



THE
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Annual Report 2023

LWF Burundi

For hope
and a future



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Impressum

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The Lutheran World Federation
Burundi Country Program

Foreword

Martine Nibasumba, Country Director



"Restore hope. Believing in a better future, despite difficulties.

These are the words defining our work at the LWF Burundi since 2006, when we began to operate in this country. Our story continues, and so does our impact.

It is a real pleasure and an honor for me to present to you the new LWF Burundi annual report. It looks back at our impact in 2023 and highlights our strategic approaches for the years to come. Through this report, we hope to provide an insight into the achievements of the communities we serve.

We operate in Cankuzo and Ruyigi, two provinces in the east of Burundi that are highly vulnerable to climatic shocks, to the gradual return of burundian refugees from Tanzania and that face enormous food security needs. The lack of access to socio-economic rights for women and gender inequality are also a challenge.

Through the five projects implemented in 2023 and together with the communities we serve and our partners, we commit to social and economic justice.

I would like to thank the Government of Burundi through its various ministries, our donors, the local partners we work with, the communities we serve, the dedicated staff and anyone else who contributed to the great successes of 2023.

We hope you enjoy reading this report!"

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nibasumba".

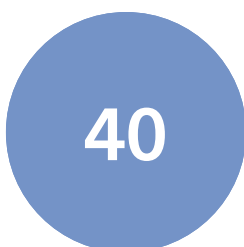
Who We Are



Established in 2006, LWF Burundi is one of the 21 LWF World Service's country programs.

The program has a national office in Bujumbura, a field office in Cankuzo and operations in the Cankuzo and Ruyigi provinces. It implemented five projects in 2023 and reached 19'730 people including Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), host communities and returnees.

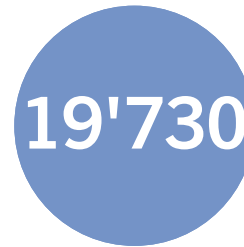
With the support of its partners, staff and incentive staff, LWF Burundi successfully conducted activities to support people in gaining access to sustainable livelihoods, providing child protection, accessing education, promoting social cohesion and working towards gender equality.



Staff



Projects



Participants

2023 Highlights

In 2023, LWF Burundi implemented many activities in Cankuzo and Ruyigi. The program also took part in local, national and international events and processes to defend women socioeconomic development.



January

21 village savings and credit associations participated in trainings on innovative micro-projects development.



February

LWF Burundi staff participated in trainings on conservation agriculture to preserve agricultural land and regenerate degraded land.



March

670 people attended public events for International Day of Women's Rights. Participants shared advocacy messages through dances and songs.



April

With the support of LWF Burundi, 13 civil society organizations presented five reports and resolutions at the 54th pre-session of the Human Rights Council (HCR).



May

Cooperatives received seven mills to sell processed products. As a result, 700 cooperative members will have access to better livelihoods.



June

1'200 projects participants attended 40 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to learn modern agricultural techniques



July

A warehouse was built in Rujungu for 112 cooperative members to safely store their harvest. 8'000 community members can also access it



August

120 cooperative representatives participated in a training on leadership and good governance



September

A distribution of school supplies was organized to ensure 700 vulnerable children have access to a better learning environment



October

LWF Burundi participated in the 54th session of the HRC where the government of Burundi accepted 204 resolutions out of the 287 presented in April.



November

40 women participated in an advocacy and public speaking training and shared their messages to a national media for the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV.



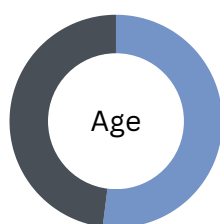
December

100 people took part in a two-day learning workshop to assess the challenges, good practices and impact of the HERD project.

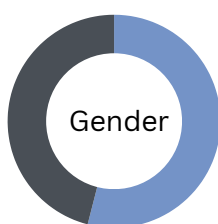
Our Projects

Five projects, a significant impact

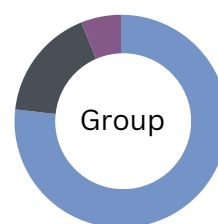
In 2023, LWF Burundi implemented five projects in Cankuzo and Ruyigi with the support of its various partners including donors, provincial and local authorities, community-based organizations and project participants' representatives. The Humanitarian Early Recovery and Development project, the Community Integrated Development project and the Youth Rights and Resilience Promotion Project focused on livelihoods and protection and social cohesion. The Gender Justice project and the Gender Context Analysis project focused on gender justice. All projects targeted the most vulnerable including minorities, female-headed households, people living with disabilities and youth. 19,730 projects' participants were directly involved in 2023, including:



