

Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

Burundi

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Burundi was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere; see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- 1 Burundi's population has increased from 2.8 million in 1960, via 5.4 million in 1990 to 11.5 million in 2019.
- 2 The education index improved from .171 to .418 between 1990 and 2018, and it did so consistently everywhere. Regional inequality slightly increased after 2010.
- 3 The literacy rate is 68% for Burundi's adults, and Mean Years of Education for Adults increased from 1.4 to 3.1 between 1990 and 2018 and growth was slow, but consistent everywhere. Regional inequality increased, though, with Bujumbura and surroundings ('West') in a much better position than regions in the South and North of the country.
- 4 The Expected Years of Education for Children improved from 4.4 to 11.3, and after 2000 improvements were quite rapid, and everywhere. Regional inequality slightly improved. Net enrolment for primary school is around 90%, and for secondary school it improved from 15% to 28%, with women currently in a much better position than men, a change that took place during the last decade.
- 5 Tertiary enrolment is still very low in Burundi. In 2018 it stood at only 4%, a total of 40,000 students in the country's tertiary institutions; 3000 students from Burundi study abroad.
- 6 There are 25 tertiary knowledge institutions in Burundi, seven public ones, and 18 private ones. Private institutions started to grow after 1995, and they include

some prominent religious universities. At Independence the country did not have a single institution for higher education.

- 7 Burundi only has a few think tanks, and museums, the oldest one already from the 1950s, when Burundi was ruled by Belgium.

Part 1: The Story

Burundi's demographic and education development

Burundi shares its colonial history with Rwanda, together known as Ruanda-Urundi. The country was a colony of Germany from 1903 until 1916 and after that the country's governance was done by Belgium, on behalf of the League of Nations and later the United Nations. In 1962 the country got its independence as a Kingdom, but in 1966 the King was deposed in a military coup, and the country became a Republic. The first president was Michel Micombero (1966-1976). The second president was Jean-Baptiste Bagaza (1976-1987). After him: Pierre Buyoya (1987-1993), Melchior Ndadaye (1993), Cyprien Ntaryamira (1993-1994), Sylvestre Ntibantunganya (1994-1996), Pierre Buyoya for the second time (1996-2003), Domitien Ndayizeye (2003-2005) and from there on Pierre Nkurunziza (2005-2020), with the current president being Évariste Ndayishimiye. The country has experienced many episodes of mass violence, including massacres with genocidal proportions, and civil war and unrest, often as a result of violent struggles for political power, fought along between Hutu and Tutsi ethnic lines.

Burundi's population increased from 2.8 million in 1960¹ to 11.5 million in 2019². In 1960, 2.1 percent of the population was urban (58,000 people), in 2019 this number has increased to 13.8 percent (1.6 million people), which is still very low for African standards, despite rapid growth over the past years. Gitega is the political capital of Burundi, while Bujumbura, the former capital city and in fact the economic capital, is still the largest city of Burundi and currently has 332,000 inhabitants³. According to Worldometers, other big cities in Burundi are Muyinga (71,000), Ruyigi (38,000), Gitega (23,000) and Ngozi (22,000). However, this information is highly questionable. The 2008 census does not mention Muyinga nor Ruyigi, and gives 42,000 inhabitants for Gitega, and 40,000 inhabitants for Ngozi while Rumonge (not mentioned by Worldometers) had 36,000 inhabitants.⁴

Life expectancy in the country in 2019 is 60.9 years for males and 64.6 years for females⁵. In 1960 these numbers were respectively 40.4 years and 43.6 years. The median age in 1960 was 18.3 years. This number decreased until 1995 to 14.9 years. In 2019 the median had

¹ Other sources estimate the Burundian population in 1960 at 2.2 million. See: https://2012-2017.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/2008%20Burundi%20Population%20Survey_Status%20and%20Structure%20of%20Population.pdf

² <https://www.populationdata.net/pays/burundi/>) use: 11.8 million in 2018.

