



DOCTORAL CLINIC
AIX GLOBAL JUSTICE

Legal Clinic for International
Human Rights Law

www.aixglobaljustice.org

**Country Information -
BURUNDI**

November 2022

This work was carried out under the coordination of a member of the Doctoral Clinic for International Human Rights Law and with the assistance of law students.

This document is presented by Aix Global Justice with the utmost dedication to promote and protect human rights globally. However, it is essential to acknowledge that the information contained herein is based on available sources, including interviews, documents, and other publicly accessible materials. While we strive for accuracy and objectivity, Aix Global Justice does not guarantee the absolute veracity or completeness of the data presented in this report.

The report serves as a tool to raise awareness, advocate for human rights, and engage in constructive dialogue. It does not constitute legal advice or establish liability on the part of Aix Global Justice or its representatives. Therefore, Aix Global Justice disclaims any responsibility or liability for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the report or for any actions taken in reliance upon its content. The members of the Aix Global Justice will therefore not be held responsible.

Aix Global Justice shall not be held liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, or punitive damages arising out of the use, interpretation, or reliance on the information provided.

The last update was on 14 November 2022.

For any further questions on this matter, please contact:

Adeline AUFFRET and Indira BOUTIER, General Coordinator of the Aix Global Justice
Clinic

aixglobaljustice@gmail.com
aixglobaljusticeclinic@proton.me

TABLE OF CONTENT

List of abbreviations	5
General Overview	6
1) Sexual and Gender-Based Violence victims' situation	8
1.1. Sexual and gender-based violence as a tool of repression for political dissidence	8
1.2. A structural deficiency to treat the consequences of SGBV	9
2) LGBT rights	11
2.1. The legal framework	11
2.2. A double discrimination in the public and private sphere	14
2.3. Impacts of the discriminations against LGBT people	16
3) Women's right	18
3.1. The lack of access to sexual and reproductive health and rights	18
3.2. Women's difficult path to parity in political instances	20
3.3. Women's difficult access to land rights	22
4) Health system	23
4.1 Health system failures	23
4.2. Consideration of epilepsy	25
4.3. Consideration of mental health	26
5) Children's right	27
5.1. Access to education	28
5.2. Child labor	29
5.3. Violence against children, the issue of sexual violence and forced marriage	30
5.4. The use of child soldiers	31
6) General current political situation	31
6.1 A repressive system	31
6.2. Burundi's unofficial war against rebels on the east of Democratic Republic of Congo	34
6.3. Forced displacement due to climate change	35
Appendix 1: Overview on the LGBT legislation in Burundi and their impacts	38
Appendix 2: Overview of the ruling on the child protection in 2016 (country in alphabetical order, Afghanistan to France)	40
Appendix 3: Overview of the public investments to the mental health system in Burundi	41
Appendix 4: Map of the conflict's areas in DRC	42
Sources consulted	43
1. International/governmental organizations and institutions	43
2. NGO, Think Tanks	45
3. Media	46

List of abbreviations

AGOB	Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Burundi
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APRODH	Association Burundaise pour la protection des Droits humains et des personnes détenues
BHRI	Burundi Human Rights Initiative
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CNDD-FDD	Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie - forces de défense de la démocratie
CNIDH	Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'Homme
DPE	Direction Provinciale de l'Enseignement
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EASHR	East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative
EU	European Union
FNL	Forces nationales de libération
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HRW	Human Rights Watch
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IDLO	International Development Law Organisation
LIGA	International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LLDC	Landlocked developing countries
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex
MOLI	Mouvement pour les Libertés Individuelles
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NIS	National Intelligence Service
ODD	Objectifs de Développement Durable
OFPRA	Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides
OHCHR	High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMCT	Organisation Mondiale contre la torture
OMS	Organisation Mondiale de la Santé
PNSR	National Program of Reproductive Health
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SIDA	Syndrome d'immunodéficience acquise
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
US	United States
USDOS	United States Department of State
WHO	World Health Organization

General Overview

Burundi is a country in the Easter Africa Great Lakes region, surrounding by Rwanda, Tanzania, and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Burundian society, **essentially rural**, is a homogeneous culture based on a Bantu, Kirundi, and French language, which maintains strong rural cultural practices and values. The population is **predominantly Christian**¹. As a former Belgian colony, Burundi gained independence in 1962. This independence led to political violence and a civil war in October 1993 until 2005. Now governed by a **republic system**, the country is leading by Evariste Ndayishimiye since 18 June 2020.

Despite the end of the civil war in 2005, Burundi is still affected by the conflict regarding the current political situation. In 2015, the former President of Burundi was elected for a controversial third term, which provoked a terrible reaction from public opinion, leading to **protests from the population and the opposition**. In 2020, elections brought a change in the presidency, with Evariste Ndayishimiye assuming power in a troubled country and having to deal with new **accusations of human rights violations** such as press freedom breach, several **security incidents** involving clashes between security forces and armed groups, as well as attacks by unidentified assailants, including in the Cibitoke region and other border provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Beyond these violations, it is in an **armed conflict** that Burundi has been involved since 2021, in close cooperation with the DRC **in a war against rebels** on the borders of the two countries that is extremely costly for the government in terms of finances, popularity and most tragically for military and civilian lives. Recently, in mid-August 2022, the Burundian army is deployed in the eastern DRC to arrest local and foreign armed groups that are recalcitrant to the peace process sought by the heads of state of the Community of East African States (EAC).

Tragically, war produces effects that last years and years. On the one hand, there is **economical damage** which affects all the country's infrastructures such as roads, hospitals, and schools. On the other hand, the war affected populations with an increase of depressive disorders and of the suicide rate. Burundi has had a very fragile health system since the civil war (1993-2005). Regarding the **lack of investment in public health facilities**, most of the time, citizens must pay themselves the cost of treatments. Burundians living in poverty are the most affected because they **cannot have an effective access to medical treatment for a large proportion of diseases**. Certain mental illness such as depression, suicide, epilepsy, and more generally **mental disorders, are taboo subjects** in Burundi, it causes an additional barrier to seeking care for those affected.

Violations of children's rights particularly increased through the economic and political crisis in Burundi. They are subject to **various forms of violence, including those based on traditional practices. More, they are deprived of access to education and are often involve in child labor** in very difficult conditions. As a **vulnerable group, violations of their rights are**

¹ Approximately, 91.5% is Christian: including Catholic 62.1%, Protestant 23.9% (includes Adventist 2.3% and other Protestant 21.6%) and 2,5% are Muslim.
Source: Global Edge, 'Burundi: Introduction', [Available [here](#), accessed 14 november 2022].

more difficult to report as they may risk repression from their families and/or teachers, and/or from the authorities.

Regarding women's rights, although the Constitution is clear on equal rights for all in Burundi, the legal framework seems to still be insufficient to provide equality of rights to women, mainly in the political, social, and economic spheres. The quotas provided by the Constitution have had their success in national and decentralized elected offices, but the **parity is still hard to achieve during the colline elections² and for appointed public offices**. Women face some difficulties **when campaigning**: sexist threats, fewer resources, less mobility, and a less well-developed political network. Additionally, the absence of inheritance law, the appointment of men as head of families in the Persons and Family Code, and the customary law, make it **difficult for women to own land**. Besides, some **issues of reproductive health** remain in Burundi, due to the **limited access to family planning, a high rate of maternal mortality and high risks of having unsafe abortions**.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is still a predominant issue. It is used as a **way to put pressure on the population**, mostly on political opponents. The phenomenon **especially concerns girls and women, but also boys and men**, in a very conservative society. The victims of SGBV face a lot of **barriers to report these acts of violence**, mainly the lack of support by the community and the corruption of authorities. Used by both armed groups and the authorities, these abuses are **out of the government's control**. There is also **no health monitoring** for the victims of SGBV (for example in cases of injury, unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, or impact on mental health), and this can entail a **diminution in the individuals' enjoyment of their rights**. The revision in 2009 of the Penal Code in favor of the repression of SGBV as well as the adoption in 2016 of a law on the prevention and repression of SGBV and the protection of its victims have been steps towards improvement, but **few results have been seen since**.

Lastly, the Burundian legislation drives the society to discriminate against individuals from the LGBT community. Indeed, **same-sex marriage, same-sex sexual relationship or "homosexual propaganda" are strictly prohibited**. The legislation does not distinguish the sexual orientation from the gender transition. Even if the use of this legislation is occasional, it **participates in the rise of hate speech against LGBT people in both the public sphere and the private sphere**. Religion also plays a part in stigmatizing LGBT people as most Burundians being **Catholics**. That causes a **limitation in the LGBT people's human rights** (limited access to education, to freedom of assembly and association, to a judge, etc.).

² The colline elections are administrative divisions, which are within the municipalities.

1) Sexual and Gender-Based Violence victims' situation

SGBV is used by the Burundian authorities as **a tool to frighten the population**, most of the time political opponents (1.1). However, the violence evolved to a **structural issue** and the authorities failed to treat the consequences of SGBV (1.2).

1.1. Sexual and gender-based violence as a tool of repression for political dissidence

Sexual and gender-based violence committed by the authorities or armed groups are often used **to put pressure on the population**, to repress political dissidence.

Source: 'Resolution 45/19 on the situation of human rights in Burundi', Human Rights Council, 45th session, 6 October 2020. [Available [here](#)]

“8. Expresses particular concern at accounts of **persistent sexual violence**, including rape, affecting mostly women and girls but also men and boys and **aimed at intimidating, controlling, repressing or punishing** the victims of such violence **for their supposed or actual political opinions or affiliation**, and at the structural nature of such violence.”

Source: 'Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi', Human Rights Council, 13 August 2020. [Available [here](#)]

“58. **Acts of torture continued to be committed, including sexual and gender violence** affecting mostly women and girls, but also men. Such violence was aimed at **intimidating, controlling, repressing or punishing women and men** for their supposed or actual **political opinions, their refusal to join the ruling party or their links with an armed movement**. These include cases of gang rape, but also the infliction of blows or burns on the genitals, buttocks or breasts and cases of forced nudity. Such violence was **committed mainly by members of the Imbonerakure or of the police during visits or attacks** on the victims' homes, but also in the context of arrest or detention **by the National Intelligence Service**.”

Source: 'No human rights progress despite new presidency, Burundi inquiry finds', United Nation, Office of the High Commissioner, 23 September 2020. [Available [here](#)]

“**Men and boys victims of sexual violence**. The Commission took an in-depth look into the issue of **sexual violence committed against men** in Burundi since the beginning of the crisis, mainly in the **context of their detention by the National Intelligence Service**. “They undressed me [...] because my hands were still [tied up]. Then they [...] tied my testicles [with a rope] and the rope was attached to a can filled with sand. Then [they told me] to stand up and walk with the can [hanging],” one of the many victims said, describing the abuse he endured. Others recounted beatings with sticks, kicking, burning, being injected substances, raped, and being forced to perform sexual intercourse with other detainees **as means to punish and extract confessions, by inflicting as much pain as possible**. As a result, many victims have also suffered the **physical and psychological aftereffects**, or even social isolation. Further, men and boys survivors of sexual violence victims reported **having received little to no specialized support and assistance**. In a

society where **prejudices and taboos related to sexuality, manliness and rejection of homosexuality persist, these survivors fear being stigmatized and ostracized by their communities.**”

Source: « Rapport annuel : exercice 2021 », Association Burundaise pour la protection des Droits Humains et des personnes Détenues - APRODH., janvier 2022. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*³ : “Law No. 1/13 of 22 September 2016 on the prevention, protection of victims and punishment of gender-based violence exists. **Despite the existence of this law and despite the awareness-raising activities** carried out by the various stakeholders in this field, [...] **our human rights observers were able to identify 78 cases of [Sexual and Gender Based Violence], 73.08% of which are rape cases throughout the country, during the year 2021.**”

1.2. A structural deficiency to treat the consequences of SGBV

The SGBV cannot be only solved by the law as it **relates to a structural problem in Burundian society**, regarding the corruption of authorities and the victims’ fear of having a tainted reputation. Survivors of SGBV do not have access to medical support even in the aftermath of these violence, there is **no physical or psychological aftercare**. In addition, the **fear of reprisals and the structural issues aforementioned hinder the prosecution** of the authors.

Source : « Rapport mensuel septembre 2022 », APRODH, 31 October 2022. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*⁴ : “In Burundi, the law that represses [sexual and gender-based violence] in general and rape in particular has been enacted since 2016 but **its results are not palpable despite the awareness-raising that is done here and there throughout the country**. That said, children, women and even men continue to suffer these despicable acts, often under the cover of administrative authorities which are corrupt”.

