



A farmer in Burundi's Muyinga Province has learned how to protect her fields from crop pests and cultivate a home garden, both of which protect her family's food security. *Photo: CRS, 2017.*

CRS in Burundi:

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES TO DRIVE THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) works to save, protect and transform lives around the globe. In Burundi, grounded in our worldwide vision of bringing lasting positive change, CRS aspires to serve the poor and vulnerable through quality implementation, learning and sharing in its technical programming, partnerships and operations. Working in Burundi since 1961, CRS has proven success coordinating complex and multi-sectoral development and emergency programs across the country. Across CRS Burundi's projects, focus is placed on empowering youth, promoting gender equality and strengthening social cohesion at the household and community level.

KEY PROGRAMMING AREAS

- Nutrition
- Agricultural Livelihoods
- Social Cohesion
- Emergency Response and Recovery
- Gender

NUMBER OF PEOPLE
CRS BURUNDI REACHED
DIRECTLY IN 2018

205K

NUMBER OF PARTNERS
CRS BURUNDI IMPLEMENTED
PROJECTS WITH IN 2018

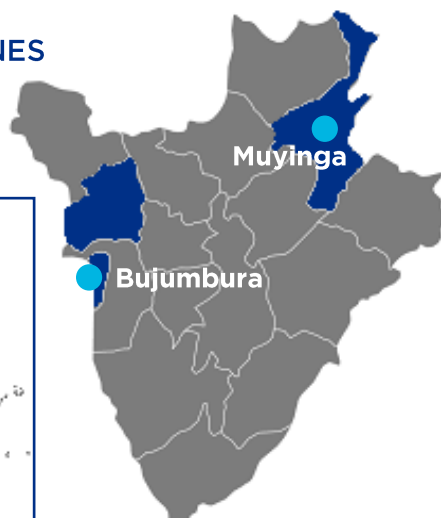
10

TOTAL RESOURCES
PROGRAMMED IN 2018

\$16.5M

CRS BURUNDI 2019 PROGRAMMING ZONES

● CRS Burundi offices





Burundian youth use dance and theatre to promote social cohesion in the wider community. Photo: CRS, 2018.

Integrated solutions to sustainably reduce chronic malnutrition

In 2014, CRS launched the USAID-funded Amashiga Program in consortium with six other actors to improve child nutrition across the entire Muyinga Province. To sustainably reduce malnutrition, the program works at all levels, including shifting individual hygiene behaviors, strengthening couples' joint decision-making on children's health, increasing communities' agricultural production, and reinforcing provincial early warning systems. In 2017, CRS leveraged private funds to launch a complementary intervention targeting coffee farmers in Muyinga and works to make a direct link between increased coffee production and improved household nutrition.

Responding with critical relief to emergencies

CRS leverages its global expertise in emergencies to respond to flooding, regional conflict and epidemics in Burundi. In addition to integrating Ebola readiness within on-going programming, CRS Burundi promotes recovery by strengthening displaced communities' access to safe and adequate shelter. In 2018, CRS Burundi piloted the Cash and Asset Transfer (CAT) platform, a web-based tool that ensures transparency and empowers participants with cash transfers that gives them the choice on how they spend this money. CAT facilitated the registration of 750

vulnerable households and the distribution of nearly US \$50,000 in food assistance through electronic vouchers. This technology strengthens CRS' capacity to conduct real-time data analysis and remotely ensure program quality during emergencies.

Social cohesion and gender mainstreaming

Since the launch of the USAID-funded Dukire Tubane Project in 2017, CRS has adapted its signature 3B's approach (binding, bonding & bridging) to strengthen social cohesion amongst youth and local authorities following the 2015 electoral violence. CRS' established experience in peacebuilding also informs emergency programming, eases tensions during reintegration and ensures the "do no harm" principle is upheld. Household-level conflict has been reduced through implementation of CRS' signature gender approach, *The Faithful House*. After receiving individualized counseling on the merits of joint decision-making, participating couples report improved income management and reduced household violence.

Building strong partnerships with collaboration and support

CRS works closely with governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and research organizations to create lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. Placing partnership at the core of its programming in Burundi, CRS puts a specific emphasis on working with counterparts in the relevant government ministries at the national, provincial and local levels. While joint supervision in the field encourages sustained support for vulnerable communities, participation in sectoral working groups enables shared learning for national influence. In 2017, CRS partnered with the Muyinga Provincial Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock to combat a fall armyworm infestation which helped inform a national action plan. Additionally, in 2019, the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender validated CRS' *The Faithful House* approach to be scaled up for country-wide replication due to its demonstrated success.

CRS WORLDWIDE

Founded in 1943, CRS' mission statement calls the agency to promote human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies. CRS assists people based on need, not creed, race or nationality. One of the world's largest private voluntary organizations, CRS supports international relief and development work in more than 100 countries around the globe.