³ This is the assessment of worldometers. However, the 2008 census has found a population of 497,166 inhabitants (source:

https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/2008%20Burundi%20Population%20Census_Summary%20of%20Final%20Results.pdf, page 4)

⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burundi#Geography>

⁵ UNDP's report on the human development index: life expectancy at birth is 63.0 and 59.4 for women and men respectively (see: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/fr/BDI.pdf).

increased to 17.3 years, which is still very low. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 6.9 child. This has decreased to 5.9 child per woman in 2019, but is still one of the highest in the world (Worldometers, 2020).

Literacy and Enrolment

According to UNESCO⁶, 1.9 million people in Burundi are being regarded as illiterate: 0.7 million adult men and 1.2 million adult women. The overall literacy rate was 68% in 2017 (men 76% and women 61%).

The population of Burundi's school-age children (5-15 years) has increased from 715,000 in 1960 to 3.3 million in 2020. Education in Burundi is not compulsory. The net primary school enrolment in Burundi was only 19 percent in 1973. However, in 2018 this number had increased to 93 percent⁷ (there were 1.9 million children between 7 and 12 years old). UNESCO shows that in recent years the situation has deteriorated: from 96% for girls and 94% for boys (average 95%) to 93% for girls and 90% for boys (average 91%). These are net enrolment figures. Net enrolment figures for secondary school enrolment in Burundi stood at 15% in 2010 (women behind men: 14 versus 17%), but improved to 28% in 2019, with better figures for women (31%) than for men (24%). There are 1.4 million people between 13 and 18 years of age in the country currently. Inequality in terms of access and completion rates continue, especially along the lines of gender, wealth and geographical location⁸ (Verwimp & Van Bavel, 2013; Cieslik et al. 2014). Moreover, the quality of primary and secondary education remains an issue of concern .

The population between 19 and 23 years old living in Burundi, the group most of the university students are coming from, increased from 233,000 in 1960 to 1.0 million in 2020. However, the so-called 'gross enrolment rate' of tertiary students (all counted tertiary students divided by the age cohort) was only 3% in 2010 (women behind men: 2 and 4% respectively) and only increased a bit to 4% in 2018 (3% women and 5% men). This would mean that there are currently only 40,000 students in Burundi's tertiary knowledge institutions. According to Campusfrance there were 37,000 students in 2012, but many more (62,000) in 2017, while there were 2100 students from Burundi studying abroad in 2012, and 3,000 in 2017. Most of those students were in Rwanda, France, Saudi Arabia, the USA and the DRC, in that order.⁹

Regional inequality of education results and prospects, 1990-2018

Map 1: Burundi, Provinces and Towns

⁶ <http://uis.unesco.org/country/BI>

⁷ Indexmundi, 2020

⁸ See: Verwimp, Philip, and Jan Van Bavel. "Schooling, violent conflict, and gender in Burundi." *The World Bank Economic Review* 28.2 (2014): 384-411, and Cieslik, Katarzyna, Marco Giani, Juan-Carlos Muñoz Mora, Rama Lionel Ngenzebuke, and Philip Verwimp "Inequality in Education, School-dropout and Adolescent lives in Burundi." Université Libre de Bruxelles and UNICEF Burundi (2014).

⁹ https://ressources.campusfrance.org/publications/mobilite_pays/en/burundi_en.pdf

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https://www.worldometers.info/img/maps/burundi_political_map.gif

Based on UNDP data, the Global Data Lab gives subregional Human Development Index figures for Burundi from 1990 onwards, with annual updates. This includes an Education Index, and two education indicators: Mean Years of Schooling and Expected Years of Schooling.

Burundi has 18 provinces, but the Global Data Lab uses five regions. In table 1 we will give an overview of these regions and its population development between 1990 and 2018.

See map 1 for an overview of the provinces, and tables 1-4 in part 2: “the Data”.