Source: ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi’, Human Rights Council, 42nd session, 6 August 2019. [Available [here](#)]

“45. The **physical and psychological consequences of sexual violence are manifold** and, while several victims received basic medical care in the aftermath – often thanks to the intervention of neighbours or relatives – **few women and no men have received appropriate treatment**. The **stigmatization** of women and girls who are victims of sexual violence has a **negative impact on**

³ « La loi N°1/13 du 22 septembre 2016 portant prévention, protection des victimes et répression des violences basées sur le genre existe. Malgré l’existence de cette loi et en dépit des activités de sensibilisation menées par les différents intervenants dans ce domaine, [...] nos observateurs des droits humains ont pu identifier 78 cas de VSBG [Violences Sexuelles Basées sur le Genre] dont 73,08% sont des cas de viol dans tout le pays, au cours de l’année 2021. »

⁴ « Au Burundi, la loi qui réprime les [violences sexuelles et basées sur le genre] en général et le viol en particulier a été promulguée depuis 2016 mais ses résultats ne sont pas palpables malgré la sensibilisation qui se fait ici et là à travers tout le pays. Cela étant dit, des enfants, des femmes et même des hommes continuent à subir ces actes ignobles, souvent sous la couverture des autorités administratives qui sont corrompues ».

their enjoyment of the other rights already affected by the persistence in Burundi of multiple forms of discrimination against women”.

Source: ‘Abuse, impunity and sexual violence in Burundi’, UNICEF, 14 June 2018. [Available [here](#)]

“**Nearly one in four Burundian women (23%) and 6% of men have experienced sexual violence, and children are particularly at risk.** Only a small percentage of sex-related incidents are reported, so the actual number is likely much higher”.

[...] “Most don’t know where and how to get help, living in rural communities where quality health and psycho-social support are virtually non-existent. **Few victims get the care they need to heal physically and emotionally**”.

Source: ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi’, Human Rights Council, 45th session, 13 August 2020 [Available [here](#)]

“59. The Commission is concerned about the **structural nature of sexual violence in Burundi**, as the testimonials collected since 2015 demonstrate that **this type of violence persists and confirm the trends** identified in its previous reports. Despite various programs designed to facilitate access to justice for the most vulnerable, mostly women, and the fact that the judicial treatment of cases of gender-based violence has improved, **the majority of victims of sexual of gender-based violence have been directly or indirectly threatened and did not dare to denounce the perpetrators or seek assistance.** This is due in part to the **high number of perpetrators who are members of the security forces or Imbonerakure**, who continued to enjoy almost total impunity.”

Source: ‘Explore All Countries – Burundi’, The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, November 2022. [Available [here](#)]

“Human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Burundi and victims from Burundi abroad [...] **some girls and young women are forced into domestic servitude and sex trafficking** in restaurants and bars around Lake Tanganyika; women and girls who go to the Middle East for domestic service jobs report physical and sexual abuse”.

Source: ‘Annual report for the year 2021’, APRODH, January 2022. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*⁵ : “The Law N°1/13 of September 22, 2016 on the prevention, protection of victims and repression of gender-based violence exists. **Despite the existence of this**

⁵ “La loi N°1/13 du 22 septembre 2016 portant prévention, protection des victimes et répression des violences basées sur le genre existe. Malgré l’existence de cette loi et en dépit des activités de sensibilisation menées par les différents intervenants dans ce domaine, les violences sexuelles et basées sur le genre en général et le viol en particulier restent une triste réalité et cela, sur toute l’étendue du pays. Les personnes violées sont de différents âges mais les jeunes filles dont des élèves constituent la majorité des cas. Des jeunes filles sont violées, puis tuées dans certains cas. Tout cela s’observe alors que des instances chargées de la mise en application de cette loi et de la répression des auteurs sont là

law and despite the awareness-raising activities carried out by the various stakeholders in this field, **sexual and gender-based violence in general and rape in particular remain** a sad reality and this, throughout the country.

The people raped are of different ages, but **young girls, including students, constitute the majority of cases**. Young girls are raped and, in some cases, **killed**. All this is observed while the authorities in charge of the application of this law and the repression of the perpetrators are there and at all levels.

The impact of this law is not yet perceptible despite so many years of existence for several reasons, including the following:

- The administrative authorities at the grassroots are **corrupt** and devote cases of amicable settlement: these amicable settlements are not punished even though they constitute offenses under the law. This contributes to the increase of rape cases.
- Perpetrators of these despicable acts are constantly refining their tactics to avoid detection.
- Many victims refuse or are afraid to file a complaint for **fear of reprisals** from the perpetrators.
- The **weight of culture** still weighs heavily on the Burundian population. Thus, the fear of what people will say, of mistrust and of slander towards the families of victims is a major handicap.
- Some police officers and prosecutors are often corrupted by the perpetrators.”

2) LGBT rights

In Burundi, homosexual relations and their representation are **condemned by criminal law** (2.1). Among the consequences and a **lot of breaches in human rights** (2.3), the **discrimination** against LGBT people in both public and private sphere seems predominant (2.2).

2.1. The legal framework

Same-sex marriage and sexual relations are prohibited by the Constitution and the article 567 of the **Criminal Code**, under imprisonment and fine. This law **participates in discriminating against the LGBT community**. Transgender people are not specifically targeted by some prohibitions: sexual orientation and gender transition are taken together.

et à tous les échelons. L’impact de cette loi n’est pas encore perceptible malgré tant d’années d’existence pour plusieurs raisons dont les suivantes :

- Les autorités administratives à la base sont corrompues et consacrent des cas de règlement à l’amiable : ces règlements à l’amiable ne sont pas punis alors qu’ils constituent des infractions au regard de la loi. Cela contribue à l’augmentation des cas de viol.
- Les auteurs de ces actes ignobles ne cessent de raffiner leurs tactiques pour ne pas être démasqués.
- Beaucoup de victimes refusent ou craignent de porter plainte de peur des représailles de la part des auteurs.
- Le poids de la culture pèse encore lourdement sur la population burundaise. Ainsi, la peur du qu’en – dira – t-on, de la méfiance et de la médisance à l’endroit des familles des victimes constitue un handicap majeur.
- Certains OPJ et magistrats du parquet sont souvent corrompus par les auteurs.”

The East African Sexual Health & Rights Initiative analyzed **the LGBT legislation in Burundi regarding the LGBT community through a legal overview**⁶.

Source: Article 29, al.2, Constitution of Burundi, 7 June 2018. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*⁷: **“Marriage between two people of the same sex is forbidden.”**

Source: Article 567, Under-section 3 ‘About homosexuality’, Loi N°1/05 portant révision du Code pénal (Law revising the criminal code), 22 April 2009. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*⁸: **“Whoever has sexual relations with a person of the same sex is punished by a penal servitude of three months to two years and a fine of fifty thousand francs to one hundred thousand francs or one of these penalties only.”**

Source: Article 564, al.1 et al.4, Section 5 ‘’, Loi N°1/05 portant révision du Code pénal (Law revising the criminal code), 22 April 2009. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*⁹: **“Anyone who has exhibited, sold or distributed songs, pamphlets or other writings, whether printed or not, figures, images, emblems or other objects contrary to morality, shall be sentenced to a fine of between fifty thousand and one hundred thousand francs. [...]**

Anyone who sings, reads, recites, plays or utters obscenities in meetings or public places in front of several people and in such a way as to be heard by these people, shall be punished by a fine of ten thousand francs to twenty thousand francs.”

Source: ‘State-Sponsored Homophobia: Global Legislation Overview Update’, International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, 2020. [Available [here](#)]

“While the Constitution of 2005 prohibited same-sex marriage, there was no law against same-sex sexual activity in Burundi until the adoption of the Penal Code of 2009. Article 567 of Section 5 states that “anyone who has sex with a person of the same sex” is liable to a fine of 50 000 to 100 000 Francs, or a prison sentence of 3 months to 2 years. Enforcement [:] In October 2017,

⁶ See Appendix 1.

⁷ « Le mariage entre deux personnes de même sexe est interdit. »

⁸ Code pénal, « Sous-section 3 : De l’homosexualité », article 564 : « Quiconque fait des relations sexuelles avec la personne de même sexe est puni d’une servitude pénale de trois mois à deux ans et d’une amende de cinquante mille francs à cent mille francs ou d’une de ces peines seulement. »

⁹ Code pénal, « Section 5 : Des outrages publics aux bonnes mœurs, de la zoophilie et de l’homosexualité ; Sous-section 1 : Des outrages publics aux bonnes mœurs », article 567 : « Quiconque a exposé, vendu ou distribué des chansons, pamphlets ou autres écrits, imprimés ou non, des figures, images, emblèmes ou autres objets contraires aux bonnes mœurs, est condamné à une amende de cinquante mille francs à cent mille francs. [...] Quiconque a chanté, lu, récité, fait entendre ou proféré des obscénités dans des réunions ou lieux publics devant plusieurs personnes et de manière à être entendu de ces personnes, est puni d’une amende de dix mille francs à vingt mille francs. »

several outlets reported that **numerous people had been arrested for “engaging in homosexuality” and forced to pay exorbitant bribes** for their release after a ‘hunt’ was announced that month. [...]

Article 564 of the Penal Code (2009) prohibits the exhibition, sale, or distribution of songs, pamphlets, writings, images, emblems, or other materials **“contrary to good morals”**. Furthermore, anyone who sings, reads, recites, or utters obscenities in meetings or public places in front of several people is punished with a fine. This provision is included in the same chapter as the provisions criminalizing sexual acts with beasts and people of the same sex.”

Source : « Burundi : Situation des minorités sexuelles et de genre », Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides, 25 January 2019. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*¹⁰ : “The **first conviction for homosexuality** under Article 567 of the Criminal Code took place in September 2014 and concerns a 32-year-old Vietnamese national. Arrested in Karuzi, in the commune of Bugenyuzi, he was released after three days after paying a fine of 100,000 Burundian francs (49 euros). This is the only case of conviction based on article 567 of the Criminal Code identified by the public sources of information consulted.”

Additional comment: **There has been no public report of another conviction based on article 567** since the OFPRA’s report in 2019.

Source: ‘Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant: Second periodic report of Burundi’, Human Rights Committee, 112th session, Summary record of the 3101st meeting, 2014. [Available [here](#)]

“4. Mr. Flinterman asked the delegation to comment on Ministerial Order No. 620/613 of 7 June 2011 of the Ministry of Basic Education, article 9 of which stated that homosexuality was one of the grounds for dismissal of students. [...]

8. Ms. Niragira (Burundi) said [...] Ministerial Order No. 620/613 was an order for implementing school regulations, which **defined how students should behave in school and forbade the infringement of decency standards**. The Order did not apply only to gay and lesbian students.”

Source: ‘Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Burundi’, U.S. Department of State, 2020. [Available [here](#)]

“The **law penalizes consensual same-sex sexual relations by adults** with up to two years in prison if convicted. There were no reports of prosecutions for same-sex sexual acts during the year. **The [la]w does not prohibit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) persons in housing, employment, nationality laws, and access to**

¹⁰ « La première condamnation pour homosexualité sur la base de l’article 567 du Code pénal a lieu en septembre 2014 et concerne un ressortissant vietnamien de 32 ans. Arrêté à Karuzi, dans la commune de Bugenyuzi, il est relâché au bout de trois jours après avoir payé une amende de 100.000 Francs burundais (49 euros). Il s’agit du seul cas de condamnation sur la base de l’article 567 du Code pénal recensé par les sources publiques d’information consultées. »

government services such as health care. Societal discrimination against LGBTI persons was common.”

2.2. A double discrimination in the public and private sphere

Homosexuality was already not accepted before its official criminalization, but the **legislation increased the discrimination** both in the public and in the private sphere. Most Burundians are Christian, which explains the **role played by the religion in the condemnation of homosexuality**. In consequence, **LGBT people face discrimination from public authorities** (including unemployment, physical violence, protests against LGBT) **and from their own family** (harassment, stigmatisation, or/and rejection).

Source: ‘Human Rights Committee considers report of Burundi’, Office of the High Commissioner, United Nation, 2014. [Available [here](#)]

“The Committee had received **evidence of homophobic attitudes and statements by senior Government officials**, even Ministers. It had received evidence of **detention or threats of detention for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and of discrimination against homosexual people in public and private employment.**”

Source: ‘“I love my country, but my country does not love me.” Human Rights: The Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Persons in Burundi (2003-2013)’, Mouvement pour les Libertés Individuelles, 2014. [Available [here](#)]

“Since 2010, MOLI recorded **multiple instances of discrimination, verbal and physical abuse, poor treatment**, and instances of persons being **shunned socially** or within their own families, threats of **harassment by private persons and reports of extortion by police against sexual minorities**. The most vulnerable category of persons is youth dependent on their parents for support. Many parents, upon discovering the sexual orientation of their children, **expel them from the family home**. Most of these individuals are still students without work, often between 15 and 20 years of age, and find themselves **forced to engage in sex acts to survive**. [...] Between May 2011 and January 2013, 17 cases of familiar exclusion (instances where a family shunned one of their members) were documented. Some have been successfully mediated, but others are still pending [These figures are derived from data compiled by the Social Reintegration Service of the Remuruka Community Center between May 2011 and January 2013]. [...]

Since 2010, **when homophobia was institutionalized in the form of Article 567**, MOLI has documented one case of physical violence and abuse sufficient to cause the partial paralysis of the victim’s upper limbs, 43 42 cases of verbal abuse and discrimination, 17 cases of individuals being rejected by their family and social networks, and 12 cases of threats and harassment on the basis of the victim’s sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Source: ‘The status of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in Burundi, A Shadow Report’, MOLI and Rainbow Candle Ligh, 2014. [Available [here](#)]

“**Not only is the State encouraging homophobia through its criminalization of same-sex relations, the situation of LGBT individuals in Burundi is worsened by public expressions of**

intolerance by high-level officials. [...] In March 2009, the government organized a demonstration in Bujumbura demanding the criminalization of same-sex sexual relations. Ten thousand people attended the demonstration, which was followed by public debates in which high-ranking officials spoke against decriminalization and against tolerance of acts that they ‘cursed.’ [...] On December 10, 2013, an International Human Rights Day celebration in support of LGBT individuals scheduled at the French Institute of Burundi by the Dutch Embassy was canceled without any official explanation. Reports suggest that the Minister of External Relations applied pressure on the Dutch Embassy to cancel the event, considered to be ‘against Burundi culture’.”

