

## AT A GLANCE

# Pathfinder in Burundi

Since 2007, Pathfinder has worked closely with the Government of Burundi's Ministry of Health to respond to local health needs by strengthening the health system to offer quality, integrated health care that advances sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Pathfinder Burundi's interventions aim to:

1. Increase and strengthen maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) and family planning (FP) services;
2. Contribute to the prevention of HIV and AIDS, malaria, malnutrition, and gender-based violence (GBV); and
3. Support the holistic management of GBV survivors.

In Burundi, Pathfinder has received support from the US Agency for International Development, the Dutch Cooperation, UNFPA, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the Global Fund.

## Context

Burundi is one of the most fragile countries in the world, where chronic under-investment in the health system, coupled with ongoing humanitarian crises, continues to limit progress in improving health outcomes.



More resources at  
[pathfinder.org/burundi](https://pathfinder.org/burundi)



In Burundi, Pathfinder supports women and children living in fragile settings, including those displaced by conflict. Photo: Pathfinder Burundi.

Although the country has seen reductions in child and maternal mortality over the last 30 years, Burundi's maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the world, estimated at [494 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020](#).

- Approximately 30% of married women have an unmet need for FP.
- Malnutrition is the leading risk factor for death and disability. In children under five years, 56% are stunted, 5% are emaciated or are suffering from acute malnutrition, and 29% are underweight.
- Among women aged 15-49, nearly one in five are in a state of chronic energy deficiency.

CURRENT PROJECT | 2019 – PRESENT

## Tubiteho (“Let’s Take Care of Them”)

Donor: USAID

Pathfinder Burundi implements Tubiteho (“Let’s Take Care of Them”), in partnership with Population Services International, Population Media Center, Community of Pentecostal Churches of Burundi, and Dushirehamwe. Tubiteho supports the Government of Burundi in improving access to health services among women, children, and infant. The project improves the strengthens the health system to offer quality, integrated **SRHR/FP, MNCH, malaria, GBV prevention and treatment, and nutrition services.**

Additionally, Tubiteho works with communities to adopt behaviors that will improve health and wellbeing. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the Global Fund, the project covers 16 health districts in the provinces of Bururi, Makamba, Rumonge in the south and Karusi, Kirundo, Muyinga in the north.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



**Increased community-based distribution of DMPA-SC by 27.6%** from 2019 to 2023 through partnership with community health workers (CHWs).



**Ensured that almost all postpartum women in project areas are seen by health providers within the first 48 hours after delivery** (from 74.5% in 2021 to 99.3% in 2023).



**Increased the number of childhood diarrhea cases treated by CHWs by 315.1%** (from 23,019 in 2020 to 95,553 in 2023) through trainings, supervision, and coaching on integrated management of childhood illnesses.



**Ensured almost all malaria cases at public health facilities (presumed and confirmed) across the intervention’s six provinces receive first-line antimalarial treatment** (from 79.6% in 2020 to 97.9% in 2023) through implementation of malaria control guidelines, trainings, and monitoring of the malaria epidemic response plan.



**Supported an increase in people reached with GBV services, from 123 in 2020 to more than 1,000 in 2023.** Observed an increase in GBV cases reported at the community level, which may be a result of better awareness about GBV cases and improved coordination of case management.

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**CURRENT PROJECT | 2023 – 2025**

## **Merankabandi II** ("Be Like the Others")

**Donor:** World Bank

The Merankabandi ("Be Like the Others") Project increased access to quality maternal and child health services in Burundi's Karusi, Ruyigi, Gitega, and Kirundo provinces. The project supported the Government of Burundi to increase social security coverage to meet the needs of marginalized communities and households.

Pathfinder promoted the adoption of healthy behaviors around family planning, early childhood development, nutrition, financial education, and maternal and child health. This project is a continuation of Merankabandi I, which operated from 2019 to 2022.

**PAST PROJECT | 2019 – 2022**

## **Twiteho Amagara** ("Let's Take Care of Our Health")

**Donor:** European Union

The Twiteho Amagara ("Let's Take Care of Our Health") Project ensured that women and youth had access to essential health services in Burundi's Cibitoke, Kayanza, and Ngozi provinces. The project integrated SRHR services with gender-based violence prevention, mental health services, and nutrition programs for mothers and children.

Pathfinder improved the skills of health providers to offer quality maternal health care and prevention and early detection of cervical cancer.

**Midwife mentor Bizimana Lydia trains health providers through the Twiteho Amagara Project, 2021.**

*Photo: Dr. Wellars KANA*







On-site training through mentorship on the use of the obstetric suction cup at the Burasira Health Centre, 2021.

Photo: Dr. Wellars KANA



Tubiteho delivers a large procurement of medical equipment to the Burundian Ministry of Health during a ceremonial handover together with USAID, 2021

Photo: Dr. Wellars KANA

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Pathfinder International is driven by the conviction that all people, regardless of where they live, have the right to decide whether and when to have children, to exist free from fear and stigma, and to lead the lives they choose. As a global health organization with locally led, community-driven programs, we support women to make their own reproductive health decisions. We work with local partners to advance contraceptive services, comprehensive abortion care, and young people's sexual and reproductive rights in communities around the world—including those affected by poverty, conflict, climate change, and natural disasters. Taken together, our programs enable millions of people to choose their own paths forward.

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