All education variables show rapid developments, but from a very low base level in 1990 (one of the worst education situations in Africa). The education index increased from 171/1000 to 500/1000 for Burundi as a whole, the Mean Years of Schooling (MYS) for Adults from 1.4 years to 3.1 years, and the Expected Years of Schooling for Children (EYS) from 4.4 years to 11.3 years. The fastest developments took place between 2000 and 2010. If we look at the five regions, West (Bujumbura and adjacent provinces) had and has the best levels of education, although for EYS that leading position was taken over by South after 2000. For

the educational index the worst region was East in 1990 and 2000 and that shifted to North afterwards. For MYS South had the worst results in 1990 and 2000, and again North took over afterwards. North consistently had the worst position for EYS throughout this period.

Regional inequality levels show that Mean Years of Scholling had the worst inequality, and the gap between the best region and the worst one widened after 2000. For Expected Years of Schooling the gap became a bit less after 2000, while for the education index as a whole the gap widened a bit after 2010.

Burundi's tertiary knowledge development

Burundi has 25 universities or other tertiary institutions for higher learning in 2020. Of these institutions, 7 are public, 6 are private religious and 12 are private non-religious ones. A university is a religious university if it is founded by a religious institution or if some kind of religious (in Burundi: Catholic or Protestant) denotation is in the name of the university. For this overview we included polytechnics and specialized institutes. Furthermore, several thinktanks are present in Burundi. Burundi also has a few museums.

Historical development of the number of universities in Burundi.

Type	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Pub	0	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	7
PrR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	6
PrNR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	7	9	12
Total	0	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	10	11	15	17	25

Pub = Public, PrR = Private religious, PrNR = Private Non-Religious; Sources: see figure 5 and 6 in part 2.

First, some information will be given about the public universities, after that the private ones, the think tanks, and the museums. This information includes the type of university, number of students, the current location of the campus, and the website of the university.

Public universities in Burundi



Université de Burundi: https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/proxy/WRDlpekB-jNA8JdTSaSVelmRTzONM-mOT70I0Ui2vptMjUxNnS7pdR1FUNCH_aE-LOnXmi-WxNn79Ijg7J-POxzbiY0b6jctMEzAnpw0dvEXA859fnAcL5z0kn_xqIGQg

In Burundi not many public universities have been established; only five. The oldest public university is the Université du Burundi (1964). The second oldest university in Burundi is the École normale Supérieure de Bujumbura. That university was established in 1965. The Université de Burundi was called Université Officielle de Bujumbura first. In 1977 UOB was merged with ENS to create the Université du Burundi. In 1999 they split again¹⁰. The biggest

¹⁰ See https://www.auf.org/les_membres/nos-membres/universite-du-burundi/

of them is the Université du Burundi with more than 11,000 students in the past, but recently only 7,000 students¹¹. The number of students of the École normale Supérieure de Bujumbura is around 3,000¹². All public universities have their campus at the capital city of Burundi: Bujumbura. The Université du Burundi has other campuses in Bubanza, Cankuzo, and Gitega. The Ecole Normale Supérieure has another campus in Rumonge. See table 5..

Private universities in Burundi



Université Espoir d'Afrique: <https://isanganiro.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/arton9528.jpg>

The oldest private university in Burundi is the Université du Lac Tanganyika (1999) and the oldest religious private university is the Université Espoir d'Afrique which was established in 2000 in Burundi. So: private university education is a recent phenomenon in Burundi, but currently the number of private universities far outnumber the public ones (although probably not in numbers of students). Only from two private universities the numbers of enrolled students are known. In total at least 4,800 students that we know of are enrolled in private universities.



Université Lumière de Bujumbura:

<https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/proxy/gnEqvhs3VEplQUthGpLHoHgle3hvV6BRIjLOaLqJftcmGFtzzobYk4FIASyJFqpnkg55St8T50SMcFfxZscHbUgtG4wPx8kvkjJ8RBFaO1>

Wikipedia still gives information about some additional private higher education institutions. However, in January 2019 ten universities were no longer allowed to teach students¹³. We only included the ones mentioned in WHED, combined with those in 4icu. See table 6.