Source : « Comprendre les pratiques sexuelles des hommes ayant des rapports sexuels avec les hommes : Guide pour les intervenants dans la lutte contre le VIH/SIDA », MOLI, 2014. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*¹¹ : “Same-sex relationship has always existed in all societies. On the other hand, they have always been appreciated in different ways in each society. In addition, there are references to present homosexuality in many indigenous African languages. In ancient Burundi, for example, the term 'Umuswezi' and 'Umokonotsi' was used to designate 'sodomites'. [...] Reading these words, we can conclude that sexual practices between two men were viewed with a negative eye, but also there is no evidence that they were the cause of any social condemnation or exclusion. [...]

Regardless of the law, public opinion towards homosexuality in Burundi and other African countries can be extremely hostile. Compared to other continents, Africa ranks first in terms of opinion against homosexuality. **On average 85 to 99% of the African population consider that homosexuality should not be accepted by society.**”

Source : « Burundi: Situation des personnes LGBTQI+ », Organisation Suisse d’Aide aux Réfugiés - OSAR, 28 October 2022. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*¹²: “Hostile discourse from the president and institutions. Incitement to violence and violence by state officials. According to the OHCHR, Burundian

¹¹ « Les rapports sexuels entre deux personnes de même sexe ont toujours existé, et ce dans toutes les sociétés. Par contre, elles ont toujours été appréciées de différentes manières dans chaque société. En outre, il y a des références à présenter l'homosexualité dans de nombreuses langues indigènes africaines. Dans le Burundi ancien par exemple, on parlait de ‘Umuswezi’ et ‘Umokonotsi’ pour désigner les ‘sodomites’. [...] A la lecture de ces mots, on peut conclure que les pratiques sexuelles entre deux hommes étaient vues d'un mauvais œil, mais aussi rien ne prouve qu'elles ont étaient la cause d'une condamnation ou exclusion sociale quelconque. [...]

Indépendamment de la loi, l'opinion publique envers l'homosexualité au Burundi et dans d'autres pays africains peut être extrêmement hostile. Comparé à d'autres continents, l'Afrique se range en première position sur l'opinion défavorable à l'homosexualité. En moyenne 85 à 99% de la population africaine considèrent que l'homosexualité ne doit pas être acceptée par la société. »

¹² “Discours hostile de la part du président et des institutions. Incitation à la violence et violences de la part des agents de l’État. Selon le HCDH, le président burundais Évariste Ndayishimiye a, à au moins à deux reprises en 2020, pris la parole en public pour diaboliser et stigmatiser les personnes homosexuelles. Cela notamment lors de son discours d’investiture, puis lors d’une prière catholique d’action de grâce, en compagnie de sa famille (HCDH, 16 septembre 2020). D’après un tweet d’Ikiriho, site d’information proche du pouvoir, recueilli par l’OFPRA, un communiqué du Conseil National de Sécurité de juillet 2018 « condamne la pratique de l’homosexualité au Burundi et demande aux services concernés d’endiguer ce fléau » (OFPRA, 25 janvier 2019). En 2022, l’USDOS a relevé que des agents du gouvernement ont incité à tolérer et encouragé la violence contre les personnes LGBTQI+ (USDOS, juin 2022).”

President Evariste Ndayishimiye spoke publicly to demonize and stigmatize gay and lesbian persons on at least two occasions in 2020. This included during his inaugural speech and then at a Catholic thanksgiving prayer with his family (OHCHR [High Commissioner for Human Rights], September 16, 2020). According to a tweet from Ikiriho, a news site close to the government, collected by OFPRA, a July 2018 **communiqué from the National Security Council "condemns the practice of homosexuality in Burundi and asks the relevant services to curb this scourge"** (OFPRA, January 25, 2019). In 2022, USDOS noted that **government officials incited, condoned, and encouraged violence against LGBTQI+ individuals** (USDOS, June 2022)."

Additional comment on the sources used: There is a lack of data on the LGBT rights dating after 2019¹³. More recent reports all refer to the OFPRA's report.

2.3. Impacts of the discriminations against LGBT people

The criminal law **increases human rights violations against LGBT people**. As a result, they have **limited access to education and medical care**. Moreover, **they do not have the right to constitute associations**. Finally, the LGBT community faces several **ill-treatments from the public authorities** including arbitrary detention and hindered access to judges.

Source: 'The status of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in Burundi, A Shadow Report', MOLI and Rainbow Candle Ligh, 2014. [Available [here](#)]

"In recent years there have been **numerous cases of LGBT community members in Burundi being illegally arrested and detained** by law enforcement. In some instances, the reason for their detention is their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. In other instances, LGBT persons have been detained after reporting being the victim of a crime."

"The State of Burundi is failing in its obligation to prevent discrimination in education. Articles 2(1) and 26 of the ICCPR [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights] prohibit discrimination in education. The LGBT community has a **high dropout rate because of the daily discrimination and violence individuals** suffer at the hands of teachers and students in schools."

"LGBT organizations in Burundi are not permitted to register unless they work in the field of HIV [Human immunodeficiency virus]/AIDS [Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome]. **The absence of a legal status prevents LGBT groups from defending the rights of sexual minorities**. By preventing LGBT groups from registering, **the State of Burundi is exposing vulnerable persons to greater risk because they have no one to protect them and fully represent their interests.**"

¹³ 'Burundi: Situation des minorités sexuelles et de genre', Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides – OFPRA, 25 janvier 2019

Source: « Turi Abande? (Où allons-nous appartenons?): Une analyse de paysage des droits humains des communautés des professionnels du sexe et LGBT au Burundi », The East African Sexual Health & Rights Initiative – UHAI EASHR), 2016. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*¹⁴ : “Although the legal framework around the legal recognition of associations is perceived as offering the possibility for LGBT organizations to register, there is **no LGBT organization registered as for LGBT protection; those that have tried have been denied registration.** [...]”

MOLI [...] reported that most cases of violence often go unnoticed because of the prevailing **insecurity conditions** in Bujumbura. This implies that the usual procedures for reporting offences to law enforcement are undermined because the rule of law is no longer functional. [...]

Most reported arrests and detentions by the Police of LGBT people are characterized by a lack of due process, and LGBT people are often detained for reasons other than flagrante delicto of homosexuality.”

¹⁴ « Bien que le cadre légal s’articulant autour de la reconnaissance légale des associations se perçoit comme offrant la possibilité aux organisations LGBT de se faire enregistrer, aucune organisation LGBT n’est enregistrée comme identitaire ; celles qui ont essayé ont été déniées d’enregistrement. [...]

MOLI [...] a rapporté que la plupart des cas de violence passant souvent inaperçus à cause des conditions d’insécurité prévalant à Bujumbura. Ceci implique que les procédures habituelles de rapportage des infractions aux forces de l’ordre sont ébranlées car l’autorité de la loi n’est plus fonctionnelle. [...]

La plupart des arrestations et détention par la Police des personnes LGBT rapportées sont caractérisées par une absence d’une procédure régulière, et les personnes LGBT sont souvent détenues pour d’autres motifs que le flagrant délit de l’homosexualité »

3) Women's right

Burundi has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1992, but not its Optional Protocol. International organizations and NGOs present in Burundi have reported **three main hurdles relating to women's rights in Burundi**. First, the **lack of access to sexual and reproductive health and rights** (3.1). Second, there are **obstacles to women's representation in political offices** (3.2). Finally, the legal and customary framework hinders the emancipation of women as they face more **difficulties to inherit or access land** (3.3).

3.1. The lack of access to sexual and reproductive health and rights

Reproductive health in Burundi is still improving. Indeed, three issues remain: first, women **do not have access to family planning** to manage their reproductive rights; secondly, due to a weak health system, the **maternal mortality rate is very high** in the country; and lastly, they face the **risks of unsafe abortions**, due to the criminalization of abortion in most cases.

Source: 'FGM prevalence among girls and women aged 15 to 49 years, by residence and wealth quintile (%)', United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund - UNICEF 2022. [Available [here](#)]

In accordance with the current documentation, there is **reportedly no risk of genital mutilation in Burundi, but there is no available official data on the matter**.

Source: 'Burundi', Africa country fact sheet, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment for Women - UNWOMEN, 2021. [Available [here](#)]

"Women of reproductive age (15-49 years) often face **barriers with respect to their sexual and reproductive health and rights**: in 2017, 39.6% of women had their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods."

Source: 'Maternal mortality', UNICEF, September 2021. [Available [here](#)]

"The **maternal mortality ratio** in Burundi is 548 per 100,000 live births, which **corresponds to a very high maternal mortality rate** according to the classification of this report."

Source: 'Trends in Maternal Mortality: 2000 to 2017', - WHO, UNICEF, United Nations Fund for Population Activities - UNFPA, World Bank Group, and the United Nations Population Division, 2019. [Available [here](#)]

“**The maternal mortality rate has decreased by half since the year 2000**, going from 1,010 per 100,000 live births, to 548 in 2017.”

Source: ‘Sexual and reproductive health and rights: infographic snapshot: Burundi 2021’, WHO, 2021. [Available [here](#)]

This report accounts for the laws and policies that allow safe abortion. It mentions that **the only case where safe abortion is allowed is to save a woman’s life**. Safe abortion is **not allowed** in the following cases: to preserve a woman's physical health, to preserve a woman's mental health, in case of rape, in case of incest, owing to foetal impairment, for economic or social reasons, or on request.

Source : « Aucune femme ne devrait mourir en donnant la vie », *Iwacu*, Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS), 12 January 2022. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*¹⁵: “The Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Burundi (AGOB) in collaboration with the National Program of Reproductive Health (PNSR) organized its 5th congress, 2021 edition, to strengthen the knowledge and practices of health care personnel to improve the quality of maternal and neonatal care. With the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality is promising. (...)”

The causes of maternal and infant deaths are known. In particular, **hemorrhage after delivery, infections during delivery, high blood pressure during pregnancy, abortion performed in poor safety conditions**. In addition, there are "prolonged labor problems", as the speakers explained so well. (...)

According to the Assistant to the Minister in charge of Public Health, Dr. Onesphore Nzigirabarya, **maternal health remains a major concern because maternal, neonatal and infant mortality remains very high compared** to the targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and he explains the causes: "These high death rates are due to complications related to pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum, but also to a very low use of contraception. In addition, the quality of

¹⁵ « L’association de gynécologie obstétrique du Burundi (AGOB) en collaboration avec le Programme National de Santé de la Reproduction (PNSR) a organisé son 5ème congrès, édition 2021, en vue de renforcer les connaissances et les pratiques du personnel soignant pour améliorer la qualité des soins maternels et néonataux. Avec l’appui de l’Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS), la réduction de la mortalité maternelle et néonatale est prometteuse. (...) Les causes des décès maternels et infantiles sont connues. Notamment l’hémorragie après l’accouchement, les infections au cours de l’accouchement, l’hypertension durant la grossesse, l’avortement pratiqué dans les mauvaises conditions de sécurité. A celles-ci s’ajoutent : « les problèmes de travail prolongés », comme l’ont si bien expliqué les conférenciers. (...) Selon l’Assistant de la Ministre en charge de la santé publique, Dr Onesphore Nzigirabarya, la santé maternelle reste une préoccupation majeure du fait que la mortalité maternelle, néonatale et infanto-juvénile demeure très élevée par rapport aux cibles fixées par les Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) et il en explique les causes : « Ces taux de décès élevés, sont enregistrés suite aux complications liées à la grossesse, à l’accouchement, celles liées au post-partum mais également à un très faible recours à la contraception. A cela s’ajoute la qualité de l’offre des services fournis par les prestataires sanitaires vis-à-vis des sollicitations des patientes enceintes prêtes à accoucher », a indiqué Dr Nzigirabarya. (...) Docteur Eugénie Niane, responsable du programme santé maternelle, néonatale et infantile au bureau pays du Burundi, qui a représenté l’OMS, lance un appel à tous les médecins gynéco-obstétriciens afin qu’ils travaillent ensemble pour éliminer les décès maternels, et néonataux : « Les chiffres ne sont pas la réalité. La réalité est encore cachée. Et nous avons constaté qu’il est possible d’accélérer le recul de cette mortalité. »

the services provided by health care providers in response to requests from pregnant patients ready to give birth," said Dr. Nzigirabirya. (...)

Dr. Eugenie Niane, head of the maternal, neonatal and child health program at the Burundi country office, who represented WHO, appealed to all gynecologists to work together to eliminate maternal and neonatal deaths: **‘The numbers are not the reality. The reality is still hidden. And we have seen that it is possible to accelerate the decline of this mortality.’**”

Source: Egide Nikiza, « A quand la dépenalisation de l’avortement », *YAGA Burundi*, 7 October 2017. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*¹⁶: “It was on September 28, in the city of Bujumbura, during the international day of decriminalization of abortion. In front of an audience of parliamentarians, religious and civil society activists. [Espérance Ntirampeba, President of the Association solidarité des femmes burundaises pour la lutte contre le Sida] pleaded in favor of voluntary interruption of pregnancy for specific cases: incest, rape and sexual assault. Unfortunately, her request was not granted. (...)

