



Result Area: Income generation and livelihood

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.

Income generating and livelihoods opportunities

The result area 'Income generating and livelihoods opportunities' is about preventing the (re)occurrence of conflicts, instability or irregular migration. One of the key activities in this respect is to establish and strengthen (youth) self-help groups as a structure for training, savings- and loans mechanisms, and joint income generating activities. By working on both social and economic empowerment, the self-help group approach has been proven beyond all doubt as a key strategy to allow youth to meet current and future household needs, strengthen their social resilience, and reduce grievances and negative interactions within communities.

“ Thanks to the knowledge I received in relation with entrepreneurship, and given the fact that I am a member of a SHG through the BBB program, I am able to meet my needs. I was able to buy three goats and I also have chickens. Apart from that, I earn my living by making sandals using my acquired knowledge. ”

BBB Participant, Makamba

Building Bridges in Burundi

Key results 2020



of participants reported growth within their business activities



The average monthly income of youth grew from BIF 117,684 to BIF 203,929



youth and women successfully completed technical vocational training (TVET)

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

"I regained resilience."

Chantal

Life had not been kind to Chantal. First, she was banished by her husband and then forced to return to her father's house. At that point, she could not imagine the opportunities lying ahead.

As national of the Cibitoke province, in Kaburantwa, Buganda, Chantal married very young. "I had just finished high school when I ran into my soul mate. However, my parents did not see it favorably. Of course, I was young to get married ... ", she confides. A few years later, Chantal separated with her husband and was forced to return to her parents: "My family did not want me. You know in the Burundian society a woman who returns to her father's house is a shame for the family. I was the object of family abuse."

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Left with nothing and without support, Chantal did not know what to do. Then, in 2016, she was informed about the Dutsimbataze Amahoro program, coordinated by NGO Help a Child. With the support of this program, Chantal and some of her friends started the "Twunge Ubumwe" association. Chantal adhered to the program and requested a loan of 300,000,000 Burundian francs.

"With this amount of money, I started selling loincloths at the Buganda market," she said. Step by step, Chantal regained resilience and today, she owns a capital of over 3 million Burundian francs.



"The teachings and encouragement of other women in the youth group strengthened me."

"As Buganda business woman, I easily provide for my child's basic needs. I even pay the school fees for my little brothers and sisters," she shares happily. Chantal built the house in which her family members live. "This is all thanks to the Dutsimbataze Amahoro project," she says.

According to Chantal, women are just as capable as men in participating in the development of the country. "The teachings I received in the youth self-help group and the encouragement from other women strengthened me. I was elected to the municipal council," she says. "I even almost made it as chair of the municipal administrator of Buganda."

Chantal urges young people to set up loan- and saving groups as a way to emerge from poverty. "Self-help groups are the source of development, especially for young people who are asked by banks for mortgages while they are looking after themselves," she says.

Help a Child