¹¹ <http://www.ub.edu.bi/>, mot du Recteur

¹² Wikipedia France speaks of roughly 3000 students annually:
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/École_normale_supérieure_de_Bujumbura

¹³ 1/ l'Université Ntare Rugamba (UNR); 2/ l'Ecole supérieur des sciences de la Santé de Kinindo ; 3/ l'Institut international libre d'Afrique ; 4/ l'Université des collines (UC) ; 5/ l'Institut supérieur de gestion et de

Most private universities are located in the former capital city Bujumbura, which clearly is the 'knowledge hub' of the country. See table 7.

Think tanks and other research institutions in Burundi

Right now, Burundi has six notable thinktanks, two of them related to universities. The first one, the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa, was established in 1994. The second one, the Institut de développement économique du Burundi, was established in 1996 at Bujumbura. See table 8. According to UNESCO there were ca 600 employed researchers in Burundi (55/million; 14% female) and most of them worked in higher education (86%). In addition 10% worked in (other) government positions, 3.4% in private non-profit organizations, and 0.7% in business. In 2010 there were only 350 employed researchers (43/million; 15% female)¹⁴.

Museums in Burundi



Musée National de Gitega:

https://images.placesonline.com/photos/20701_bujumbura_national_museum.jpg?quality=80&w=710&h=510&mode=crop

There are 3 museums in Burundi that we know of. The oldest of them was established by the Belgian colonial government in 1955. See table 8.

Conclusion

Burundi only has a few universities. Like in many other African countries the number of private universities started to grow around the 2000s. Burundi does not have many think tanks and museums either. The tertiary knowledge centres are almost all located in the

l'informatique ; 6/ l'Institut supérieur de management ; 7/ l'Institut supérieur de développement (ISD) ; 8/ l'Institut supérieur d'enseignement technique de Rumonge (ISET) ; 9/ l' Institut supérieur de contrôle de gestion (ISCG) ; and 10/ l'Université paix et réconciliation (UPR). <https://burundi-agnews.org/education/burundi-10-etablissements-superieurs-interdits-denrolement/>

¹⁴ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/bi?theme=science-technology-and-innovation>

capital city Bujumbura. The oldest public university is the university with the highest 4ICU-rank and most students. It can be said that compared to the neighbouring country Rwanda, Burundi lags behind.

Part 2: The Data

Map 1 for tables 1-4 and 7:

Map 1: Burundi, Provinces and Towns (excluding the newly established province of Rumonge, formerly part of Bururi province)



https://www.worldometers.info/img/maps/burundi_political_map.gif

Table 1: Regions and Population

Regions	Provinces	Population 1990 x 1000	Population 2018 x 1000	Increase 2018/1990
East	Cankuzo, Rutana and Ruyigi	380	1390	3.66

Middle	Gitega, Karuzi, Muranvya and Mwaro	1200	2210	1.84
North	Kayanza, Kirundo, Muyinga and Ngozi	1790	3330	1.86
South	Bururi + Rumonge, and Makamba	880	1680	1.91
West	Bubanza, Buja Rural, Cibitoke and Mairie de Bujumbura	1190	2560	2.15
Total		5440	11200	2.06

Source for tables 1-4: Globaldatalab, version 4.0 <https://globaldatalab.org/shdi/shdi/>

Table 2: Burundi, Education Index, 1990-2018, x1000

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
East	148	161	339	369	2.49
Middle	181	199	364	424	2.34
North	152	167	331	344	2.26
South	172	185	420	466	2.71
West	197	215	429	500	2.54
Total	171	187	377	418	2.44
Inequality	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	

Table 3: Burundi, Mean Years of Schooling for Adults, 1990-2018

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
East	1.2	1.5	2.2	2.9	2.42
Middle	1.6	2.1	2.1	2.9	1.81
North	1.4	1.8	2.0	2.3	1.64
South	1.1	1.4	2.4	3.2	2.91
West	1.6	2.1	4.0	4.6	2.88
Total	1.4	1.8	2.6	3.1	2.21
Inequality	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	