It is not possible to invoke even the Maputo Protocol of 2003¹⁷ to demand the decriminalization of abortion. It is true that Burundi signed it on December 3, 2003. However, **the ratification of this text, which will recognize the absolute right of Burundian women to abortion in advanced cases, is still pending.**”

3.2. Women’s difficult path to parity in political instances

Even though **Burundi has one of the highest rates of women elected to national and decentralized offices in Africa**, the **parity is still hard to achieve during the colline elections and for appointed public offices**. Women face more **difficulties when campaigning**: sexist threats, fewer resources, less mobility, and a less well-developed political network.

Source: ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi’, Human Rights Council, 13 August 2020. [Available [here](#)]

¹⁶ « C’était le 28 septembre, dans la ville de Bujumbura, lors de la journée internationale de dépenalisation de l’avortement. Devant un parterre de parlementaires, de religieux, d’activistes de la Société civile. Elle a plaidé en faveur de l’interruption volontaire de la grossesse pour des cas particuliers : l’inceste, le viol et l’agression sexuelle. Malheureusement, sa demande n’a pas eu une suite favorable. (...) Aucune possibilité d’invoquer même le protocole de Maputo de 2003 pour revendiquer la dépenalisation de l’avortement. Certes le Burundi l’a signé le 3 décembre 2003. Cependant, la ratification de ce texte, qui reconnaîtra aux femmes burundaises le droit absolu d’avorter pour les cas avancés, se fait toujours attendre ».

¹⁷ The Maputo Protocol is the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. It contains in its article XIV, §2, c) an obligation of States Parties to “Protect the reproductive rights of women by authorising medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, and where the continued pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the mother or the life of the mother or the foetus.”

52. **In 2020, 52 per cent of Burundian voters are women.** The Constitution provides for a 30 per cent gender quota system, which has been implemented under the Electoral Code through a co-opting mechanism and blocked lists. **Burundi ranks among the countries in Africa with the highest rate of women elected to national and decentralized office**, for example with 39 per cent of the National Assembly and 41 per cent of the Senate. In accordance with the constitutional quota, 5 of the 15 ministers in President Ndayishimiye’s Government are women. However, on average, only 12 to 18 percent of those appointed or elected to institutions without gender quotas, such as provincial governorships or hill district councils, have been women. **This shows the importance of special measures to accelerate the achievement of de facto equality between men and women in the country.**

53. In the context of the electoral process, **women members of opposition parties were victims of arbitrary arrest and detention, but also of intimidation and threats**, particularly when the electoral lists were published. Such actions were aimed at discouraging them from actively participating in the electoral process or at blocking them from exercising their civil liberties.

54. The **electoral violence** experienced by women is different from that affecting men. It is **inherently sexist** and is also linked to the **preservation of traditional gender roles and structural gender inequalities**. Burundian women who engage in politics face multiple forms of **discrimination**, as there is a perception that political activity is difficult to reconcile with their roles as wives and mothers. Such prejudices, all of which **block women from exercising their fundamental freedoms**, exist both in the private sphere and in the political parties. The difficulties and violence suffered by women in the opposition is made worse by the general climate of intolerance towards the political opposition.

55. The Commission **was unable to document sexual violence directly related to the electoral process, in part owing to time constraints**. Because of the trauma and stigma attached to such acts, victims are often **discouraged from immediately reporting them.**”

Source: ‘Political participation of Women in Burundi - Case study’, Saskia Brand, MDF Training and Consultancy, May 2018. [Available [here](#)]

“The impact of the quota can be appreciated when experience with the general elections is **compared to the colline elections, where no rule determines the male/female balance**. During the 2015 elections, only 22% of the candidates were women and 15% out of all elected representatives were women. Chances to become a council member were higher than to become chief: 17 versus 6% on average, although there is some variation between provinces. Interesting too, is that the odds for a male candidate to get elected are more than twice as high as for a female candidate (68% against only 29% for women). This reflects the **difficulties that women experience in campaigning**: fewer resources, less mobility, and a less well-developed political network result in less exposure to their potential electorate and fewer moments to influence. (...)

The quota does also not apply to appointed public offices.”

3.3. Women's difficult access to land rights

There are still obstacles to women's ownership and access to factors of production in order to develop an activity or to have more responsibility in the field of work. Mainly, the problem lies within the **failure of formal right to inherit, the difficult access to land, and the trend to favor male family members in the registration of land rights**. But progress has been strong in terms of the recognition of the right of *igiseke* (a woman's right to cultivate a portion of her father's land in case she is abandoned or widowed).

Source: 'Political participation of Women in Burundi - Case study', Saskia Brand, MDF Training and Consultancy. 2018. [Available [here](#)]

“Social relations in Burundi are characterized by **patriarchal rule and patrilineal descent, leading to male dominance and persistent conventions about gender roles**. Although the constitution says otherwise (c.f. Article 25), convention demands that **women ask permission from their husbands (or fathers) to move and speak in the public space. Their access to resources is weak, since they have no formal right to inherit**. The **scarcity of land makes any advocacy for the inheritance rights of women a sensitive topic**, which is therefore mostly avoided.”

Source: 'Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Burundi Addendum Information provided by Burundi in follow-up to the concluding observations', Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – CEDAW, 26 August 2019. [Available [here](#)]

“22. (...) The Committee had recommended that the State party:

23. Urgently finalize and adopt the draft revised Code of the Person and the Family, as well as the bill on inheritance, matrimonial regimes and gifts, in line with the recommendations accepted by the State party during the universal periodic review in 2013.

24. Regarding the draft Code of the Person and the Family, we refer to the response above. Regarding the bill on inheritance, matrimonial regimes and gifts, the Government of Burundi informs the Committee that it is aware of the **problem of women's access to factors of production, more particularly access to land**, and is sparing no effort to find a lasting solution.

25. In fact, the problem of the **absence of a written law governing inheritance, matrimonial regimes and gifts is of concern** to the Government and is among its priorities. It was in this context that work was undertaken on a bill on inheritance, matrimonial regimes and gifts in order that this area be governed by an egalitarian written law to replace customs.”

Added comment: There has been no reform of the Code of the Person and the Family since. The provisions referred to by the Committee seem to be the appointment of men as head of the conjugal community (formed after marriage), only to be replaced by women in their absence.

Source: 'Strengthening Women's Customary Right to Land', International Development Law Organisation - IDLO. [Available [here](#)]

“**Registering women’s land rights is challenging** in Burundi. Studies by IDLO have shown that while women were the main rights holders to nearly 25% of the land, **only a small fraction of these rights were actually registered in a woman’s name.**

Part of the problem lies in the fact that **under customary law a woman’s rights to land will often be subject to a superior right of a male family member.** In practice, because **men’s rights often have superior status under customary law,** only their rights make it onto the certificate.

Consequently, women’s rights grow weaker. A woman who under customary law has the right to cultivate a portion of her father’s land in case she is abandoned or widowed - a right called *igiseke* in Burundi - may find it harder to exercise her claim or defend herself in case her brother wishes to sell the land and argues that only his name appears on the certificate.

This is particularly problematic because **these rights will often act as an insurance policy for women to protect them in times of hardship and destitution,** such as a bad harvest, women who are abandoned or widowed, or whose husband falls ill. (...)

Progress was particularly strong in terms of the recognition of the right of *igiseke* registered directly in a woman’s name, up from 2.56% to 12.35%, and the right of *igiseke* recognized as a derived right, where the woman cannot be evicted even if the owner should sell the property, up from 1.13% to 21.67%. Finally, widows’ rights to their deceased husband’s land increased from 32.21% to 62.50%.”

4) Health system

There is a **lack of access to health services** in Burundi, as a result of different factors, including the historic background, poverty and the **limited resources of health public centers (4.1).** The government does not invest in the health area, which significantly affects the quality and availability of health care. Therefore, **numerous waves of epidemics** such as Malaria in 2019 or Covid-19 since 2020 endanger the lives of the population and affect the country, which overwhelms the health systems. **Epilepsy (4.2) and mental health in general (4.3) are a taboo** in Burundi society.

4.1 Health system failures

Poverty, which has been exacerbated by the various civil wars since the 1990s, is a factor preventing access to health systems. Indeed, on the one hand, **the population cannot afford to be treated**, and on the other hand, **the health centers do not have sufficient resources** to provide the necessary care to patients. These difficulties are reinforced by the **successive waves of epidemics** which saturate the already precarious health system.

Source: Tom Bundervoet and others, 'Health and Civil War in Rural Burundi', The Journal of Human Resources, pp. 536, pp. 537, Spring 2009. [Available [here](#)]

“The 1990s were a particularly violent decade in Central Africa's history. Burundi and Rwanda experienced several episodes of mass murder and genocide, and the regional civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo created an enormous loss of life and socioeconomic destruction [...] Civil wars often have immediate negative economic impacts through the destruction of

productive capacity and the disruption of normal activity. **Between 1990 and 2002, per capita income in Burundi fell from \$210 to \$110 leaving Burundi as the world's poorest country.**"

Source: 'Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Burundi (A/HRC/48/68)', Human Rights Council, Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, 2021. [Available [here](#)]

"In terms of health, **access to health-care services is jeopardized by the population's limited financial means and an inadequate network of medical facilities** that cannot provide the breadth of services required. President Ndayishimiye's pledge to ensure that all 119 communes have a hospital has yet to be fulfilled."

[...] "However, **most health-care centers do not have the resources or skills necessary to provide victims with appropriate care specific to their needs.** Comprehensive emergency services are insufficient and hard to access, with only six integrated centers in the entire country, whose operational capacity has dropped significantly since World Bank funding came to an end."

Source: 'Human rights in Africa: review of 2019', Amnesty International, April 2020. [Available [here](#)]

"**The right to health care was under extreme threat in countries including Burundi [...].** In Burundi, over 3,100 people died of malaria."

[...] "**The humanitarian situation remained dire.** The World Health Organisation reported that there were more than 8.5 million cases of malaria from which 3,170 people died during the year."

Source: 'Burundi's 'Worst Enemy': the Country's Fight Against COVID-19', Manirambona et al. Kesmas: Jurnal Kesehatan Masyarakat Nasional (National Public Health Journal), 31 July 2021. [Available [here](#)]

"Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has proved to be a **severe global public health threat**, causing high infection rates and mortality worldwide."

[...] Burundi has faced many challenges in containing the virus, the first of which was the lack of initial preparedness and appropriate response to COVID-19. This was exacerbated by factors including **shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), limited numbers of life-saving ventilators** (around 12 ventilators as of April 2020), and the presence of **only one COVID-19 testing center** with less than ten technicians in July 2020. Moreover, as Burundi is amongst the poorest countries in the world, **some citizens were unable to access necessities such as water and soap**, required for compliance with government recommendations regarding hygiene. Interestingly, Burundi **did not implement a nationwide lockdown, allowing mass gatherings and public services to continue as usual due to a firm belief in God's protection.**"

Source: 'Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi 2020 (A/HRC/45/32)', Human Rights Council, 2020. [Available [here](#)]

"Burundi has faced a **cholera epidemic** since June 2019, an **epidemic-scale "upsurge" of malaria** cases since January 2019 and **the COVID-19 pandemic** since March 2020, and it has had to

prepare for a **possible outbreak of the Ebola virus**, which has been circulating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 2018”.

4.2. Consideration of epilepsy

Epilepsy is a chronic noncommunicable disease of the brain that affects people of all ages and can be cured when there is handling of diagnosed patients. Even if it's possible to find data on the stigmatization of epilepsy patients in Africa, it is **difficult to obtain recent sources on epilepsy in Burundi**. This reflects the difficulty of managing this disease, especially as there is **only one specialized center for the treatment of epileptics throughout the country, called the Action Centre for the Promotion of the Fight against Epilepsy (is often referred to as APLE) in Bujumbura**. Moreover, the **medicines are not covered by the public insurance service** and they are difficult to access.

Source: *'Epilepsy - Human Rights'*, World Health Organization, February 2022. [Available [here](#)].

“People with epilepsy can experience reduced access to educational opportunities, a withholding of the opportunity to obtain a driving licence, barriers to enter particular occupations, and reduced access to health and life insurance.”

Source: *'Epileptic people discriminated in Burundi'*, IWACU English News Burundi, August 2017. [Available [here](#)]

“Epileptics are treated abominably and unfairly in Burundian society [...]. They are described as bewitched and possessed by a demonic spirit [...]. “Most of them confirm that they are discriminated in the society which is why they fear to consult health centers”.

Source: B. L. Nininahazwe *'Epileptics suffer from lack of medicine'*, IWACU English News Burundi, February 2019. [Available [here](#)]

“Like some other brain related medicines, anti-epileptic drugs are very expensive and most of Burundians cannot afford to buy them” [...]. “Some of the patients are obliged to interrupt drugs because they have no money to buy them. This causes the disease to be resistant and it becomes difficult to cure it” [...]. “The APLE (Center of Action against Epilepsy) legal representative calls on the ministry of health to make available antiepileptic drugs at an affordable price. ‘It is among chronic and non-communicable diseases. As the ministry of health is tackling issues regarding other chronic diseases, epilepsy should also be included and the prices of its drugs should therefore be reduced’”.

