



# BURUNDI'S HEALTH SECTOR



# Contents

1. Country Overview	2
1.1. Key Country Statistics	2
2. COVID-19	3
3. Health Overview	3
3.1. Key Health Statistics	4
4. Challenges facing the private health sector	5
5. Opportunities for the private health sector	5
6. References	7

## 1. Country Overview

The Republic of Burundi is a landlocked country bordering Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east, Lake Tanganyika to the southwest, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. Its capital city is called Bujumbura. Burundi has a population of 11.6 million <sup>[1]</sup>.

The main communities are the Hutu and Tutsi, with the Hutu being more dominant. Inter-ethnic rivalry has affected the country since the independence of Burundi in 1962 <sup>[1]</sup>. Burundi faced civil wars from 1993 to 2005. The Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, also known as the Arusha Accords, played a major role in ending the civil war. The negotiations of the agreement were facilitated by the late presidents Nelson Mandela and Julius Nyerere <sup>[2]</sup>. However, the political crisis in 2015 diminished the growth experienced since the signing of the agreement.

The economy thrives on agriculture, accounting for 40.7% of the GDP and 80% of labour. The economic recovery strengthened in 2019 with a 3.3% growth in real GDP. Close to two-thirds of the population live below the poverty line with the youth unemployment rate at 65%. Human capital is low due to an underperforming education system and gaps between skills and labour market demand <sup>[3]</sup>.

Burundi is a growing nation with potential investment areas especially in the service and manufacturing industry. Foreign aid accounts for 50% of the budget. The government has been working closely with international corporations to improve infrastructure, tackle corruption and advance the health system, amongst others. This has attracted a lot of foreign direct investment <sup>[4]</sup>.



### 1.1. Key Country Statistics <sup>[5][6]</sup>



## 2. COVID-19

The first COVID-19 case was recorded in April 2020. As of 8th March 2021, there have been 2,319 reported cases with 3 fatalities and 773 recovered<sup>[7]</sup>. The government's response plan was initially slow. However, they were able to control the spread of the virus. The flagship response was the launch of a mass voluntary screening campaign which saw 25,221 tests.

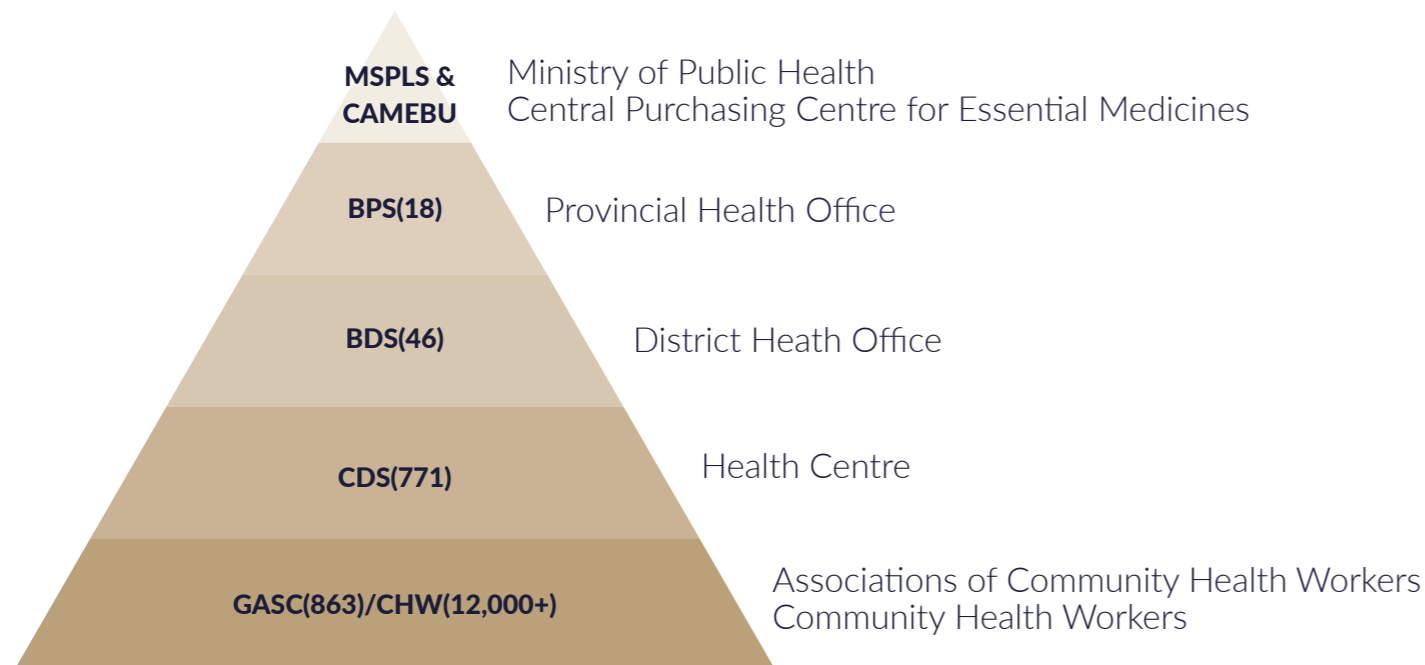
A taskforce was established by the government to assist with contact tracing. The government advised the public to maintain hygiene and social distancing. The national institute of public health has unveiled a COVID-19 response plan with a budget of \$27.8 million<sup>[8]</sup>. To realise this, the ministry of health received a \$400,000 grant from the private sector and \$5 million from the World Bank<sup>[9]</sup>.