Table 4: Burundi, Expected Years of Schooling for Children

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
East	3.9	4.0	9.6	9.9	2.54
Middle	4.6	4.6	10.6	11.9	2.59
North	3.8	3.9	9.5	9.7	2.55
South	4.9	5.0	12.3	13.0	2.65
West	5.2	5.3	10.7	12.5	2.40
Total	4.4	4.5	10.5	11.3	2.57
Inequality	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	

Table 5: Public universities in Burundi

University	University since	Subjects	(current) location of campus(es)	Website

Université du Burundi (UB) 4icu: 1st	1964 (1960- Institute of Ruanda- Urundi)	1,2,3,4 ,5	Bujumbura, Gitega, Cankuzo, Bubanza	http://www.ub.edu.bi/
École normale Supérieure de Bujumbura (ENS Bujumbura) 4icu : 6th	1965-1977 and 1999 onwards	4,5	Bujumbura, Rumonge	http://ens.bi/
Institut Supérieur de Gestion des Entreprises 4icu: 14th	1987	5	Bujumbura	http://isge.bi/fr/index.php
Institut National de Santé Publique 4icu : 8th	1999	3	Bujumbura	http://insp.bi/
École Nationale d'Administration, Burundi 4icu : 12th	2007	5	Bujumbura	http://www.ena.bi/ena/public/home/index/index.html
Institut Supérieur de Police (ISP)	2017 ?	4,5	Mitakataka, Bubanza	https://twitter.com/lkiriho/status/861525460865429504
Institut Supérieur des Cadres Militaires (ISCAM)	?	4,5	Bujumbura	http://cnesburundi.org/index.php/fr/institutions-f

Note: The sources for the data are mainly from the sites of the universities themselves. Additional information was found in Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_universities_in_Burundi), the 4ICU website (<https://www.4icu.org/bi/>), and the WHED website (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php). Also: <https://twitter.com/lkiriho/status/861525460865429504>, and. The numbers found in the column of 'subjects' indicate what kind of studies the university present to the students. 1=Natural Science, 2=Technical Science, 3=Medicine and Health, 4=Humanities and Social Studies and 5= Business Studies, Economics and Law. Only for the Université du Burundi (UB) the number of students was given: 11,000 in 2012.

Table 6: Private universities in Burundi

University	University since	Subjects	(current) location of campus(es)	Website
Université du Lac Tanganyika (ULT) 4icu : 7th	1999	4,5	Bujumbura	https://ult.bi/en/ult

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Université de Ngozi (UNG) 4icu: 4th	1999	4,5	Ngozi	https://univ-ngozi.bi/
Université Martin Luther King 4icu: 18th	1999	3,4,5	Bujumbura	https://umlk.net/
Université Espoir d'Afrique (UEA) (religious) 4icu : 2d	2000	1,2,3, 4,5	Bujumbura	http://hopeafricauniversity.org/
Université Lumière de Bujumbura (ULBU) (religious) 4icu : 3d	2000	1,3,4, 5	Bujumbura	http://www.ulbu.bi/
Université des Grands Lacs 4icu : 9th	2000	3,4,5	Bujumbura, Bururi	https://www.ugl.bi/
Université de Mwaro (UM) 4icu: 16th	2005	3,4,5	Bujumbura	http://www.umo.edu.bi/
Université Sagesse d'Afrique 4icu: 13th	2008	1,2,4, 5	Bujumbura	http://www.usa.edu.bi/
Université des Collines 4icu: -	2009	5	Bujumbura	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hills_University
International Leadership University, Burundi 4icu: 5th	2010	4	Bujumbura	http://www.burundi.ilu.edu/
East Africa Star University (EASU) 4icu: 11th	2012	1,3,4, 5	Bujumbura	http://www.easu-burundi.com/
Bujumbura International University 4icu: 10th	2014	1,2,5	Bujumbura	http://www.biu.bi/
Université Polytechnique de Gitega 4icu: 15th	2014	1,2,5	Gitega	http://www.upg.edu.bi/
International University of Equator, Burundi: 4icu: 17th	2016	1,2,5	Bujumbura	http://iue.edu.bi/
Université Polytechnique Intégrée: 4icu: 19th	2017	1,2,3, 5	Cibitoke	http://upi.edu.bi/
Université Ntare Rugamba : 4icu : x	2017?	2,4,5	Bujumbura	http://www.unr.edu.bi (not working; there is a facebook account)
Université Chrétienne de Bujumbura 4icu:-	2019?	?	Bujumbura	Not known
Christian University of Science & Technology	2020	4	Ruyigi	https://www.facebook.com/Ruyigi-Christian-University-Of-Science-and-Technology-1911135695768657/
Grand Séminaire de Bujumbura	?	4	Bujumbura	http://cnesburundi.org/index.php/fr/institutions-fr