Source: J. Misago *« L'épilepsie, une maladie peu connue au Burundi »*, IWACU, les voix du Burundi, 13 February 2019. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*¹⁸ : “Around 3,000 people have been treated at the Action Centre for the Promotion of the Fight against Epilepsy in Bujumbura since 2019. This is the **only center specialized in the treatment of this disease at national level**”.

Source: G. Nsengiyumva, « L'épilepsie au Burundi : problème de santé publique méconnu », Doctoral thesis, p.38, October 2005. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*¹⁹: “The paramedical paramedics working in primary health care have few skills to recognise and manage epilepsy and as a result **patient with epilepsy rarely come to these centers**. Health workers and the population are under the illusion that epilepsy is a rare disease and therefore not a public health problem. A fortiori, given the prevalence of probable risk factors for epilepsy in Burundi, one can assume that there is any of the likely risk factors for epilepsy in Burundi, it can be assumed that epilepsy has an unrecognized public health importance. This **disease affects 13 % inhabitants in some places**²⁰”.

4.3. Consideration of mental health

Mental health troubles are a taboo in Burundi. Many mental disorders have emerged with the civil war, including bipolar disorders, depression, etc. **Burundians with mental illnesses are not treated, mostly for economic reasons** as they cannot afford treatment. Also, because the **lack of money, in itself, creates an environment conducive to the development of mental illness**. In addition, people affected by a mental illness are **stigmatized by society** and the government allocates a **very small part of its national budget to mental health**²¹. The difficulty in finding sources seems to show the low consideration of this subject in Burundi.

Source: Mariam Abaza, ‘Addressing Mental Health in Burundi’, The Borgen Project, 7 December 2021. [Available [here](#)]

“**The aftermath of the war created a ripple of trauma for many citizens**. A 2018 study by Nkengurutse and Bitangumutwenzi illuminates the **severity of mental health in Burundi**. The study included 120 subjects from ages 15 to 55. The results were frighteningly dire: 100% of patients had some form of moderate to severe mental illness. About 57% suffered depression, 20% had “psychotic features,” 13% had bipolar disorder, 8% received a schizophrenia diagnosis and 65% were victims of trauma.

¹⁸ « Environ 3000 personnes, tel est le nombre d'épileptiques accueillis et pris en charge depuis 2016 au Centre d'action pour la promotion de la lutte contre l'épilepsie à Bujumbura. Celui-ci est le seul centre spécialisé dans le traitement de de cette maladie au niveau national ».

¹⁹ « Le personnel paramédical qui œuvre au niveau des soins de santé primaires dispose de peu de compétences pour reconnaître et prendre en charge l'épilepsie et de ce fait les malades épileptiques viennent rarement se confier à ces structures. Le personnel de santé et la population restent alors dans l'illusion que la maladie épileptique est rare et qu'elle ne constitue pas par conséquent un problème de santé publique. A fortiori, étant donné la prévalence des facteurs de risque probable de l'épilepsie au Burundi, on peut présumer d'une importance méconnue de l'épilepsie sur le plan de la santé publique. Cette maladie atteint d'ailleurs 13 % habitants dans certains endroits ».

²⁰ E.D. Newell, 'Epilepsy, retard growth and onchocerciasis, in two areas of different endemicity of onchocerciasis in Burundi' (1997), Volume 91, Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, pages 525-527.

²¹ See Appendix 3.

Subjects remained as inpatients for about 20 days. Mental health stigma (60%) and “poor economic insertion” (90%) stood as barriers to full recovery. After a year, 30% of treated patients reported a full recovery while 42% went into relapse”.

“[...] **Poor mental health directly correlates with poverty.** The Psychiatric Times observed that childhood poverty may lead to depression and anxiety, a decline in school performance and an increased rate of “psychiatric disorders in adulthood.” This impact on education is evident in Burundi as the nation’s literacy rate stood at about 68% in 2017, well below the world average of 86%.

In addition, poverty has direct links to depression, anxiety, psychological distress and suicidality. This causal relationship between poverty and mental illness creates a constant loop that is especially dangerous in Burundi where it is extremely difficult to escape the cycle of poverty. Poverty leads to poor mental health, which impedes the ability of individuals to pull themselves out of the depths of poverty, thus worsening their mental states. In 2019, the Mental Health Innovation Network stated that ‘90% of people with mental illnesses have no access to treatment, especially in [impoverished] and rural areas’.”

Source: Franck Arnaud Ndorukwigira, « Soins de santé mentale au Burundi : cinq challenges à relever », Yaga Burundi, 30 October 2020. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*²²: “in Burundi **4 out of 10 people** had psychological disorders; These are staggering figures in a country where the share of mental health in the overall health budget was only 0.43% in 2008 and 1% in 2019, which in turn hinders the provision of care for people with mental disorders”.

Source: ‘Adressing Mental Health in Burundi’, HealthNet TPO, April 2022. [Available [here](#)]

“**The notion of mental health is still struggling to find its place in communities in Burundi.** Mental health has long been relegated to the **realm of taboo and superstition.** The tendency is to consider mental illnesses, that are unknown to the population, as supernatural sufferings that can only be cured by spiritual interventions or by resorting to traditional medicines and rituals”.

5) Children’s right

Children face several human rights violations, which have been widely documented and worsened by the political crisis in 2015. Even if various **laws** have been **adopted to protect children against forced labor and sexual violence**, these laws remain **largely unenforced**. Moreover, the violence committed against children is sometimes committed by public authorities, such as teachers and/or members of political movements, which makes the **violence suffered difficult to report**. The combination of these different elements means that **children are deprived of their right to access education** (5.1). As a result, and to face poverty, they are **exposed to child labor** (5.2). Also, children in Burundi are subject to violence, particularly to **sexual violence** (5.3) and they are recruited as **child soldiers** (5.4).

²² « Une étude en 2019 a montré qu’au Burundi, 4 personnes sur 10 présentaient des troubles psychologiques. Des chiffres qui donnent le tournis dans un pays où la part de la santé mentale dans le budget global alloué à la santé n’est que de 0,43 % en 2008 et 1 % en 2019, entravant par ricochet, la prise en charge ».

Source: ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (A/HRC/45/32)’, Human Rights Council, Commission on Inquiry on Burundi, 6 October 2020. [Available [here](#)]

“**Since the beginning of the crisis in 2015, children have regularly been victims of violations of their human rights**, including their rights to liberty, security and physical integrity; they have, in particular, been victims of sexual violence”.

5.1. Access to education

Children in Burundi face many challenges that **severely limit their access to education**. Firstly, a significant proportion of children are **forced to drop out of school**, especially young girls, due to family poverty or unwanted pregnancies. The educational conditions are miserable in some areas, with a **lack of infrastructure and school materials**, which affects the proper learning of pupils. This lack of resources has an even greater impact on children with difficulties or disabilities, who cannot be cared for properly due to a **lack of qualified staff**.

Source: ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Burundi (A/HRC/48/68)’, Human Rights Council, Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, 2021. [Available [here](#)]

“In 2020, **more than half of children** aged between 4 and 19 years old in the provinces bordering Tanzania **were not enrolled in school.**”

Source: « Rapport annuel édition 2020 », Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l’Homme – CNIDH, April 2021. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*²³ : “**For the 2019-2020 school year, the dropout rate is estimated to average 35% across the country.** The DPE [private education directorate] in Bujumbura Town Hall reported that during the 2019-2020 school year, it recorded 7047 dropouts in Bujumbura Town Hall. [...] These dropouts are said to be **due to unwanted pregnancies of pupils** (91 cases recorded during 2019-2020 school year), dislocation, moving and family’s poverty”.

*Unofficial translation from French*²⁴ : “**School infrastructure remains insufficient. The administrative authorities deplore that this situation has a negative impact on the right to**

²³ « Pour l’année scolaire 2019-2020, le taux d’abandon scolaire est estimé en moyenne à 35 % à travers tout le pays. La DPE (Direction Provinciale de l’Enseignement) en Mairie de Bujumbura a signalé que durant l’année scolaire 2019-2020, elle a enregistré 7047 abandons en Mairie de Bujumbura, dont 3228 filles (soit 45, 8%). Ces abandons seraient dus aux grossesses non désirées des élèves (91 cas enregistrés durant l’année scolaire 2019-2020), à la dislocation, au déménagement et à la pauvreté des ménages ».

²⁴ « Les infrastructures scolaires restent insuffisantes. Les autorités administratives déplorent que cette situation a un impact négatif sur le droit à l’éducation. A titre d’exemple, dans certains endroits, l’occupation d’un banc pupitre par 4 élèves au lieu de 2 occupants dénote une situation inconfortable pendant les pratiques enseignantes et cela affecte le

education. For example, in some places, the occupation of a desk by 4 pupils instead of 2 denotes an uncomfortable situation during teaching practices and affects the well-being of pupils, the way they learn and the success rate”.

*Unofficial translation from French*²⁵ : “Furthermore, **although many school infrastructures have been built, the number of qualified teachers is still insufficient. Classrooms are overcrowded** in several schools, which consequently compromises the quality of education. In addition, **some of the most vulnerable children face enormous difficulties in education and teaching.** These include repatriated children, indigenous Batwa children, children with disabilities and orphans”.

Source: Lewis Mudge, ‘Burundi: expelled for Doodles’, Human Rights Watch - H.R.W, 12 April 2019. [Available [here](#)]

“In a letter dated March 20, the director at the Akamuri school accused five of the seven children arrested on March 12 – aged 13 to 17 years old – of ‘falsifying their school books’, a violation of school regulation, and expelled them permanently from the school. [...] The student’s parents are understandably concerned for their children’s future. One parent [...] said her daughter was ‘traumatized’. [...] **This type of petty punishment is becoming commonplace in Burundi.** In 2016, hundreds of children were expelled from several schools for scribbling on the president’s face in textbooks”.

5.2. Child labor

Child labor has **become widespread in Burundi** as a coping mechanism for the crisis. Indeed, due to the difficulty of access to education, **26% of children between the ages of five and fourteen were working instead of being at school** between 2009 and 2015.²⁶ Thus, the country has **established a legal framework** to regulate child labor with the **Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor**, allowing only light work after the age of twelve. However, this legal framework only applies to formal work and requires denunciations in order to be controlled. However, the **majority of child labor is informal and/or is carried out within families.** Another issue concerns a loophole in the law, which no longer regulates child labor in armed conflict from the age of 15.

Source: ‘2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Burundi’, United States (US) Department of State. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, 2020. [Available [here](#)]

bien-être des élèves, la façon d’apprendre ainsi que le taux de réussite ».

²⁵ « Par ailleurs, même si beaucoup d’infrastructures scolaires ont été construites, le nombre d’enseignants qualifiés est encore insuffisant. Des classes sont surpeuplées dans plusieurs établissements scolaires, ce qui hypothèque par conséquent la qualité de l’enseignement. En outre, certains enfants plus vulnérables éprouvent des difficultés énormes en matière d’éducation et d’enseignement. Il s’agit notamment des enfants rapatriés, des enfants autochtones Batwa, des enfants souffrant d’un handicap et des orphelins ».

²⁶ See Appendix 2.

“**The minister of labor permitted children aged 12 and older to be employed in ‘light labor’,** such as selling newspapers, herding cattle, or preparing food. **The legal minimum age for most types of ‘non dangerous’ labor varies between 16 and 18. The law prohibits children from working at night and limits them to 40 hours work per week”.**

“[...] **The law does not prohibit all of the worst forms of child labor.** The prohibition on hazardous employment did not cover all forms of hazardous agricultural work [...]. The law does not prohibit the use of children in the production and trafficking of narcotics”.

“**Many children worked in the informal sector,** such as in family businesses, selling in the streets, and working in small local brickworks. There were instances of children being employed as beggars”.

Source : ‘Child Labour in Africa: These are the 8 Worst African Countries for Child Labour’, Talk Africana, December 2018. [Available [here](#)]

“**Nearly one in five children in Burundi are engaged in some kind of labor activity** such as working as domestic helps (primarily girls), working in the family owned agricultural fields as well as industrial plantations, and other types of child labor activities”.

Source: ‘Child Labor and Forced Labor Reports’, US Department of Labor, 2021. [Available [here](#)]

“Although the Constitution prohibits the use of children in armed conflict, the Penal Code criminalizes only the use of children under age 15 in armed conflict, **leaving children between the ages of 15 and 18 vulnerable to this worst form of child labor”.**

5.3. Violence against children, the issue of sexual violence and forced marriage

Children are confronted to violence, on the one hand physical violence, notably with the problem of sexual violence. Most of those affected are girls, at a very early age. There is **no medical and psychological support for child survivors of sexual abuses**. Moreover, perpetrators are not accountable for their acts as **some sexual abuses are committed by their teachers**. On the other hand, there is psychological violence related to **forced marriages** in particular.