## 3. Health Overview

Burundi's health system is controlled by the government. However, service delivery through the private sector is increasing<sup>[12]</sup>.

From the diagram below, the health system is divided into three levels<sup>[12]</sup>.

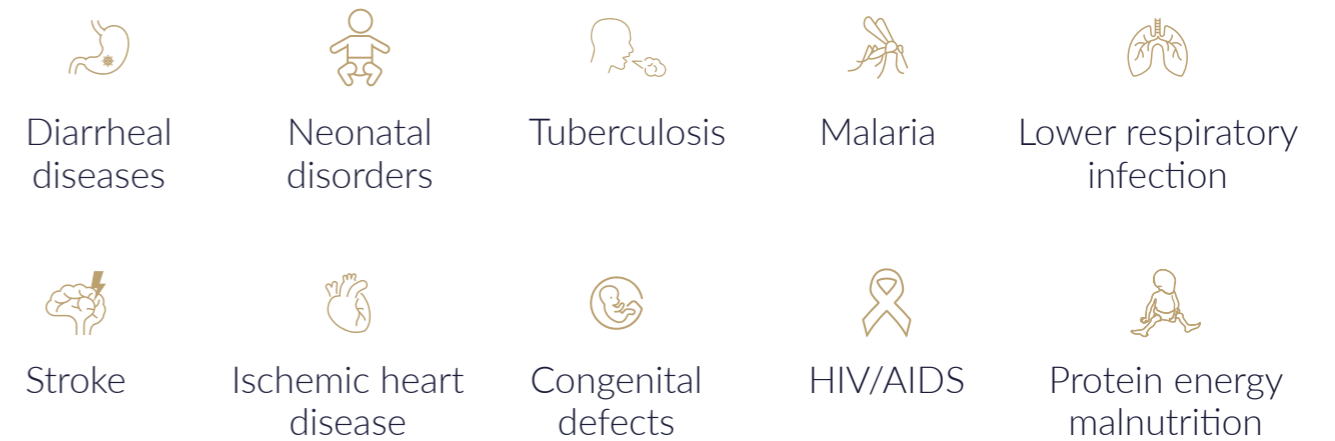
- 1. Central level (Ministry of Public Health and Fight Against AIDS and La Centrale d'Achats des Médicaments Essentiels et des Consommable Médicaux du Burundi):** They are responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy design.
- 2. Provincial level:** There is one in each province that coordinates the execution of the national health policy and provides technical assistance to the health districts.
- 3. District level:** They provide services through district hospitals and health centres. Since their establishment in 2009, their regulating framework is yet to be established.



