



Youth sector

Budget Brief 2022-2023

Key messages

1. In the 2022/2023 state budget, the amount allocated to youth (35.6% of the total population) is **BIF 85.4 billion**, or US\$42.0 million. It represents 3.6% of the total budget, compared to 4.4% in 2021/2022¹. Considering the pressing needs of the youth sector, additional efforts are needed to increase the resources allocated to the youth

2. In Burundi **the adolescent population is growing much faster** than the rest of the population, and demographic projections issued by Burundi's Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies confirm this trend through 2050.

3. To become a workforce, adolescents and young adults need to acquire skills that meet the needs of the labor market. These include **skills of the 21st century** such as soft skills of creativity, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork capacities, social innovation, and entrepreneurship, as well as more technical skills such as digital technology.

4. The youth sector is covered by various ministries and institutions (ministries in charge of youth, interior, education, health, etc.) and is characterized by a multitude of interventions and approaches coordinated by the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture. This situation creates difficulties in terms of budget monitoring and programing, for the coordination of the sector's interventions.

5. We notice the efforts of the Government, which has set up the Youth Investment Bank (YIB) and economic empowerment and employment programs in favour of youth, to help them promoting their entrepreneurship, and so reduce unemployment.



Youth sector

Recommendations

→ **Use the Gen-U platform** as a lever to enhance coordination of multi-sectoral interventions mobilizing multiple ministries/agencies to improve investment efforts as well as the tracking expenditures dedicated to adolescents and youth.

→ **The youth sector budget remains low (less than 5% of the total budget)**, yet there is an urgent need to invest in adolescence and youth, especially to strengthen educational programs and meet with labor market needs, invest furthermore in educational guidance and vocational support, as well as strengthening entrepreneurship training and support for trained youth, dissemination of life skills, and sexual and reproductive health².

A study on the cost-benefit analysis of adolescent investments in Burundi found that for every BIF invested in youth health, a return of 16.4 can be expected by 2030; 10 BIF for every BIF invested in formal education, and 15 BIF for every BIF invested in non-formal education for youth in Burundi (UNICEF 2019)

→ **Young people represent more than 60% of the Burundian population.** They face many challenges, mainly related to unemployment or underemployment. In this context, the following elements should be considered:

- Adapting training strategies for adolescents and youth on entrepreneurship and access to employment, with digital and radio platforms in order to reach a larger number of beneficiaries,
- Increase the number of youth trained in life skills and sexual and reproductive health
- Leverage the Gen-U platform of employment access interventions, including first-time job placements for young graduates without work experience.



Introduction

■ Youth is generally understood as **a transitional stage between** a period of dependence (childhood) and independence (adulthood). However, authors and organizations differ on the delineation of youth by age groups. For example, the United Nations defines youth as people between the ages of 15 and 24. In the African Youth Charter, the age range is 15 to 35.

Burundi has used the age range of 15 to 35 to talk about youth.

This categorization is very important, because this definition or the age range has strong implications for national policies. This youth sector occupies an important place in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Global Agenda. SDG4 calls for a significant increase in the number of skilled youth and adults, including technical and vocational skills.

■ **At the national level**, the issue of youth has always drawn the attention of planners at the highest level. The issues related to youth are presented **in target 4.4 of the SDG4**: “By 2030, significantly increase the number of skilled youth and adults, including technical and vocational skills, needed for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.”

These challenges are reflected in the **National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027)**, at the level of strategic orientation No. 2: “Developing human capital”, intervention axis No. 7: “Decent employment and youth” with two strategic objectives which are: OS1: “Place employment at the heart of macroeconomic and sectoral policies to influence the demand for employment” and OS2: “Promote professional and competitive sport”.

Youth sector

■ **The National Peace Building Program (PNCP)** is one of the implementation documents of the PND. Thus, youth employment in the industrialization of the country is one of the Government's strategic priorities.