Source : « Rapport annuel d’activités : exercice 2021 », CNIDH, February 2022. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*²⁷ : “Despite all these advances, major challenges still remain. The CNIDH still received cases of alleged violations of children’s rights. These include **cases of violence, exploitation, and abusive traditional practices such as early marriage”.**

Source: ‘Child protection program’, UNICEF, 2019. [Available [here](#)]

²⁷ « Malgré toutes ces avancées, des défis majeurs subsistent encore. La CNIDH reçoit encore des cas d’allégation de violation des droits de l’enfant. Il s’agit notamment des cas des violences, exploitations, ainsi que des pratiques traditionnelles abusives dont le mariage précoce ».

“Violence in schools, including cases of sexual abuse by teachers, is one of the underlying causes of girls dropping out of school. The lack of reporting cases participates in the normalization of violence against children”.

5.4. The use of child soldiers

One issue that has been highlighted in the 2000s by human rights NGOs is the use of child soldiers by political groups such as the CNDD-FDD (Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie - forces de défense de la démocratie) and the FNL (Forces nationales de libération). It is now **more difficult to access recent information on this subject since the 2010s**. However, **a recent report from 2021 refers to forced recruitment of children within the CNDD-FDD party, suggesting that the practice has not disappeared.**

Source: ‘Burundi: Child soldiers - the challenge of demobilisation’, Amnesty International, March 2004. [Available [here](#)]

“The two main armed political groups, the CNDD-FDD (Nkurunziza) and FNL (Rwasa), are known to recruit and use child soldiers. Representatives of the CNDD (Nyangoma) [...] **acknowledged to Amnesty International in February that they had in the past used child soldiers** but said that to their knowledge all were now over the age of 18”.

Source: ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (A/HRC/45/32)’, Human Rights Council, Commission on Inquiry on Burundi, 2020. [Available [here](#)]

“Since the beginning of the crisis in 2015, children have regularly been victims of violations [...] **their freedom of opinion and association through forced recruitment into the Imbonerakure or, in the case of younger children, into the CNDD-FDD”.**

6) General current political situation

After many waves of instability, the **2020 elections allowed a new compromise towards citizens and an opening to the international community despite the repressive nature of the system, the human rights violations (6.1) and the alarming accusations of financing a war against rebels in DRC border (6.2)**. Burundi is also facing the consequences of climate change and deforestation around Lake Tanganyika, causing the **displacement of thousands of families (6.3)**.

6.1 A repressive system

Source: ‘Burundi: Charm Offensive or Real Change?’, International Crisis Group, 2 July 2021. [Available [here](#)]

“Elected in May 2020, President Evariste Ndayishimiye assumed power over a deeply troubled country. He took the reins from his late predecessor Pierre Nkurunziza, who had led Burundi into a protracted crisis over his fifteen years in office. [...] After winning flawed elections that year, **Nkurunziza stepped up crackdowns on the media, opposition and civil society groups.**”

Source: ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Burundi’, A/HRC/48/68, Human Rights Council, Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, 13 September – 1 October 2021. [Available [here](#)]

“Since President Ndayishimiye took power, the democratic space **has remained closed and tolerance** for criticism remains limited, but the dynamics of relations between Burundi and the international community have changed. Notwithstanding a few isolated symbolic gestures in the area of human rights, **no structural reform has been undertaken to durably improve the situation. Serious human rights violations have continued to be committed by State officials and members of the Imbonerakure with the acquiescence of the authorities or even at their instigation.** The rule of law continues to be progressively eroded and the risk factors for a deterioration in the human rights situation, though improved in some cases, remain present overall.”

Source: Third Committee Urges Nations in Conflict, Occupying Forces to End Forced Displacement, Indiscriminate Killing, Rape, Gender-Based Violence, United Nations, Seventy-seventh Session, 35th & 36th Meetings (AM & PM), GA/SHC/4360, *Meetings coverage and press releases*, 27 October 2022. [Available [here](#)]

“Meanwhile, the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, expressed concern about the fragile human rights situation in Burundi, noting **persistent allegations of acts of torture and inhuman treatment, enforced disappearances and unjustified restrictions on fundamental freedoms.** She asked the Special Rapporteur about measures to better protect human rights defenders in Burundi.”

Source: ‘Burundi: Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union’, Council of the European Union, October 2022. [Available [here](#)]

“The EU [European Union] is seriously concerned that major challenges remain unaddressed and unresolved, as referred to by the UN Human Rights Council’s resolution adopted on 7 October 2022. [...] The **EU calls on the Burundian government to translate its commitments into effective and concrete actions to improve the human rights and rule of law situation in the country,** including in terms of political and civil rights, protecting human rights defenders, releasing political prisoners, facilitating the return and reintegration of refugees and ensuring the independence of the judiciary as well as the accountability for human rights abuses and violations by state and non-state actors, and fight against corruption.”

Source : « Burundi : Appel à la libération du défenseur des droits humains Tony Germain Nkina », Organisation Mondiale contre la torture – OMCT, September 2022. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*²⁸ : “**From 1 May to 31 August 2022, serious human rights violations were registered in Burundi** with approximately 125 people murdered, 138 people arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, including 10 kidnappings and 36 victims of gender-based violence. **These violations are fueled by the absence of a judicial investigation and a climate of widespread impunity**, despite promises by the Head of State to protect citizens.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) and **the Imbonerakure militia continue to arrest and torture opponents of the regime.**”

Source: « Au Burundi, un nouveau premier ministre après des accusations de tentative de putsch », Le Monde, 8 October 2022. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*²⁹ : “Former interior minister Gervais Ndirakobuca headed the feared National Intelligence Service until 2020, **accused of being at the heart of the country's repressive system.**”

Source: ‘Refugees’ and migrants’ rights’, Amnesty International, 2021. [Available [here](#)].

“[T]he UN refugee agency supported **more than 60,000 people in their return to Burundi up to the end of October**. In June, Burundi’s Conference of Catholic Bishops raised concerns about **returnees not being well received in certain areas and being intimidated** by those who were supposed to support them to reintegrate into society.”

Source: ‘*Situation of human rights in Burundi (A/HRC/45/19)*’, United Nations, Human Rights Council, 6 October 2020. [Available [here](#)]

“**7. Reiterates its urgent call upon the Government of Burundi to immediately put an end to all human rights violations and abuses and to ensure full respect for and protection and fulfillment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all**, including the freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, to ensure the safety, physical integrity and protection of its population, to strengthen the separation of powers with parliamentary oversight and the independence of the judiciary, the rule of law and good governance, and to end impunity for all violations and abuses”

²⁸ « Du 1er mai au 31 août 2022, de graves violations des droits humains ont été enregistrées au Burundi avec environ 125 personnes assassinées, 138 personnes arbitrairement privées de liberté dont 10 enlèvements et 36 victimes de violences basées sur le genre. Ces violations sont nourries par l’absence d’enquête judiciaire et un climat d’impunité généralisée, malgré les promesses du chef de l’État de protéger les citoyens. Le Service National de Renseignement (SNR) et la milice Imbonerakure continuent d’arrêter et de torturer les opposants au régime ».

²⁹ « Ancien ministre de l’intérieur, Gervais Ndirakobuca a dirigé jusqu’en 2020 le très redouté Service national de renseignement, accusé d’être au cœur du système répressif du pays. »

“10. Also urges the Government of Burundi to **release all human rights defenders, journalists and prisoners of conscience** who have been arbitrarily arrested, detained or arrested solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights”

Source: ‘Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Burundi’, Human Rights Watch - HRW, October 2022. [Available [here](#)]

“**Most leading civil society activists and many independent journalists remain in exile, after repeated government threats in 2015 and arrest warrants** against several of them. In October 2017, the Interior Minister banned or suspended 10 civil society organizations that had spoken out against government abuses.”

Source: « ‘Il n’y a pas de liberté de presse au Burundi », dénonce le journaliste Innocent Muhozi’ », VOA Afrique, 4 November 2022. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*³⁰ : “**The press freedom situation in Burundi has deteriorated considerably in a climate of tension and repression.** Censorship is strict. A more restrictive media law has been adopted. Channels that do not comply with government guidelines are sometimes closed.”

6.2. Burundi’s unofficial war against rebels on the east of Democratic Republic of Congo

Burundi took the **unilateral initiative to restore security in the east of the DRC** as part of a regional action. This expensive military action consists in the **deployment of troops including civilians** of a young militia called “the *Imbonerakure*”.

Source: ‘Burundi steps up its private war in Congo’, The Burundi Human Rights Initiative - BHRI, 9 September 2022. [Available [here](#)]

“In recent weeks, **Burundian soldiers**, accompanied by *Imbonerakure* (members of the ruling party youth league), **have been deployed in the DRC**, officially as part of a regional initiative to restore security in the east of the country. [...] Until recently, this was a covert mission. The Burundian government repeatedly denied sending troops across the border, despite abundant evidence that soldiers and *Imbonerakure* were being selected and deployed there. The participation of *Imbonerakure* was particularly concerning. ***Imbonerakure* are civilians, so should not take part in security or military activities.**”

³⁰ « La situation de la liberté de la presse au Burundi s’est considérablement dégradée dans un climat de tension et de répression. La censure est stricte. Une loi plus restrictive sur les médias a été adoptée. Les chaînes qui ne respectent pas les directives gouvernementales sont parfois fermées ».

Source: ‘Burundian forces in Eastern DRC, claim local sources’, Africa News, January 2022 [Available [here](#)]

“Burundian soldiers were chasing the Red-Tabara, a Burundian rebel group which is based in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The group is responsible for the Bujumbura airport attack that occurred on September 21, injuring 50. Red Tabara was formed in 2011 with the objective of overthrowing the government.”

Source: ‘Since 2021 Burundi has secretly sent troops to DR Congo - Rights group’ Africa News, July 2022 [Available [here](#)]

“Burundi has secretly sent hundreds of troops and members of a youth militia into neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo since the end of 2021 to fight an armed rebel group”. [...]

“Some soldiers are ordered to swap their military uniforms for civilian clothes and leave behind possessions that could identify them.”

Source: “Easing the Turmoil in the Eastern DR Congo and Great Lakes”, International Crisis Group, May 2022 [Available [here](#)]

“Burundi’s incursion into South Kivu is shrouded in secrecy. In late December, residents of the province’s Uvira territory reported seeing **about 400 Burundian soldiers and Imbonerakure, Burundi’s notorious ruling-party youth militia, cross the Rusizi river between the two countries.**”³¹

“They then reportedly entered **an alliance with the Gumino and Twigwaneho ethnic groups and several other smaller Mai-Mai groups against RED-Tabara**, which has formed ties with another Burundian insurgency, Forces nationales de libération (FNL), and Congolese *Mai-Mai* militias. **The Burundian army reportedly sustained heavy losses, while thousands of residents fled the violence.** Burundi has repeatedly denied that its troops are fighting in the DRC, however.”

6.3. Forced displacement due to climate change

Located near Bujumbura and surrounded by populated areas, the Lake *Tanganyika* (which is the most important lake in Burundi), is the source for 17 percent of the globe’s surface freshwater. Sadly, due to climate change, lake’s **levels are rising causing a significant risk to the population in the surrounding area** and cause forced displacement.

Source: Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Lake Tanganyika". Encyclopedia Britannica, 27 April 2020. [Available [here](#)]

“Lake Tanganyika is situated on the line dividing the floral regions of eastern and western Africa,

³¹ See Appendix 4.

and oil palms, which are characteristic of the flora of western Africa, grow along the lake's shores. Rice and subsistence crops are grown along the shores, and fishing is of some significance. Important ports situated along Lake Tanganyika are Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi.”

Source: ‘Tanganyika, what the future holds *Africa's oldest and deepest lake is in danger*’, United Nations Development Programme, March 2017. [Available [here](#)]

“The region has been plagued by recurring **episodes of violence with severe humanitarian consequences**. Poverty is rampant, and environmental degradation is proceeding at alarming rates. **The lake basin is increasingly vulnerable to the effects of human activities**, such as deforestation, unsustainable agricultural and fishing practices, mining activities and pollution. The magnitude of these threats is intensified by the impacts of climate change and of the population growth in the basin which, at a rate of 2 to 3 percent annually, is among the highest on the planet.”

Source: ‘Climate Change and Migration in Vulnerable Countries’, International Organization for Migration, p.4, April 2019. [Available [here](#)]

“The least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change due to their structural constraints and geographical disadvantage. At the same time, they contribute least to climate change.

In 2016, all the 15 countries with the highest vulnerability to natural hazards were either LDCs and LLDCs. Quite often, these countries are least able to cope with climate change-induced disasters and associated migration of people, as a result of inadequate capacity and insufficient resources.

Fifteen (15) countries with the highest vulnerability worldwide: [...] **Burundi (67.98%)**, [...].”

Source: « Burundi : nouvelle montée des eaux du lac Tanganyika », TV5 Monde Afrique, 3 May 2021. [Available [here](#)]

*Unofficial translation from French*³² : “This is one of the effects of global warming. **Every year, the level of Lake Tanganyika rises and invades some neighborhoods of Bujumbura**. Thousands of families regularly face these floods.

Climate change and deforestation around the lake would explain these phenomena more and more numerous. According to the UN, about eight thousand (8,000) families are suffering from these floods, and two thousand (2,000) had to be displaced.”