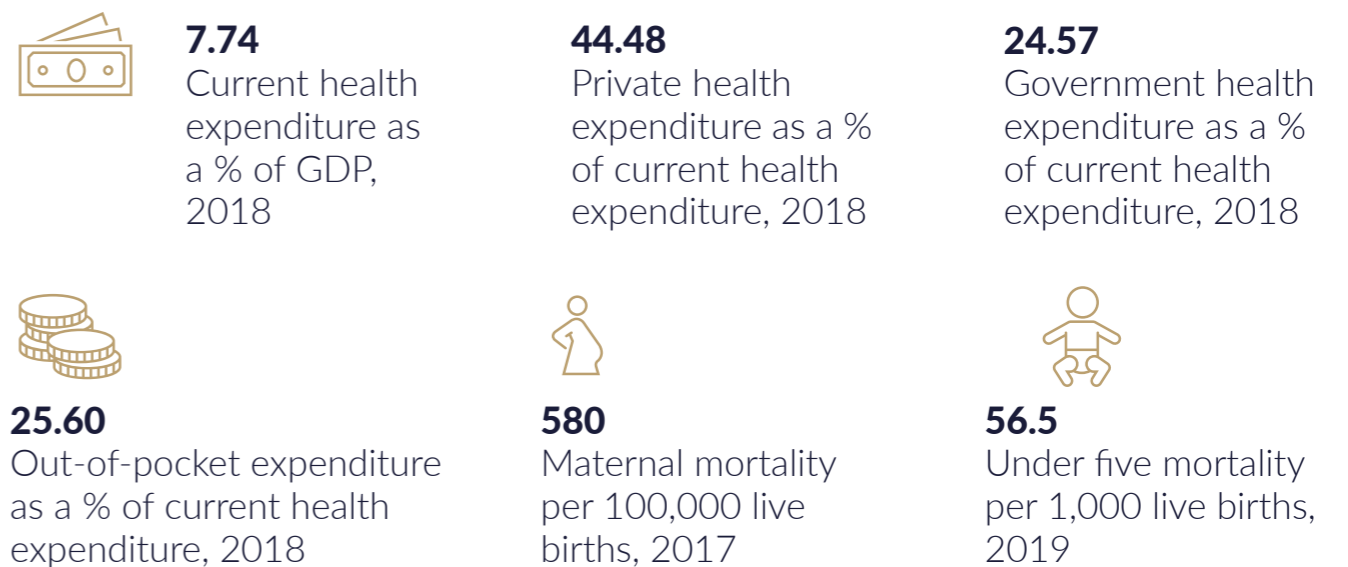
The largest source of financing in Burundi is performance-based financing (PBF), accounting for 79% of the total revenue. The national health care insurance scheme contributes 8% to the total revenue while the remaining 13% streams from other forms of insurance and user fees<sup>[12]</sup>. In 2006, the government of Burundi abolished user fees for pregnant women and children under five.

Many patients from Rwanda seek medical services from Burundi. The Rwandan government mandated its citizens to take up private health insurance, which the lower-income groups are not able to afford. It is easy for Rwandans to cross the border for treatment as most hospitals in Burundi are close to the border. Additionally, the exchange rate makes medical treatment cheaper. Rwandans are also given priority due to long travel time<sup>[10]</sup>.

### Top 10 causes of mortality are:<sup>[11]</sup>



### 3.1 Key Health Statistics<sup>[2]</sup>



## 4. Challenges Facing the Private Health Sector

- Poor infrastructure.
- Low human resource.
- Political instability.