● Adults: 52%
● Children: 48%



● Women & girls: 54%
● Men & boys: 46%



● Host community: 76%
● Returnees: 17%
● IDPs: 6%



Community Integrated Development Project

- Implementation period : 2022-2025
- Donors : Australian Lutheran World Service
- Direct beneficiaries : 2,751 households
- Sectors of intervention : Food security, livelihoods, human rights, disaster risk reduction (DRR)



In 2023, 2,730 people participated in modern farming techniques and livestock trainings, received agricultural inputs (seeds, tools, fertilizer) and livestock (goats and rabbits). In addition, seven Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) were supported by the project and distributed credits for more than 10,300 euros (32 million BIF) for its members to meet their basic needs or invest in microprojects. 24 sensitization and 56 restitution sessions on gender-based violence, children rights and gender equality were organized. A school was rehabilitated and 140 children received basic needs items. In addition, 60 households accessed decent housing, 112 households received improved stoves and people participated in 14 DRR sessions. A warehouse was also built to ensure a safer storage and better management of the harvests.



Gender Justice Project

- Implementation period : 2022-2024
- Donors : Australian Lutheran World Service, German National Committee (GNC) of the LWF, Act Church of Sweden, Swiss Development Cooperation
- Direct beneficiaries : 1,000 women
- Sectors of intervention : Livelihoods, protection and social cohesion (incl. gender justice)



In 2023, 1,000 women, divided into 40 cooperatives, could improve their livelihoods thanks to trainings in Income-Generating Activities (IGAs), VSLAs' management and micro-project start-up kits worth €23,800. Project participants elected 40 women leaders to represent them and advocate for women's socio-economic rights. These leaders participated in four advocacy workshops during which they developed their leadership and capacities to defend their rights. This included an advocacy campaign for the 16 days of activism when women leaders shared their messages on national media and through mass sensitization events. LWF Burundi was involved in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council. It supported 13 civil society organizations (CSOs) to write reports on human rights in Burundi. Representatives of CSOs and LWF Burundi also participated in the pre-session and session in Geneva to adopt the final report.



Gender Context Analysis Project

- Implementation period : 2022-2023
- Donors : Australian Lutheran World Service
- Direct beneficiaries : 484 individuals interviewed and 24 LWF Burundi staff trained
- Sectors of intervention : Protection and social cohesion (gender justice)



The aim of the project was to strengthen LWF Burundi staff's capacity for contextual gender analysis and the use of appropriate gender analysis tools in a specific project cycle. The data collected and its analysis can inform projects' design and implementation by ensuring the integration of gender aspects at every stage of the project cycle. 24 staff participated in a training on gender context analysis including on the country's context, gender related concepts and tools. In addition, 484 community members and 24 staff participated in the gender context analysis that allowed to write a detailed report on the situation in intervention areas. A local gender policy was developed based on the training and the report.



Humanitarian Early Recovery and Development Project

- Implementation period : 2021-2023
- Donors : Canadian Foodgrains Bank through Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- Direct beneficiaries : 1,200 individuals
- Sectors of intervention : Food security, livelihoods, protection and social cohesion (incl. gender justice)



In 2023, 1,140 people received in-kind food, food vouchers or cash transfers amounting more than 70,000 CAD to ensure access to nutritious food. In addition, 1,200 individuals participated in trainings on VSLA and cooperatives management, entrepreneurship, leadership, breeding of livestock and agriculture. They also attended sensitization sessions on gender equality. 40 VSLAs were established to support the creation of micro-projects and businesses. 842 project participants took part in community projects including the rehabilitation of 61 km of roads, eight culverts, three water sources and 19 anti-erosive pits of contour lines. Participants earned €9,700 as part of this cash-for-work initiative. To ensure a gender sensitive approach in the project's design and implementation, 10 gender equality advisory committees were created and attended trainings to participate in the project's decision-making processes.



Youth Rights and Resilience Promotion Project

- Implementation period : 2022-2024
- Donors : GNC, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Württemberg
- Direct beneficiaries : 1,000 youth
- Sectors of intervention : Livelihoods, protection and social cohesion



In 2023, 1,625 people participated in various trainings including on modern farming and storage techniques, modern animal husbandry and VSLA management. They also attended human's rights and women's rights sensitization sessions, trainings on leadership and good governance sensitization sessions. 1,000 youth received agricultural input and tools including processing units, seeds and livestock. A warehouse was built to ensure the safe storage and management of harvests. VSLAs mobilized €10,000 which allowed them to launch micro-businesses and invest in livestock and agriculture activities. Duty bearers also participated in the project through their participation in and facilitation of trainings and sensitization sessions.

Livelihoods



Strong of a 17-year expertise in Livelihoods, LWF Burundi support individuals to access a better income. The program focuses on building capacity in sustainable agricultural practices by providing access to agricultural inputs (seeds, manure, livestock, etc.), training farmers in modern agricultural techniques and providing storage units to safely store harvests.

