



Embassy of the United States of America Bujumbura, Burundi

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Press Release

U.S. grant supports program for victims of Market fire

The Government of the United States of America is donating \$50,000 to a micro-credit program for small merchants who lost their inventories in the Central Market fire on January 27, Ambassador Dawn Liberi announced today.

The funds will be disbursed to Turame Community Finance, S.A., a microfinance organization initiated by World Relief Burundi that provides access to credit and savings to poor entrepreneurs, most of whom are women.

“These funds will support Turame in its work with merchants who lost their ability to repay previous loans when all their goods went up in flames,” said Ambassador Liberi. “The funds will help them get back on their feet, repay previous loans and start up their businesses again.”

Jean Marie Vianney MUSANGWA, Acting MD and Operations Manager for Turame Community Finance SA, said Turame is working to provide badly needed cash to the most vulnerable at a time of greatest need. Turame currently has 275 clients whose businesses were destroyed in the fire.

Ambassador Liberi said the grant is show of solidarity with the community. “We recognize that the financial losses are great,” she said. “We hope this contribution will be leveraged to help the most vulnerable recover.”

Turame, which also operates programs in 14 of 17 provinces with offices in Gitega, Makamba and Ngozi, offers microfinancing to poor entrepreneurs, many of whom have no previous savings or physical guarantees. USAID funding helped launch the non-profit organization in 2007 through its support to world Relief Microfinance program from 2004 to 2007.

The US annually provides more than \$52 million in aid to Burundi through programs that support health and economic development.