³² « C'est un des effets du réchauffement climatique. Chaque année, le niveau du lac Tanganyika monte et envahit certains quartiers de Bujumbura. Des milliers de familles sont régulièrement confrontées à ces inondations. Le dérèglement climatique et la déforestation autour du lac expliquent ces phénomènes de plus en plus nombreux. Selon l'ONU, environ huit mille (8 000) familles subissent ces inondations, deux mille (2 000) ont dû être déplacées ».

Source: 'Lake Tanganyika is vomiting': In Burundi, the water dramatically rose and displaced the local population, Le Monde, April 2022 [Available [here](#)]

“[T]he Kinyinya II camp, located a few kilometers behind Gatumba, **home to more than 2,300 people displaced by the floods** [...] Some 65% of the displaced people in Gatumba are **children**. Many no longer have access to school and some have started working to feed their families. ‘we used to farm, we did jobs that helped us survive, but since we've been here we've done nothing,’ said Lea Nyabenda a few hundred meters further on, who also arrived two years ago. “Life is miserable. The accommodation and the lack of food make me anxious.””

“In addition to the historically observed "cyclical" rise in water levels, this recent surge has been explained by the pollution of the many rivers that flow into Lake Tanganyika, said Albert Mbonerane, former Minister of the Environment and ardent defender of the lake's ecosystem.”

Appendix 1: Overview on the LGBT legislation in Burundi and their impacts

Source: ‘Turi Abande? (Où allons-nous appartenons?): Une analyse de paysage des droits humains des communautés des professionnels du sexe et LGBT au Burundi’, The East African Sexual Health & Rights Initiative (UHAI EASHR), 2016. [Available [here](#)]

Législation positive

Texte législatif/Statut	Prévisions	Impact
Constitution du Burundi	Art 13 – Tous les burundais sont égaux en mérite et en dignité. Tous les citoyens jouissent des mêmes droits et ont droit à la même protection par la loi. Aucun burundais ne sera exclu de la vie sociale, économique ou politique de la nation du fait de sa race, de sa langue, de sa religion, de son sexe ou de son origine ethnique.	Les personnes LGBT jouissent des droits fondamentaux, ne doivent pas être exclues de la vie sociale, économique ou politique de la nation du fait de leur race, religion, sexe ou origine ethnique.
	Art 28 – Toute femme, tout homme a droit au respect de sa vie privée et de sa vie familiale, de son domicile et de ses communications personnelles.	Les personnes LGBT burundaises ont le droit à la vie privée, et le droit à la dignité.
	Art 43 – Nul ne peut faire l’objet d’immixtion arbitraire dans sa vie privée, sa famille, son domicile ou sa correspondance, ni d’atteintes à son honneur et à sa réputation. Il ne peut être ordonné de perquisitions ou de visites domiciliaires que dans les formes et les conditions prévues par la loi. Le secret de la correspondance et de communication est garanti dans le respect des formes et conditions déterminées par la loi.	
	Art 67 – Chaque individu, a le devoir de respecter et de considérer son semblable sans discrimination aucune, et d’entretenir avec lui les relations qui permettent de promouvoir, de sauvegarder et de renforcer le respect et la tolérance.	Les individus et les citoyens doivent respecter, considérer, ne pas discriminer leurs compatriotes burundais sur base de l’orientation sexuelle, identité ou expression de genre réelle ou supposée et vice-versa.
	Art 62 – Toute personne a le devoir de respecter ses compatriotes et de leur témoigner de la considération, sans discrimination aucune.	
	Art 32 – La liberté de réunion et d’association est garantie, de même que le droit de fonder des associations ou organisations conformément à la loi.	Les personnes LGBT ont le droit de regrouper et de s’organiser, les défenseurs des droits humains LGBT sont pourvus de la liberté d’expression et d’association.
	Art 55 – Toute personne a le droit d’accéder aux soins de santé.	Les personnes LGBT ont le droit d’accéder aux services de santé peut importe leur orientation sexuelle, identité ou expression de genre.
Code Pénal	Art 53 – Tout citoyen a droit à l’égal accès à l’instruction, à l’éducation et à la culture. L’Etat a le devoir d’organiser l’enseignement public et d’en favoriser l’accès.	Les personnes LGBT jouissent du droit à l’éducation, des droits culturels ; et dans l’organisation de l’enseignement public, l’Etat doit leur en favoriser l’accès.
	Art 219 – Quiconque a volontairement fait des blessures ou porté des coups à autrui est puni d’une servitude pénale de deux mois à huit mois et d’une amende de cinquante mille à deux cent mille francs ou d’une de ces peines seulement.	Pénalise les actes de violence et agression physique sur les personnes LGBT.

Législation prohibitive

* En dépit de la référence faite à la sexualité et aux pratiques sexuelles homosexuelles et dans ces provisions, la variation du genre n’est pas comprise donc n’est pas distincte de l’orientation sexuelle. De ce fait cette disposition peut également être utilisée contre les personnes s’identifiant comme transgenres et les personnes au genre non conforme.

Texte législatif/Statut	Prévisions	Impact
Constitution du Burundi	Art 29 – La liberté de se marier est garantie de même que le droit de choisir son ou sa partenaire. Le mariage ne peut être conclu qu’avec libre et plein consentement des futurs époux. Le mariage entre deux personnes de même sexe est interdit.	Les personnes adultes de même sexe nonobstant consentantes ne peuvent pas se marier légalement.
	Art 9 – L’homosexualité est une faute passible de renvoi et une non admission dans un aucun établissement scolaire du système éducatif burundais pendant toute l’année scolaire en cours.	Les personnes LGBT peuvent être renvoyées en cas de divulgation de l’orientation sexuelle réelle ou présumée d’un élève, soumises aux menaces pour dénonciation, voire extorsion sur base de menace pour dénonciation.
Code Pénal	Art 567 – Quiconque fait des relations sexuelles avec une personne de même sexe est puni d’une servitude pénale de trois mois à deux ans et d’une amende de cinquante mille francs à cent mille francs ou d’une de ces peines seulement.	Les personnes LGB adultes qui s’engagent dans des relations sexuelles avec consentement peuvent être poursuivies pénalement en cas de flagrant délit.
	Art 364 – Est puni d’une servitude pénale de six mois à trois ans et d’une amende de trente mille francs à cinquante mille francs ou d’une de ces peines seulement celui qui, soit en présentant comme lui appartenant des documents ou des objets se rapportant à une personne déterminée, délivrés ou visés par une autorité nationale ou étrangère, soit par toute autre manœuvre, a trompé l’autorité sur son identité.	Cette disposition peut être manipulée pour arrêter, détenir et poursuivre en justice les personnes transgenres et les personnes au genre non conforme.
	Art 365 – Est puni des mêmes peines qu’à l’article précédent, celui qui dans le but de tromper l’autorité sur son identité, a remis des documents ou des objets de cette espèce ne se rapportant pas à la personne qui en fait usage.	

Unofficial translation from French of important elements on the table:

Positive legislation

Legislative text/Statute	Provisions	Consequences
Constitution	Art. 13	LGBT persons enjoy fundamental rights, and must not be excluded from the social, economic or political life of the nation because of their race, religion, gender or ethnic origin.
	Art. 28 Art. 43	Burundian LGBT people have the right to privacy, and the right to dignity.
	Art. 67 Art. 62	Individuals and citizens must respect, consider, not discriminate against their Burundian compatriots on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and vice-versa.
	Art. 32	LGBT people have the right to assemble and organize, LGBT human rights defenders have freedom of expression and association.
	Art. 55	LGBT people have the right to access health services regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.
	Art. 53	LGBT people enjoy the right to education, cultural rights; and in the organization of public education, the State must facilitate their access to it.
Penal Code	Art. 219	Criminalizes acts of violence and physical aggression against LGBT people.

Prohibitive legislation

* Despite the reference to sexuality and homosexual sexual practices and in these provisions, gender variation is not understood and is therefore not distinct from sexual orientation. As such, this provision can also be used against people who identify as transgender and gender non-conforming.

Legislative text/Statute	Provisions	Consequences
Constitution	Art. 29	Consenting adults of the same sex cannot legally marry.
Ministerial of Education Order No. 620/613	Art. 9	LGBT people can be expelled if a student's real or perceived sexual orientation is disclosed, subjected to threats for reporting, or even extortion on the basis of threats for whistleblowing.
Penal Code	Art. 567	LGBT adults who engage in sexual relations with consent may be criminally prosecuted in cases of flagrante delicto.
	Art. 364 Art. 365	This provision can be manipulated to arrest, detain and prosecute transgender and gender non-conforming people.

Appendix 2: Overview of the ruling on the child protection in 2016 (country in alphabetical order, Afghanistan to France)

Source : ‘La situation des enfants dans le monde 2016, l’égalité des chances pour chaque enfant’, UNICEF 2016. [Available [here](#)]

TABLEAU 9. PROTECTION DE L’ENFANT

Pays et territoires	Travail des enfants (%) ¹ 2009-2015*			Mariage d'enfants (%) ² 2008-2014*		Enregistrement des naissances (%) ³ 2010-2015*	Mutilations génitales féminines/ excision (%) ⁴ 2004-2015*			Justification de la violence conjugale (%) ⁵ 2010-2015*		Discipline imposée par la violence (%) ⁶ 2010-2015*		
	total	garçons	filles	mariés à 15 ans	mariés à 18 ans		total	prévalence		attitudes soutien à cette pratique ⁷	garçons	filles	total	garçons
						femmes ⁸		filles ⁹						
Afghanistan	29 y	34 y	24 y	–	33	37	–	–	–	–	90	74	75	74
Afrique du Sud	–	–	–	1 x	6 x	85 y	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Albanie	5 y	6 y	4 y	0	10	99 x	–	–	–	36 x	30 x	77 x	81 x	73 x
Algérie	5	6	5	0	3	100	–	–	–	–	59 y	86	88	85
Allemagne	–	–	–	–	–	100 v	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Andorre	–	–	–	–	–	100 v	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Angola	24 x	22 x	25 x	–	–	36 x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Antigua-et-Barbuda	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Arabie saoudite	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Argentine	4	5	4	–	–	100 y	–	–	–	–	2	72	74	71
Arménie	4	5	3	0	7	100	–	–	–	20	9	70	72	67
Australie	–	–	–	–	–	100 v	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Autriche	–	–	–	–	–	100 v	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Azerbaïdjan	7 x,y	8 x,y	5 x,y	2	11	94 x	–	–	–	–	28	77 x	80 x	74 x
Bahamas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bahreïn	5 x	6 x	3 x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bangladesh	4 y	5 y	4 y	18	52	37	–	–	–	–	33 y	82 y	83 y	82 y
Barbade	2	3	1	1	11	99	–	–	–	–	3	75	78	72
Bélarus	1	1	2	0	3	100 y	–	–	–	4	4	65 y	67 y	62 y
Belgique	–	–	–	–	–	100 v	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Belize	3 y	5 y	1 y	3	26	95	–	–	–	–	9	71	71	70
Bénin	15	15	16	11	32	85	9	0	3	17	36	91 y	–	–
Bhoutan	3	3	3	6	26	100	–	–	–	–	68	–	–	–
Bolivie (État plurinational de)	26 x,y	28 x,y	24 x,y	3	22	76 x,y	–	–	–	–	16 x	–	–	–
Bosnie-Herzégovine	5 x	7 x	4 x	0	4	100 x	–	–	–	6	5	55	60	50
Botswana	9 x,y	11 x,y	7 x,y	–	–	72 x	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Brésil	8 y	10 y	6 y	11 x	36 x	96	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Brunéi Darussalam	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bulgarie	–	–	–	–	–	100 v	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Burkina Faso	39	42	36	10	52	77	76	13	9	34	44	83 x	84 x	82 x
Burundi	26	26	27	3	20	75	–	–	–	44	73	–	–	–

Explanations on the table:

The first column is dedicated to the percentage of child labor (travail des enfants) between 2009 and 2015 and about children between 4 and 15 years old, and includes 3 categories:

- total: 26%
- boys: 26%
- girls: 27%

Appendix 3: Overview of the public investments to the mental health system in Burundi

Source: 'Mental Health ATLAS 2020: Burundi', World Health Organization, 15 April 2022. [Available [here](#)]

