Key messages

1. For fiscal year 2021-2022, the amount allocated to youth is 75.5 billion Burundi francs (BIF), or 38.2 million US dollars (US$). This represents 4.4% of the total budget compared to 4.7% in 2020-2021.1

2. The adolescent population is growing much faster than the rest of the population, and the population projections produced by the National Institute of Statistics show this trend until 2050.

3. Youth employment through the industrialization of the country is a priority of the National Peacebuilding Program, which is one of the tools for the operationalization of the Burundi National Development Plan 2018-2027. Burundi has one of the youngest and fastest growing populations. It could get a generous demographic dividend and it could be an opportunity to raise macroeconomic indicators, significantly reduce poverty and improve social outcomes.

4. Improving the quality of education for the adolescent population and developing 21st century skills and competences, including digital literacy and access to new technologies, the soft skills of creativity, critical thinking, communication, teamwork, social innovation and entrepreneurship are key elements.

5. This sector is supported by several ministries and institutions (Ministries in charge of youth, the interior, education, health, etc.), which are coordinated by the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture. This situation creates difficulties in terms of budget monitoring and programming for the coordination of the sector’s interventions.

Recommendations

➢ Use the Gen-U intervention platform for better coordination of multi-sectoral interventions (several ministries/institutions) to improve investment efforts as well as monitoring of youth-related expenditure.

➢ The budget for the youth sector is still low (less than 5% of the budget) although there is a recurring need to strengthen young people in entrepreneurship training and support for trained young people, also the popularization of life skills and sexual and reproductive health. In this context, it is essential to strengthen advocacy and increase resources to address the needs of young people.

➢ Young people represent 60% of the Burundian population. They face many challenges, mainly related to unemployment and underemployment. .

Note: Using the United Nations definition of ‘youth’ (persons aged 15-24), ISTEEBU projections show that in Burundi, this category represents more than 60% of the total population.
In this context, the following actions should be considered:

- **Adapting strategies for training** adolescents and young people in entrepreneurship and access to employment, with digital platforms, to reach a larger number of beneficiaries,
- **Increase the number of young people trained** in Life Skills, sexual and reproductive health,
- **Use the Gen-U intervention platform** for access to employment, including first job placements for young graduates without any first work experience

## Introduction

- The promotion of the youth sector is a global concern focusing on the cross-cutting nature of the sector and the place of young people as both partners and actors in development and peace. Thus, the youth sector has an important place in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Global Agenda. Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) calls for a significant increase in the number of young people and adults having skills, including technical and vocational skills.

- At the national level, the issues relating to young people are inscribed in the prioritization of SDG4, Target 4.4: “By 2030, significantly increase the number of young people and adults with the skills, especially technical and vocational skills, needed for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship”. These youth-related issues are reflected in Burundi’s National Development Plan 2018-2027 (NDP), under Strategic Direction 2: Developing human capital, Axis 7: Decent employment and youth.

- Several projects are planned to empower, strengthen skills and promote employment among young people: strengthening the supervision and socio-economic integration of youth, support for the establishment of the youth bank, support for the first job internship for young graduates and youth volunteering, revitalization and promotion of youth centers, capacity building on Life Skills (youth reproductive health, citizenship, peace education and entrepreneurship), strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of the Burundian Youth Employment Agency, etc.

- In addition to the Ministry in charge of Youth, which ensures coordination, the 2021-2022 budgetary exercise essentially involves four ministries and other institutions working in the youth sector (Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning).

- This note presents the main trends in funding the youth sector, the shares of the several ministries and institutions in budget allocations, the rate of execution and the sources of funding for the youth sector.

### Some key statistics on youth in Burundi in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-19 years</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 years</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proportion of the budget allocated to youth in 2021-2022: 4.4%

Sources: Demographic and Health Survey 2016-2017, Budget Law 2021-2022, ISTEEBU Projections
Resources allocated to the youth sector in Burundi increased from BIF 16.9 billion in 2016 (US$10.4 million) to BIF 75.5 billion in 2021-2022 (US$38.2 million), a fourfold increase in five years in nominal terms. This trend is the same for budget allocations in real terms.

This evolution can be explained by policy measures to improve the lives of the sector’s population, essentially linked to development projects for hillside cooperatives, the strengthening of the guarantee impulse fund to support youth cooperatives, school canteens, the care of boarding students, the economic integration of youth entrepreneurship, etc. (figure 1)

As a proportion of the overall budget, allocations to the youth sector represent 4.4% in 2021-2022 compared to 4.7% in 2020-2021 and 1.6% in 2019-2020.

But considering the pressing needs of this sector, those allocations remained below 5% for the past five years. In relation to the national economy, budgetary allocations to the youth sector represent 1% of GDP for the years 2021-2022 and 2020-2021. This share remains low. (figure 2)

Per capita allocations, we notice a significant increase from BIF 5,919.5 in the 2020-2021 budget year to BIF 5,949.1 in 2021-2022 compared to BIF 1,845.14 in 2019-2020 (i.e. a five-fold increase). This trend in budgetary allocations is also observed in real terms (graph nearby). Despite this improvement, these allocations remain below US$3/capita. (figure 3)
Nine ministries carry out interventions in the youth sector, including:

- the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security,
- the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research,
- the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture,
- the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS,
- the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender,
- the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning,
- the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation and
- the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans.

Among the youth-related programs, we can note the community cooperative projects, patriotic training, youth supervision for the consolidation of peace, entrepreneurship training for young people from technical humanities and universities, emergency humanitarian assistance, socio-economic reintegration of young people removed from the street, etc.

These figures compare the expenditure foreseen in the initial budget law with the expenditure incurred during the period. Implementation rates have always been above 90%, indicating a good quality budget programming for the youth sector from 2016 to 2020-2021.
Sources of funding for the youth sector budget

An analysis of the sources of funding over the years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 shows that domestic resources are more important (over 90%) than external resources (less than 10%).

Fig. 6: Sources of funding for the youth sector budget in %

Sources: Finance Acts 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

1. The budget allocated to youth in 2020/2021 was BIF 73,633,814,307, equivalent to US$38,451,078.

Acknowledgements

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