

Transformational Impact

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

MOTHERS' UNION BURUNDI LITERACY AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME HAS BEEN RUNNING SINCE 2000 TO COMBAT POVERTY, PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.

Burundi

Burundi is one of the world's poorest countries and faces immense challenges, still suffering from the effects of a civil war that lasted 12 years (1993-2005). This conflict devastated communities, disrupted family relationships, interrupted access to education and exacerbated gender disparities.

"The programme is life changing... it gives you a new (lease of) life. We have learnt to read and write so it has opened our eyes. We make money and can feed and clothe ourselves and our children. We have bought land and have built our own houses. We (women) have become the light of our families."

A Mothers' Union leader from the Diocese of Matana, Burundi.



165,400 participants, **77%** women, have benefited from the programme

144,000 people,



89% women, have learnt to read and write to a nationally approved standard through this community-led programme, enriching their lives and empowering their communities.

7,500

participants accessed parenting education



6,200 savings and loan associations have been mobilised,

78% of participants are women.

Development of the programme

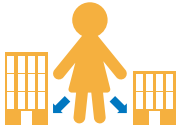
From 2000 – 2009 the programme focused on functional literacy and numeracy education before expanding to encompass financial and business development education and the formation of community-led savings and loan associations in 2010. In 2018, parenting education was added, to enhance parents' understanding of the importance of educating their children, especially girls.

In 2022, along with our partner Five Talents, Mothers' Union commissioned a report into the impact of the programme over the last 20 year and are delighted to share results and the huge impact the programme has had throughout Burundi.

THE PROGRAMME HAS HAD 6 KEY IMPACTS

1. Gender equality and women's empowerment:

Over half of the female programme participants have been elected for leadership positions.



90% of the female participants started a business; **83%** have two or three businesses.

86% of female and **90%** of male programme participants reported reduced domestic and intimate partner violence.



98% of female and male participants advocate against sexual and gender-based violence

2. Financial empowerment:



88% of female participants have increased personal income.



79%

have better quality housing

80%

of women were no longer financially dependent on their husbands



84% of saving and loan associations formed than a decade ago have continued

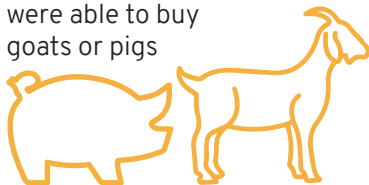


In 2006, only 15% of the female programme participants owned productive assets including land and cattle. In 2022:

81% were able to diversify their livelihoods and/or businesses

91%

were able to buy goats or pigs



71%

were able to buy a mobile phone



SOLD

52%

were able to buy land

3. Transformation of families



78%

can afford higher education for their children



96%

can afford health insurance

More girls are now attending school.

94% of participants reported sending dependent children (notably girls) to school in 2022, compared to 52% in 2006.

4. Helping Mothers' Union deliver its mandate sustainably

The programme has advanced the aims of MU Burundi by promoting legal marriage, positive parenting

6,650

of the Mothers' Union Burundi members have been accredited literate.



45%

of the members have undergone financial literacy training and belong to SLAs.

5. Contribution to community development and nation building

The programme has contributed to the achievement of 8 out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



56%

of people employ at least one to two people.



98%

of participants have improved relations with neighbours and community

The programme has contributed towards conflict resolution in the community

6. Faith in action

The programme has had a transformative impact on the participants' personal relationship with God and women's participation in the church.

Nearly all programme participants reported that they can read the Bible for themselves.



99%

of the programme participants reported improved self-esteem.

Mothers' Union also work with local communities to deliver this life-changing literacy programme in the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Sudan.

To find out more visit :
mothersunion.org/burundi-report
or scan this QR code:



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