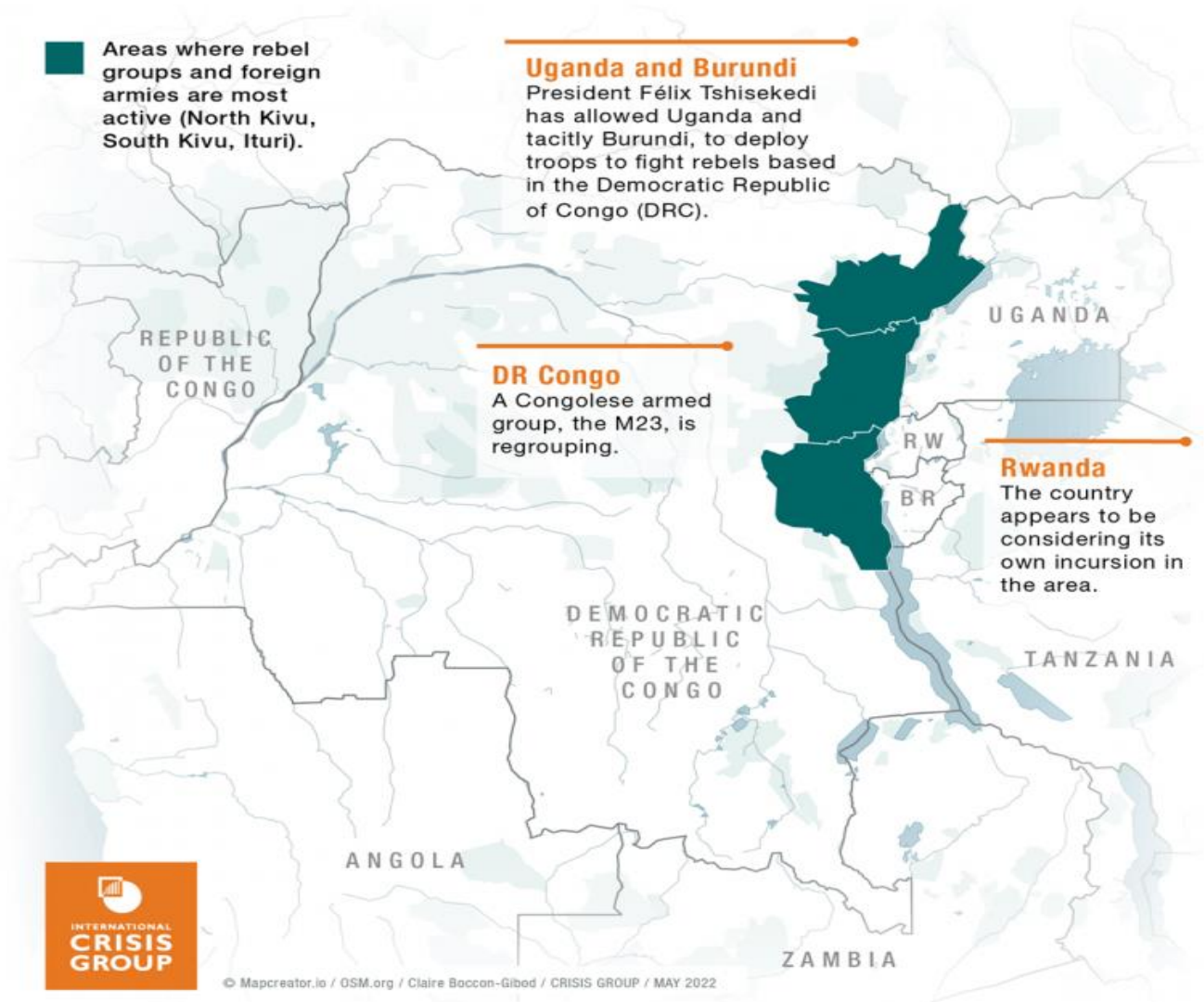
Additional comments: The table includes programs implemented in Burundi by the government. In order for the WHO to take the data into account, at least two programs must be create. **In this case, as Burundi has no or fewer than two programs in place, the data cannot be included in the table** – this explains why the table in blank on the 'resources for mental health' and 'mental health promotion and prevention'.

MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM GOVERNANCE			
Mental health policy / plan		Mental health legislation	
Stand-alone policy or plan for mental health:	Yes	Stand-alone law for mental health:	No
(Year of policy / plan):	2015	(Year of law):	-
Policy / plan is in line with human rights covenants (self-rated 5-points checklist score; 5 = fully in line) ⁶	2	Law is in line with human rights covenants (self-rated 5-points checklist score; 5 = fully in line) ⁷	Not applicable
Human resources are estimated and allocated for implementation of the mental health policy/plan	No	The existence of a dedicated authority or independent body to assess compliance of mental health legislation with international human rights	A dedicated authority body does not exist
Financial resources are estimated and allocated for implementation of the mental health policy/plan	No		
The mental health policy / plan contains specified indicators or targets against which its implementation can be monitored	Indicators were available and used in the last two years in some components of current mental health policies		
Child and/or adolescent mental health policy/plan			
Stand-alone or integrated policy or plan for child mental health	-	Stand-alone or integrated policy or plan for adolescent mental health	-
(Year of child mental health policy / plan):	-	(Year of adolescent mental health policy / plan):	-
Suicide prevention strategy/policy/plan			
Stand-alone or integrated strategy/policy/plan for suicide prevention	-	(Year of strategy/policy/plan)	-
RESOURCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH			
Mental health financing			
The government's total expenditure on mental health as % of total government health expenditure	-	The government's total expenditure on mental hospitals as % of total government mental health expenditure	-

MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTION				
Existence of at least two functioning programmes (self-rated 3 points checklist score; ≥ 2 = functioning programme) ¹⁰			-	
Category of mental health promotion & prevention programme	Programme examples	Scope of programme	Programme management	Functionality of programme
Suicide prevention programme	-	-	-	-
Mental Health Awareness /Anti-stigma	-	-	-	-
Early Child Development	-	-	-	-
School based mental health prevention and promotion	-	-	-	-
Parental / Maternal mental health promotion and prevention	-	-	-	-
Work-related mental health prevention and promotion	-	-	-	-

Appendix 4: Map of the conflict's areas in DRC

Source: Easing the Turmoil in the Eastern DR Congo and Great Lakes, International Crisis Group, may 2022 [Available [here](#)]



Sources consulted

All sources were consulted in November 2022.

1. International/governmental organizations and institutions

- ‘2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Burundi’ (U.S. Department of State. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, 2020)
- ‘Abuse, impunity and sexual violence in Burundi’ (UNICEF)
- ‘Burundi’ (UNWOMEN, 2021)
- ‘Burundi: Security Council calls for political talks to resolve crisis peacefully’ (UN News, 12 November 2015)
- « Burundi : Appel à la libération du défenseur des droits humains Tony Germain Nkina » (Organisation Mondiale contre la torture – O.M.C.T., September 2022)
- ‘Burundi: Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union’ (Council of the European Union, October 2022)
- « Burundi: Situation des minorités sexuelles et de genre » (Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides – OFPRA, 25 January 2019)
- ‘Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Burundi Addendum Information provided by Burundi in follow-up to the concluding observations’ (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women – CEDAW, 26 August 2019)
- ‘Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant: Second periodic report of Burundi’ (Human Rights Committee, 112th session, Summary record of the 3101st meeting, 2014)
- ‘Child Labor and Forced Labor Reports’ (U.S. Department of Labor)
- ‘Child protection’ (UNICEF)
- ‘Climate Change and Migration in Vulnerable Countries’, International Organization for Migration, april 2019
- ‘*Epilepsy - Human Rights*’ (World Health Organization, February 2022)
- ‘Explore All Countries – Burundi’ (The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency)

- ‘Human Rights Committee considers report of Burundi’ (Office of the High Commissioner, United Nation, 2014)
- « La situation des enfants dans le monde 2016, l’égalité des chances pour chaque enfant » (UNICEF, 2016)
- ‘Maternal mortality’ (UNICEF, 2021)
- ‘No human rights progress despite new presidency, Burundi inquiry finds’ (United Nation, Office of the High Commissioner, 23 September 2020)
- « Rapport annuel d’activités : exercice 2021 » (Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l’Homme – C.N.I.D.H., February 2022)
- « Rapport annuel édition 2020 » (C.N.I.D.H., April 2021)
- Resolution 3-24/1 [17 December 2015], Human Rights Council in ‘Report of the Human Rights Council A/71/53 2016’
- ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi’ (Human Rights Council, 42nd session, 6 August 2019)
- ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (A/HRC/45/32)’ (Human Rights Council, Commission on Inquiry on Burundi, 13 August 2020)
- ‘Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Burundi (A/HRC/48/68)’ (Human Rights Council, Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, 2021)
- ‘Sexual and reproductive health and rights: infographic snapshot: Burundi 2021’, World Health Organization. 2021
- ‘Situation of human rights in Burundi (A/HRC/45/19)’, United Nations, Human Rights Council, 6 October 2020.
- ‘Tanganyika, what the future holds *Africa's oldest and deepest lake is in danger*’, United Nations Development Programme, March 2017.
- ‘Trends in Maternal Mortality: 2000 to 2017’, World Health Organisation - WHO, UNICEF, United Nations Fund for Population Activities - UNFPA, World Bank Group, and the United Nations Population Division. 2019.
- Third Committee Urges Nations in Conflict, Occupying Forces to End Forced Displacement, Indiscriminate Killing, Rape, Gender-Based Violence, United Nations, Seventy-seventh Session, 35th & 36th Meetings (AM &PM), GA/SHC/4360, *Meetings coverage and press releases*, 27 October 2022

- UNICEF Global database, 'FGM prevalence among girls and women aged 15 to 49 years, by residence and wealth quintile (%)' (UNICEF, 2022)

2. NGO, Think Tanks

- 'Addressing Mental Health in Burundi' (HealthNet, April 2022)
- Mariam Abaza, 'Addressing Mental Health in Burundi' (The Borgen Project, 7 December 2021)
- 'Annual report for the year 2021' (Association Burundaise pour la protection des Droits humains et des Personnes détenues – A.P.R.O.D.H., 2022)
- 'Burundi : Charm Offensive or Real Change?' (International Crisis Group, 2 July 2021)
- 'Burundi: Child soldiers - the challenge of demobilization' (Amnesty International, March 2004)
- Lewis Mudge, 'Burundi: expelled for Doodles' (Human Rights Watch – H.R.W., 12 April 2019)
- « Burundi: Situation des personnes LGBTQI+ », Organisation Suisse d'Aide aux Réfugiés - OSAR, 28 October 2022
- 'Burundi steps up its private war in Congo' (The Burundi Human Rights Initiative – B.H.R.I., September 2022)
- « Comprendre les pratiques sexuelles des hommes ayant des rapports sexuels avec les hommes : Guide pour les intervenants dans la lutte contre le VIH/SIDA » (Mouvement pour les Libertés Individuelles – MOLI, 2014)
- Easing the Turmoil in the Eastern DR Congo and Great Lakes, International Crisis Group, may 2022
- 'Human rights in Africa: review of 2019' (Amnesty International, april 2020)
- "“I love my country, but my country does not love me.” Human Rights: The Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Persons in Burundi (2003-2013)' (MOLI, 2014)
- 'Political participation of Women in Burundi - Case study', Saskia Brand, MDF Training and Consultancy, 2018
- « Rapport annuel : exercice 2021 » (A.P.R.O.D.H., January 2022)

- « Rapport mensuel septembre 2022 » (A.P.R.O.D.H., 31 October 2022)
- ‘Refugees’ and migrants’ rights’ (Amnesty International 2021)
- « Religions et homophobie au Burundi: La Haine voilée des religions contre les homosexuels au Burundi » (MOLI, 2010)
- ‘State-Sponsored Homophobia: Global Legislation Overview Update’ (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association – ILGA, 2020)
- ‘Strengthening Women’s Customary Right to Land’ (International Development Law Organisation)
- ‘Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Burundi’ (H.R.W., October 2022)
- ‘The status of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in Burundi, A Shadow Report’ (MOLI and Rainbow Candle Ligh, 2014)
- « Turi Abande? (Où allons-nous appartenons?): Une analyse de paysage des droits humains des communautés des professionnels du sexe et LGBT au Burundi » (The East African Sexual Health & Rights Initiative – UHAI EASHR, 2016)

3. **Media**

- « Au Burundi, un nouveau premier ministre après des accusations de tentative de putsch » (Le Monde, 8 October 2022)
- « Burundi : nouvelle montée des eaux du lac Tanganyika » (TV5 Monde Afrique, May 2021)
- ‘Burundian forces in Eastern DRC, claim local sources’, Africa News, January 2022
- ‘Child Labour in Africa: These are the 8 Worst African Countries for Child Labour’ (Talk Africana, December 2018)
- Egide Nikiza, « A quand la dépénalisation de l’avortement », Yaga Burundi, 7 October 2017
- ‘Epileptic people discriminated in Burundi’ (IWACU English News Burundi, August 2017)
- ‘Epileptics suffer from lack of medicine’ (IWACU English News Burundi, February 2019)
- Franck Arnaud Ndorukwigira, « Soins de santé mentale au Burundi : cinq challenges à relever » (Yaga Burundi, 30 October 2020)

- J. Misago « L'épilepsie, une maladie peu connue au Burundi » (IWACU, les voix du Burundi, 13 février 2019)
- « "Il n'y a pas de liberté de presse au Burundi", dénonce le journaliste Innocent Muhozi » (Voice of America – VOA Afrique, 4 November 2022)
- 'Lake Tanganyika is vomiting': In Burundi, the water dramatically rose and displaced the local population, Le Monde, avril 2022
- OMS, « Aucune femme ne devrait mourir en donnant la vie », Iwacu English News Burundi, 12 January 2022
- 'Since 2021 Burundi has secretly sent troops to DR Congo - Rights group' Africa News, july 2022

4. Others

- Article 29, Constitution of Burundi, 2018
- Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Lake Tanganyika". Encyclopedia Britannica, 27 Apr. 2020
- Georges NSENGIYUMVA, « 'l'épilepsie au Burundi : problème de santé publique méconnu » (Doctoral thesis, octobre 2005), p38
- Tom Bundervoet and others, 'Health and Civil War in Rural Burundi' (2009) Vol. 44, The Journal of Human Resources, pp. 536, pp. 537