



Embassy of the United States of America Bujumbura, Burundi

May 31, 2013

US Embassy small grants programs to support range of community self-help efforts

U.S. Ambassador Dawn Liberi has signed small grant agreements totaling more than \$67,000 (117,763,229 BIF) to support a range of Burundian organizations that promote economic growth and insure self-sustainability.

The grants were made through two programs administered by the U.S. Embassy. The Ambassador's Special Self Help Fund will support six projects ranging from providing water for school that serves refugees to a sewing center for widows. The African Development Foundation will support another six projects that include the purchase of a grinding mill for a farmers' cooperative and modernizing a communal beekeeping operation.

"One of the missions of the American Embassy in Burundi is to support economic and social development as well as respect for human rights," Ambassador Liberi told representatives of the organizations during a grant signing ceremony. "It is from this perspective that we thank you for the efforts that you are making to meet the needs of your community."

The Ambassador's Special Self Help Fund will support the following projects:

--Association Jeunesse en Mission de Paix et de Développement (AJMPD) will be funded with \$3,996 to build a water pipe extension providing running water for a school specialized in the schooling reintegration of 282 returnee students. Access to water will allow this school located in Busebwa, Rumonge in the Bururi province to start producing bricks to construct a new infrastructure and generate income.

--Association Abagenzi will receive \$8,028 to repair the damaged water distribution system of the Mbuye commune in the Muramvya province. This will result in providing running water to the 30,000 inhabitants of this location.

--Action Batwa will receive \$15,000 to pay for the installation of solar panels to reduce ongoing costs of the Batwa children's boarding school managed by les Apôtres du Bon Pasteur. This project aims to support the school and promotes the use of sustainable energy.

--Association pour l'Encadrement des Orphelins et l'Education à la Paix will be funded with \$9,343 to start a sewing center to provide employment for 52 widows living with HIV in the Mbimbi and Isale communes of Bujumbura Rurale. The project will generate a sustainable source of income for their 208 children.

-- Le Cadre des Amis Défenseurs de l'Environnement will receive \$7,642 to extend its integrated farming project for 300 farmers and peasants in the Rutovu commune of the Bururi province. This project aims to improve cropping technics and increase production.

-- New Development Vision will implement a \$5,251 palm plantation project in the Kayogoro commune of the Makamba province to facilitate the economic reintegration of 50 returnees. Once the palm trees are grown, the association will start an oil extraction component to add value to the project.

African Development Foundation grants will support the following projects:

--Intwarira Ku Maguru Zigahaza Imiryango cooperative will receive a grant of \$5,642 (8,802,286 BIF) to modernize a bee-keeping project in the Cabara community based in the Rumonge commune of the Bururi province. The project will help the cooperative increase its production to supply the demand for honey. Funds will be used to buy modern type bee hives and cover training expenses. This income generation project will benefit the 11 members working in the cooperative and their families.

--The Anti-Malaria Center St Francois d'Assisi will be funded with \$6,037 (9,418,925 BIF) to start a cyber café to produce income to support the center's ongoing costs. This center founded in 2001 and located in Kamenge in Bujumbura offers low fare screening and treatment of malaria to more than 35,000 patients annually. Funds will be used to purchase solar panels to produce the needed energy.

--Association Bonne Nutrition pour Tous will receive a grant of \$2,589 (4,040,105 BIF) to purchase a grinding mill for its 65 members. The mill will be managed by a committee and made accessible at a low fare for farmers of the commune of Mutimbuzi in the Bujumbura province. The income generated from the mill will be reinvested in other activities planned by the association.

--ALVISEF-Twubahane will be funded with \$5,840 (9,111,297 BIF) to launch a small cafeteria to promote local products of Kirundo. Fresh fish, sun flower oil and other local products will be sold and there will be a permanent arts and crafts display. Funds will be used to buy equipment and products. With this income generating activity, the association's work of helping victims of gender-based violence will be reinforced.

--The Association de Veuves de la Region Imbo will receive a grant of \$2,520 (3,931,475 BIF) to start a pork business in the Buterere commune of Bujumbura. The project will provide a sustainable source of income to the 30 widows of this group and their children. Funds will be used to purchase the pigs and construct a pig pen.

--Association Abahuzajambo mw'Iterambere will be funded with \$2,316 (3,613,541 BIF) to begin a potato plantation in Mugozi, in the Bururi province. Funds will be used to buy potato seedlings, fertilizers and equipment. The labor work will be done by the 26 members of the association to improve their families' living conditions.