



## Embassy of the United States of America Bujumbura, Burundi

### PRESS RELEASE

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#### **U.S. Ambassador signs grants for 346 million Burundian francs**

On August 19, 2013, United States Ambassador to Burundi Dawn Liberi signed grant agreements with three Burundian associations for an amount totaling US\$224,935 (more than 346 million BIF). The U.S. Embassy awarded grants to Association Burundaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ABUBEF), the Burundian Red Cross (BRC), and Association Floresta with the goals of preventing gender-based violence and promoting economic reintegration of refugee returnees.

Ambassador Liberi stated, "Gender-based violence remains a plague in many countries of the world. The U.S. Government is proud to be involved into combatting gender-based violence throughout the world, be it physical or psychological." The US\$100,000 grant to ABUBEF will fund gender-based violence prevention programs in the provinces of Bujumbura, Muyinga, and Ngozi. The project will involve community members through various activities to actively participate in the fight against sexual violence. Additionally, it will provide victims with medical and psychosocial care and initiate income-generating activities to promote their socio-economic reintegration. ABUBEF will assist over 2,175 direct beneficiaries within 18 months with the assistance of this grant.

BRC is receiving a grant of US\$99,935 to implement a project over the next year to raise awareness against sexual violence and fight against stigmatization of victims. BRC's large network of 600 volunteers will work closely with local communities in the Kirundo province on training about gender-based violence and HIV prevention. 580 victims will also benefit from psychological care, medical assistance cards, and income-generating activities.

Finally, the U.S. Embassy grant of US\$25,000 to Association Floresta will fund a project to promote economic reintegration of 250 refugee returnee households in the province of Makamba. This will include launching a savings and loan network, promoting sustainable agriculture, and encouraging peaceful cohabitation with the local population. This one-year program will improve the living conditions of the returnee population and promote peace in the province. Ambassador Liberi stated, "We know that the many returning refugees face extreme poverty and difficult reintegration. We are confident that the Floresta project will provide long-lasting support to the returnees in Makamba province."