In addition to the Ministry in charge of Youth, which is responsible for coordination, the 2022/2023, budget year essentially concerns **four ministries and other institutions** involved in the youth sector:

- Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security,
- Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS,
- Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, and
- the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

■ Within this framework, there are **administrative structures in charge of coordinating youth sector**, including the General Directorate for Youth and the Burundian Youth Employment Agency.

National programs and projects (specialized) aiming at the socioeconomic reintegration of young people are also being implemented, including:

- The Economic Autonomization and Youth Employment Program (PAEEJ)
- The Burundian Employment and Manpower Office (OBEM), for the effective implementation of the employment policy
- The Youth Investment Bank (BIJE)
- The Fund of Impulse, Guarantee and Accompaniment of the young promoters of the projects (FIGA).

The Ministry has implemented national policies, directly oriented to job creation and socioeconomic integration of young people, the most important of which are:

- The National Employment Policy, November 2014
- National Youth Policy (2016).

This was a recommendation of the African Youth Charter in its article 12³.

■ Burundi's National Youth Policy 2016-2026 defines **five strategic priority areas** to address the main problems facing Burundian youth, as identified by the Government:

- Girls' and boys' access to employment and self-development;
- Education of youth in citizenship, peace and patriotism
- Improving access to youth-friendly health services
- Youth participation in governance and leadership development; and
- Communication, partnership and coordination.

■ **Unfortunately, teenagers face a multitude of challenges.**

→ Education and training:

For several years, the Burundian education system has been characterized by low retention. This is the result of a high level of dropout and a high level of repeating at school (26% in basic education in 2019 and 17% the same year in post-basic education), but also increasing since 2014. Schooling opportunities are more unfavorable for girls, rural people, and the poorest 20%. Data show gender disparities against girls, appearing at the end of the basic cycle and continuing throughout the education cycle. Early pregnancy is one of the reasons for the dropout rate of young girls: during the 2019/20 school year, more than 1,200 pregnancies were recorded in schools (MENRS 2021). Upon entering the post-basic cycle, 30% of girls versus 37% of boys are actually admitted. The gaps remain from the beginning to the end of the post-basic cycle: the probability of finishing this cycle is 15% for girls compared to 21% for boys. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is characterized by a poor adaptation to the labor market. The system, highly centralized, is at an embryonic stage of development following an «old-fashioned» logic, without any steering meeting the economic demand.

Some key statistics on youth in Burundi

Age range	Values 2022-2023
15-19 years old	11.2%
15-24 years old	20.2%
15-34 years old	35.7%
Share of girls in the total population	18.3%
Share of boys in the total population	17.3%
Proportion of budget allocated to youth	3.6%
Proportion of individuals aged 15-24 who obtained some type of non-employment income	2.8%

Source: IISTEEBU, Budget Acts 2022-2023, EICVMB 2019-2020



Youth sector

→ Employment and livelihood:

This is one of the major concerns for youth. The labor market has a limited absorption capacity, considering the large number of young people who enter it each year. This situation is explained, among other factors, by the weak development of the private sector. In addition, due to the poor performance of the education system, there is a persistent mismatch between skills and the needs of the labor market, due to the lack of an appropriate policy for the development of technical and vocational education. Young people in rural areas have quite no land to farm. The average size of the farm per household is 0.30 ha. According to the FAO, an economically viable farm should be larger than 0.90 ha. Even if they have some land to farm, it is no longer productive and they cannot avoid hunger.

Urban youth are a tiny minority to access jobs: in 2008, only 1% of university graduates had access to a job! (IDEC Paper No. 2, 2008). In 2017, the ILO estimated the % age of young people who are neither employed nor in education nor in training (NEET) at 6.2% for women, men at 6.4% (ILOSTAT, 2019). Underemployment is a phenomenon that affects more employed people in rural areas (42.3%) than in urban areas (30.1%).