Note: The sources for the data are mainly the websites of the universities themselves. Additional information was found in Wikipedia and the 4ICU and WHED websites. The numbers found in the column of 'subjects' indicate what kind of studies the university present to the students. 1=Natural Science, 2=Technical Science, 3=Medicine and Health, 4=Humanities and Social Studies and 5= Business Studies, Economics and Law.

Information about the number of students is scarce. The Université Espoir d'Afrique (UEA) was said to have 3,000 students, and the Université Lumière de Bujumbura (ULBU) 1,800 (in 2014).

Table 7: Regional distribution of the locations of Burundi's tertiary knowledge institutions

Regions	Public Universities in 2019	Private Universities in 2019	Total Universities in 2019	Tertiary knowledge institutions per million inhabitants
East	0	1	1	0.7
Middle	1	1	2	0.9
North	0	1	1	0.3
South	0	1	1	0.6
West	7	14	21	8.2
Total	8	18	26	2.3

Note: in this table all locations have been included; for the location of the regions: see Map 1 in part 1 and again at the start of part 2.

Table 8: Think tanks and other research centres in Burundi

Name	Year established	Where	Website
Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)	1994	Kampala, Bujumbura, Nairobi, Dodoma, Juba, Addis-Ababa and Kinshasa	https://www.asareca.org/
Institut de développement économique du Burundi (IDEC)	1996	Kiganda	http://www.idec.org.bi/
CUFORÉ (Centre Universitaire de Formation et Recherche en Entrepreneuriat)	2010	Bujumbura	http://www.ulbu.bi/page-d-exemple/
Land and Development Expertise Center (LADEC)	2017	Bujumbura	http://www.ladec.bi/index.php
Centre For Development and Enterprises Great Lakes	2017	Bujumbura	https://centrefordevelopmentgreatlakes.org/
IRSD (Institute for Scientific Research and Development)	2017	Bujumbura	Hosted by the Hope Africa University (Bujumbura). No website known

Note: Think tanks in Burundi, sorted by year of establishment. The information in this table is from the sites in the fourth column.

Table 9: Museums in Burundi

Name	Year established	Where
Musée National de Gitega	1955 (established by the Belgian government)	Gitega
Living Museum of Bujumbura	1977 ?	Bujumbura
Gishora Drum Sanctuary	?	Gishora/Gitega
Geological Museum of Burundi	?	Bujumbura

Note: Museums in Burundi, sorted by year of establishment the information in this table is from the sites in the fourth column.

Websites: <https://momaa.org/directory/national-museum-of-gitega/>; <https://momaa.org/directory/living-museum-of-bujumbura/>; https://www.paleontica.org/sites/museum_site.php?id=541&language=en ; <http://worldlist.travel/africa/burundi/gishora-drum-sanctuary.phtml>

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7. 4icu: <https://www.4icu.org/bi/>
8. UNESCO : <http://uis.unesco.org/country/BI>

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