In addition, the program supports project participants in the creation and management of cooperatives and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). To ensure an additional income, project participants can develop microbusinesses and take part in cash-for-work activities.

3,955

people received agricultural inputs and tools

66

VSLA created and trained

79%

of individuals use assets more productively

86%

of individuals increased the yield and quality of their products

56%

of households with improved dietary diversity

2,622

individuals reported an increase in income

1,580

individuals with new sources of income

Livelihoods

Anne CONGERA, farmer



Anne Congera is a returnee who fled Burundi for Tanzania in 2015. When she came back to Burundi with her children, she joined the HERD project.

She explains: “First we received food. Then the project gave us corn and bean seeds and I participated in the modern agriculture training. We received additional seeds for planting in the marshes because seeds planted in marshes ripen faster than those planted in the fields.

The project introduced paid roadwork, and after I participated, I received money and could join a village savings and loans association (VSLA).

I'd like to continue saving and applying for loans in the VSLA group I belong to. I have confidence I can continue working even after the project closes because I participated in trainings and I belong to a VSLA group. It reassures me to know I can get credit to continue my own projects.”

“The most significant change for me was the increase in my harvest. This enabled me to renovate my house. I rebuilt the walls with cement and I'm very proud of it. I'd like to continue saving and applying for loans from the village savings and credit association I belong to.”

— Anne Congera

Protection & Social Cohesion



LWF Burundi began operations in Burundi in 2006, accompanying the first wave of returnees from Tanzania. Since then, the program focuses on reintegrating returnees and displaced persons into their host communities. This is done through a cross-cutting approach to protection and social cohesion, which can be found in all the projects.

It includes public awareness campaigns and sensitization sessions on gender equality, humans' rights and children's rights, and the training of women and community leaders. In addition, LWF Burundi promotes women socio-economic rights through campaigns, trainings, meetings, round tables and events at the local, national and international level.

2,331

individuals aware of protection needs and rights

3,299

individuals involved in joint advocacy activities

2,146

individuals with increased awareness of gender equality and masculinities

90

local partners and CBOs with increased capacity in advocacy

710

people participated in the 16 days of activism against GBV

Protection & social cohesion

Félicule NIJIMBERE, a woman leader



Félicule Nijimbere is one of the 40 women leaders involved in the Gender Justice Project.

She was elected by the members of her community to represent them and defend their rights. Félicule participated in trainings on advocacy and leadership.

After the trainings, two advocacy workshops were organized for Félicule and the other women leaders to advocate for women's rights at the provincial level in the presence of local authorities. Their intervention strengthened the accountability of duty bearers on the consequences of poor control or non-access to family assets and resources.

During the campaign of the 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence, Félicule developed advocacy messages and shared them with a large audience through Yaga, a famous national media.

"We, women leaders, want to see gender-based violence end. With the local administration, NGOs and religious leaders, we'll share our message through sketches, songs and dances. As women leaders, we will raise awareness on the consequences of this violence as best we can."

— Félicule Nijimbere

Strategic Development

New strategies to better achieve our goals

The 2019-2024 LWF Burundi country strategy will end soon. In 2023, the LWF Burundi team looked back at the implementation period of the strategy, with the support of the headquarter, to analyze the impact and progress made against what was planned. This learning and capitalization process, called end-of-term review, is also crucial to guide the development of the new 2025-2030 strategy. Based on the findings of the end-of-term review and to ensure a more strategic approach to its work, LWF Burundi also developed new fundraising and visibility strategies. They set goals and actions linked to the programmatic framework, networking and collaboration and systems and practices for quality programming.



Programmatic framework: Innovation in projects design and implementation

- Focus in livelihoods and protection and social cohesion
- Develop environmentally-friendly projects (Climate Justice)
- Strengthen local-to-global (L2G) and rights-based approaches in projects
- Strengthen gender justice through women socio-economic empowerment and the promotion of positive masculinity
- Develop innovative projects in partnerships with innovative organizations
- Foster exchange visits with other country programs
- Expand operations in the neighboring province of Muyinga
- Develop stand-alone components for child protection
- Strengthen risk prevention and management



Networking and collaboration: Creation of new partnerships and development of visibility

- Develop of a capacity-building hub for civil society organizations
- Collaborate with other international NGOs to develop projects in consortia
- Diversify funding sources to extend areas and sectors of intervention
- Prioritize long-term multi-year projects
- Develop program visibility and communications
- Develop of partnerships with media
- Increase presence on social networks
- Organize events with other organizations



Systems and Practices for Quality Programming: Strengthening capacities and tools