→ Access to health information and services:

8% of girls aged 15-19 has been pregnant; the fertility rate in this age group remains high at 58 births per 1,000, with an overall fertility rate of 5.5 births per woman.



→ Leisure and sports:

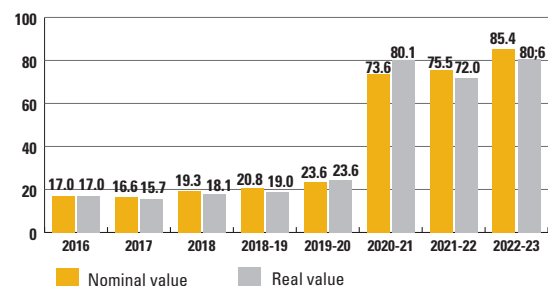
There is no policy favoring access to sports activities for young people in general. Only urban centers have some infrastructure. In rural areas, sports activities are practically not organized. Other leisure activities such as theater and the arts are not familiar to young people, even though those activities are likely to promote the cultural development of young people.



Trend in budget allocations for youth (in BIF)

■ Budget allocations to the youth sector have shown an increasing trend from BIF 75.5 billion in 2021/2022 (US\$38.2 million) to **BIF 85.4 billion in 2022/2023** (US\$42.0 million), an increase of 13.1% in nominal terms. This trend remains the same for budget allocations in nominal and actual value. This situation is explained by policy measures aimed at improving the well-being of the youth sector population, essentially related to **“collines” cooperative development projects**, the strengthening of the **guarantee impulse fund** to support youth cooperatives, school canteens, care of boarding students, economic integration of youth through entrepreneurship, etc.

Fig. 1 : Evolution of budget allocations to the youth sector, in nominal and real terms, in billion of BIF



Sources: Budget Acts 2016-2022/2023

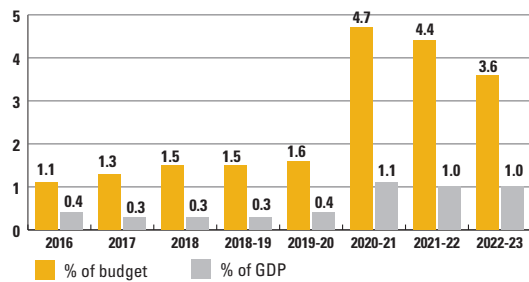
Budget allocations in nominal terms are those that are reported relative to a given period. Budget allocations in real terms are those that are adjusted for price increases relative to a baseline or reference.



Composition of youth budget allocations (in %)

Relative to the overall national budget, youth allocations represent **3.6% in 2022/2023** versus 4.4% in 2021/2022. Relative to the national economy, the youth budget represents **only 1% of GDP** in both 2022/2023 and 2021/2022. This share remains low (Figure 2).

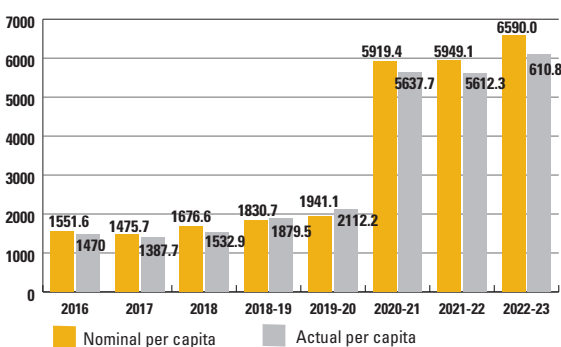
Fig. 2 : Evolution of budgetary allocations to youth sector, as % of GDP and total budget



Sources: Budget Acts 2016-2022/2023

In terms of per capita allocations, there has been a significant increase in allocations, with **BIF 6,589.7** in fiscal year 2022/2023 and BIF 5,949.1 in 2021/2022 compared to BIF 5,919.4 in 2020/2021. This increase in per capita budget allocations is also observed in actual value. Nevertheless, these allocations remain below US\$3/capita (Figure 3).

