



# Burundi

Burundi has made notable progress in strengthening governance and public service delivery, particularly through decentralisation. The [Revised National Development Plan \(2018-2027\)](#) and National Decentralisation Policy prioritise collective accountability and rural service delivery. Reforms in land governance promote women's rights and reduce prospects of conflict over land access. Agriculture, employment, and nutrition strategies focus on farmer participation, youth empowerment, and multi-sectoral approaches.

However, Burundi's history of conflict has weakened public institutions and services. The economy remains undiversified, with most people relying on subsistence farming. Ranking [187 out of 193 countries](#) on the Human Development Index 2023-24, over half of the population lives in poverty, youth underemployment is widespread, and women continue to face barriers to land access and economic inclusion. Malnutrition persists, with stunting affecting [56% of children](#) under five. High climate vulnerability exacerbates challenges, demanding systemic approaches targeting agriculture, nutrition, climate resilience, and inclusive governance.

Since 2021, SNV has been collaborating with the Government of Burundi and partners to scale inclusive approaches, enabling the launch of nearly 2,000 youth-led micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Adopting a systems-based approach, SNV supports national platforms, enterprise hubs, and community-led governance structures in Burundi, aligning its work closely with the country's vision for inclusive development.



**Over 24K households** saw increased agricultural productivity



**Nearly 15K households** enhanced their resilience to climate change



**More than 17K households** gained increased access to nutritious food



**Almost 2K youth and women** have started an MSME

\*\* 2021-2024 achievements

## Advancing climate-resilient, inclusive futures

The country's National Adaptation Plan aims to bolster institutional capacity, conduct crucial climate vulnerability assessments, and implement localised adaptation strategies. This is especially critical given that over [90% of the population relies on agriculture](#), with farming activities increasingly susceptible to climate shifts.

To combat persistent undernutrition, the government has adopted a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach through its [National Nutrition Strategy \(2019–2024\)](#). This initiative underscores a commitment to improving dietary outcomes nationwide. Additionally, efforts to address the youth unemployment rate—which currently stands at [1.7%](#)—are a key focus of the [National Employment Policy](#). This strategy emphasises developing essential youth skills and fostering entrepreneurship, creating pathways for economic opportunity.

Collectively, these national policies underscore Burundi's increasing commitment to dismantling long-standing structural barriers and promoting progress for all its citizens. By strategically leveraging a mix of partnerships and securing appropriate financing, SNV supports government ambitions to transform its ambitious policy goals into concrete achievements, leading to enhanced resilience, greater equity, and sustainable long-term development.

### PADANE | Nationwide | 2021-25 | €29M

The *Projet d'Appui au Développement Agricole pour la Nutrition et l'Entrepreneuriat (PADANE)* has significantly advanced climate crisis responses by aligning social empowerment with environmental stewardship in the development of the country's agri-food sector. Through training and technical support, 15,000 families have adopted sustainable practices, including watershed protection, agroforestry, and erosion control.

These measures have reduced land degradation, stabilised yields amid erratic rainfall, and laid the foundation for long-term food security.

Nearly 2,000 young people and women have launched MSMEs, while 4,381 have secured employment across agricultural value chains. Additionally, 88% of the target households have improved dietary diversity, which is supported by the distribution of small livestock. Women's agency has also advanced, with 3,350 women strengthening their decision-making roles and 735 gaining control over household income.

At the same time, the programme has accelerated sustainable development by helping strengthen governance mechanisms and institutions. It has established multi-stakeholder platforms to foster policy dialogue and created 28 business clusters to resolve challenges related to logistical and socio-economic barriers. In a further attempt to promote stronger governance and public service delivery, community-led structures have been institutionalised to advocate for land rights and drive inclusive, locally anchored development.

PADANE initiatives contribute to strengthening Burundi's agri-food landscape, building pathways for inclusive growth and a future that leaves no one behind.

**Partners:** EKN, SNV, ISABU, ONCSS, ZOA, GVC, RBU 2000+, Twitezimbere, ADISCO, AST, CAFOB, OAP, BBIN, Agriterra, and Healthy Entrepreneurs

SNV is a global development partner deeply rooted in the African and Asian countries where we operate. With 60 years of experience and a team of approximately 1,600 people, we strengthen capacities and catalyse partnerships that transform agri-food, energy and water systems. Working on the core themes of gender equality and social inclusion, climate adaptation and mitigation, and strong institutions and effective governance, we tailor our approaches to different contexts to achieve large-scale impact and create sustainable and more equitable lives for all.

#### Contact SNV in Burundi

Rebecca Hallam | Country Director Burundi & Kenya | [burundi@snv.org](mailto:burundi@snv.org)

Visit the SNV website for an overview of our projects in Burundi.

[snv.org/country/burundi](https://snv.org/country/burundi)



Impact  
that matters