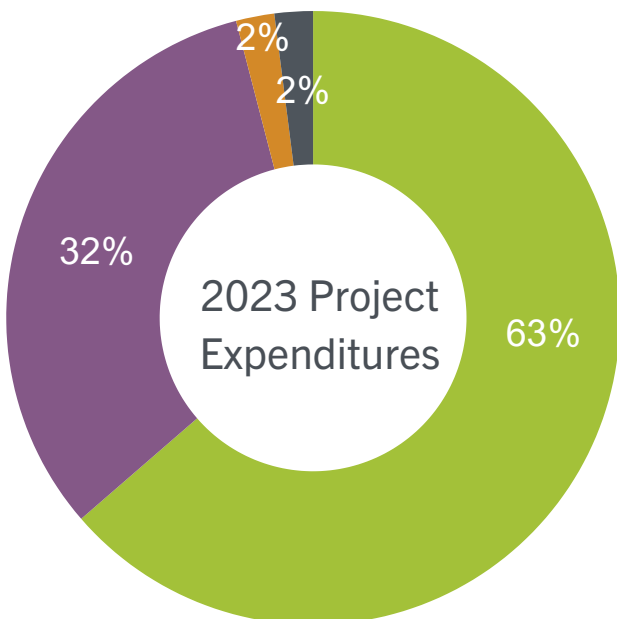
- Use of more sophisticated data processing tools (ActivityInfo)
- Develop and strengthen LWF's own approaches, methodologies and tools
- Build capacity of staff members with a focus on women through the Women at Work structure. The structure aims to strengthen women's roles in decision making and to develop new skills through a mentoring program.
- Increase the use of collected data in communication material, project proposals and learning workshops.

Finance



In 2023, LWF project expenditures amounted €930,897 while non-project expenditures amounted €31,596. As represented in the chart below, most project expenditures went to livelihoods activities, followed by protection and social cohesion and quality services.

In 2023, LWF Burundi also invested in systems and practices for quality programming to ensure we meet the highest standards.



Livelihoods

€590,715

Protection & social cohesion

301,119€

Quality services

€17,674

Systems & Practices for Quality Programming

€21,358

Our Partners



LWF Burundi's work is only possible with the crucial support of many partners and donors.

LWF Burundi is supported by related agencies thanks to a long-standing collaboration in the country. Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Württemberg,

Australian Lutheran World Service, Act Church of Sweden, and the German Committee of the LWF supported the program in 2023 through grants and capacity building.

National governments also supported the work of the LWF Burundi, mostly through related agencies. It includes Australian Aid, Canada Aid and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)





New partnerships for gender justice

In 2023, the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender and LWF Burundi signed a new Memorandum of Understanding. This ensures a better collaboration when implementing activities and the alignment with national strategies.

In addition, LWF Burundi integrated the GBV and PSEA cluster. As a result, the programs joins other local, national and international actors in the fight against gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse in the country.



Partners visits in 2023

In 2023, two long-standing partners of the LWF Burundi visited the program: Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) in April, and the German National Committee (GNC) of the LWF in July.

Both visits were for communications and monitoring purposes. Through a field visit, representatives of the organisations saw the impact of their funding on the ground. Following its visit, GNC's Fundraising Officer developed a Christmas campaign to further support LWF Burundi's work.



Collaboration with civil society organizations.

LWF Burundi often collaborates with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). CSO are part of projects as participants or partners. For example, in 2023, CSOs participated in a gender capacity assessment for LWF Burundi to develop adequate capacity-building modules. CSOs also supported LWF Burundi's projects by running awareness-raising sessions. New partnerships were developed including a Memorandum of Understanding with Faith in Action, a CSO with similar sectors of intervention.

Impact on Communities

Sidace MINANI, President of a cooperative



Sidace Minani is the president of the Modern Farming Technics Cooperative. The group joined an LWF project in 2017 and is now independent.

Thanks to trainings in modern agricultural technics and inputs, the group's harvests increased. "After harvesting, we decide, as a group, to sell part of the harvest or to invest the money," explains Sidace. They invested in a bakery where they now sell bread to the community. Sidace explains the impact the project still has today : "The communal authorities saw how the group evolved and gave us goats as a recognition of our good work. They also asked us to support and implement better technics to harvest maize."

"I am thankful to see how competent the group is and that new people want to join. They ask us to collaborate and to train them. We helped our neighbors to apply the technics we learned."



Like Sidace, other individuals in Burundi can achieve their full potential.

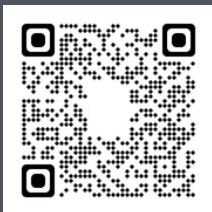


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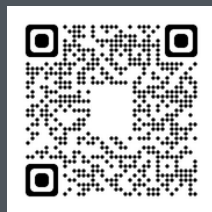


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