Fig. 3 : Evolution of budgetary allocations to youth per capita, in BIF



Sources: Budget Acts 2016-2022/2023

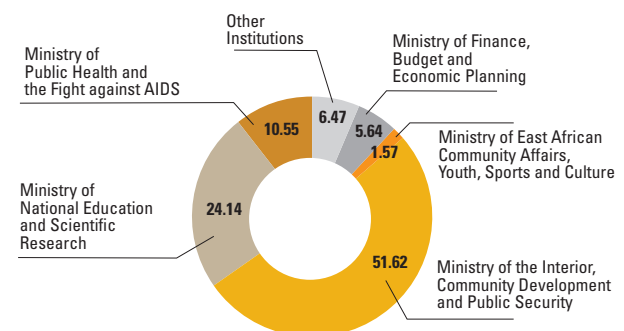
Ten ministries carry out interventions in the youth sector including:

- Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security,
- Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research,
- Ministry of Public Health and AIDS Control,
- Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning,
- Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock,
- Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture,
- Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation,
- Department of National Defense and Veterans Affairs,
- Ministry of Communication, Information Technology and Media.

Among the programs dedicated to youth,

we can mention community cooperative projects, patriotic training, youth supervision for peace building, entrepreneurship training for young people from technical education and universities, emergency humanitarian assistance, socioeconomic reintegration of young people removed from the street, etc.

Fig 4. Distribution of youth budget allocations for 2022/2023, in %



Source: Budget Acts 2022/2023

Youth sector

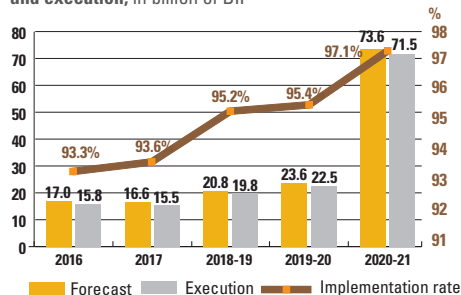


Credibility and budget execution

Over the studied period, the level of budget execution for youth has consistently been **over 90%**. This highlights a good quality of budget programming for the youth sector from 2016 to 2021/2022.



Fig. 5 : Comparison of youth budget forecasts and execution, in billion of BIF



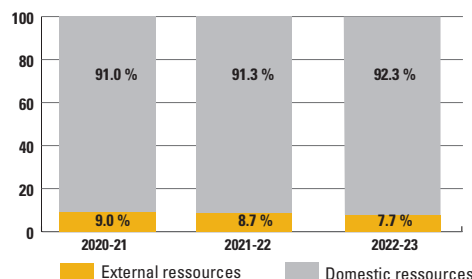
Sources: Budget Acts 2016-2020/2021



Funding sources

An analysis of funding sources over the 2020/2021, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023 fiscal years shows that **domestic resources are the most important** (over 90%) than the external resources (less than 10%).

Fig. 6 : Sources of funding for the youth budget, In %



Sources: Budget Acts 2020/2021-2022/2023

- The budget allocated to youth in 2021/2022 was BIF 75,589,843,262, equivalent to USD 38,253,194.9
- A study on the cost-benefit analysis of adolescent investments in Burundi found that for every BIF invested in youth health, a return of 16.4 can be expected by 2030; 10 BIF for every BIF invested in formal education, and 15 for every BIF invested in non-formal education for youth in Burundi (UNICEF 2019).
- “Each State Party shall implement a comprehensive and coherent national youth policy.
 - This policy must be intersectoral because of the interrelatedness of the challenges facing youth.
 - The development of the National Youth Policy should be based on massive consultation with young people and should provide for their active participation at all levels of decision-making and governance in matters concerning youth and society in general.”



Acknowledgment

This budget analysis is part of a series of analyses on the social sectors for the 2022/2023 budget year. It is the result of a frank collaboration between the University Research Center for Economic and Social Development (CURDES), the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning and the sectoral ministries.

