

# Local Government Capacity Programme

LGCP | Country programme 2012-2016

## > Burundi



<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	Improving food security by strengthening local democracy
<b>TARGET GROUP</b>	The association of Burundian local governments ABELO and their local governments
<b>INTENDED RESULT</b>	Enhanced capacity of the association and the affiliated local governments in the area of land registration, family planning and the functioning of local administrators
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	On-the-job coaching and training

After years of violent conflicts, Burundi is now working on a stable, democratic and more prosperous future. But, in this respect, it is facing a great number of challenges.

Land is scarce in the small, densely-populated Burundi. Land registration is important for sustainable agricultural production and prevents conflicts. Health care is another challenge, particularly when it comes to sexual education and women's rights.

Local governments have a clear role to play in these areas. But, partly because of a lack of knowledge and experience, they hardly get around to playing this role. The proper and democratic functioning of local government councils and of individual councillors is also of decisive importance for the future security, stability and reconstruction.

- The LGCP Burundi programme aligns with the key focal areas of the Dutch programme for development cooperation with Burundi: food security supply, sexual reproductive health and rights, and safety and legal order. •

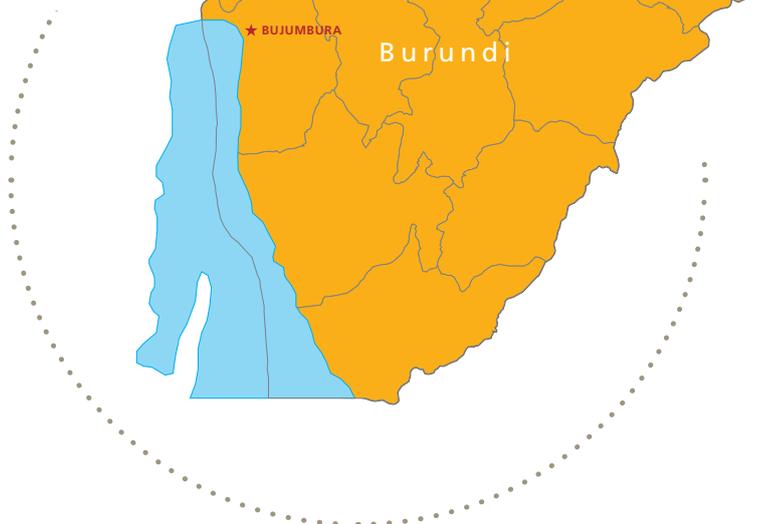
### YOUNG ORGANISATION

Local governments in Burundi have asked the Association Burundaise des Elus Locaux (ABELO) for support in the execution of local government tasks. The problem is that the national association is itself still a young organisation, which does not have the necessary capacity.

The LGCP Burundi programme supports ABELO, so that it is better able to assist its members in the aforementioned areas – land registration, family planning, functioning of councillors.

# Burundi

BURUNDI HAS 129 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



• **'During the civil war in Burundi the central, and certainly the local administration barely functioned. NGOs filled the gap. Now that the political system is starting to function again, it is important that local governments are equipped to deal with the tasks that belong to them. This is important with regard to health care, but also with regard to land registration. Local governments must regain ownership of such issues. In line with this, so must the local government association.'**

Anne-Lies Risseeuw, Country Programme Manager of LGCP Burundi •

## Background

Land is very scarce in Burundi. Land registration, and thus certainty of use of land for the producer is important for sustainable agricultural production.

There is a lot of sexual violence in Burundi. A great part of the population has only very limited access to information on family planning.

The proper and democratic functioning of local government councils and of individual councillors is of crucial importance for safety, stability and reconstruction. Elementary knowledge on, for example, their own role, the scope of the mandate, appropriate democratic procedures or integrity is often still lacking within these local government councils.

## Aim

The LGCP Burundi programme intends to enhance ABELO's capacity – and via this national association that of its members (local governments) – in the area of land registration, family planning and the functioning of councillors and local government councils.

Local governments are deemed to play a central role in the introduction of a new, decentralised land registration system. However, they are lacking the necessary knowledge and experience and so ABELO will support them in this respect. The organisation will also seek to promote that local governments play a more active role in providing information on family planning and combating sexual violence. Finally, ABELO will educate (new) local councillors in their democratic duties.

## Activities

The LGCP supports ABELO in the development of a new, realistic strategic plan for 2012-2016 which is supported by the members. On-the-job coaching and training of ABELO staff takes place to improve the services to its members. The focus in this respect is on land registration and family planning. Furthermore, ABELO is supported in the development of training modules and material for local government personnel and (new) councillors.

ABELO will also receive support in the development of its own monitoring and evaluation system. During the programme VNG International will also advise ABELO on strengthening and broadening its financial base.

## → What do we want to achieve?

- **ABELO has the capacity to formulate a strategic plan for the period 2012-2016, in conjunction with the affiliated local governments.**
- **The organisation is able to offer the necessary training and support to the local governments in the area of land registration and family planning.**
- **ABELO has the capacity to offer the affiliated local governments specific support by means of regular contact, and to facilitate exchanges between the local governments.**



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