## 5. Opportunities for the Private Sector

- Investing in the health sector through funding (health financing).
- Training of health workforce.
- mHealth and tele-health.
- Investment in infrastructure.
- Medical tourism.

Do you need more in-depth information on Burundi's health sector and how your project or business can contribute?



AHB offers a wide range of tailor-made market, feasibility and strategy studies based on your needs. Our market intelligence services are designed to help you gain in-dept insight in a particular (sub) health sector, understand the opportunities and challenges for your project or business and provide you with recommendations that allow you to pursue the growth of your organisation in a particular (sub) sector or region.

Need more information on any health sector in Africa? Africa Health Business can help you.

We have an experienced and knowledgeable team on the ground in Africa that can help you make informed decisions when it comes to forming or further defining your business strategy in any health market on the continent.

We create value for your business or project by leveraging our large and unequalled networks, our people and our experience in Africa's health sector.


AHB's headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya and we work with professionals all over the continent to provide our clients with the tailor-made and bespoke services that meet their business needs.

## 6.0. References


- [1] "Burundi - Languages | Britannica." <https://www.britannica.com/place/Burundi/Languages#ref40663> (accessed Mar. 08, 2021).
- [2] P. Daley, "The Burundi peace negotiations: An African experience of peace-making," *Rev. Afr. Polit. Econ.*, vol. 34, no. 112, pp. 333–352, Jun. 2007, doi: 10.1080/03056240701449729.
- [3] "Burundi Economic Outlook | African Development Bank - Building today, a better Africa tomorrow." <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/east-africa/burundi/burundi-economic-outlook> (accessed Mar. 08, 2021).
- [4] "Burundi GDP Annual Growth Rate | 1961-2019 Data | 2020-2021 Forecast | Historical." <https://tradingeconomics.com/burundi/gdp-growth-annual> (accessed Mar. 08, 2021).
- [5] "Burundi | Data." <https://data.worldbank.org/country/burundi> (accessed Mar. 08, 2021).
- [6] "OEC - Burundi (BDI) Exports, Imports, and Trade Partners." <https://legacy.oec.world/en/profile/country/bdi/> (accessed Mar. 08, 2021).
- [7] "Burundi Coronavirus: 2,319 Cases and 3 Deaths - Worldometer." <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/burundi/> (accessed Mar. 08, 2021).
- [8] "Burundi COVID-19 Flash Update No. 1 (08 April 2020) - Burundi | ReliefWeb." <https://reliefweb.int/report/burundi/burundi-covid-19-flash-update-no-1-08-april-2020> (accessed Mar. 08, 2021).
- [9] "Burundi to Strengthen National Health System and Preparedness in the face of COVID- 19." <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/14/burundi-to-strengthen-national-health-system-and-preparedness-in-the-face-of-covid-19> (accessed Mar. 08, 2021).
- [10] "Rwandans travel to Burundi for healthcare | IMTJ." <https://www.imtj.com/news/rwandans-travel-burundi-healthcare/> (accessed Mar. 09, 2021).
- [11] "Burundi | Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation." <http://www.healthdata.org/burundi> (accessed Mar. 09, 2021).
- [12] Unicef, "DELIVERING HEALTH SERVICES UNDER FISCAL STRESS - Burundi", Unicef.org, 2017. [Online]. Available: [https://www.unicef.org/esaro/PER-of-Health-in-Burundi-\(2017\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/esaro/PER-of-Health-in-Burundi-(2017).pdf)

For other country reports please visit:  
[www.ahb.co.ke/publications](http://www.ahb.co.ke/publications)




 (+254) 704 838 150  
 (+254) 700 014 557

 [www.ahb.co.ke](http://www.ahb.co.ke)  
[www.africahealthbusiness.com](http://www.africahealthbusiness.com)

 New Rehema House  
 Rhapta Road, Westlands,  
 Nairobi, Kenya

 [info@ahb.co.ke](mailto:info@ahb.co.ke)

 P.O. Box 49874 - 00100  
 Nairobi, Kenya