that we could generate other means to support our families besides agriculture," testifies one of them.

"In this region, the lack of sewing machines was the basis for this initiative," says Emelyne. "When we needed a tailor, we would have to walk long distances to the communal center,"

Dukore
Association



"Instead of creating disorder, the Dukore members are trying to find solutions."

recalls another member of the group. This workshop improves the lifestyle of many other people as well."

The benefit from the Dutsimbataze Amahoro program is not only an economical one; the program also helped to strengthen the social cohesion between Dukore members. "At this moment, we have a limited number of sewing machines," explains Emmanuel. "Some of us wanted the machine to stay at their homes. This situation could easily create a disorder among the members. But instead, the Dukore members are trying to find solutions. Taking turns working for example. This is where we see the added value of the Building Bridges program. We all received training in peaceful conflict resolution."

The members of Dukore plan to deepen their profession through continuous training in sewing techniques, buying other machines and above all training other young people. Also, they plan to farm rice. Through all of this, they want to continue to develop themselves and their community.