

Burundi



Country Note

Landlocked between Rwanda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi is easily overshadowed by its politically larger neighbors. Burundi is rated as one of the world's poorest nations, struggling to move forward after many years of civil war.

Why Invest in Burundi:

- Political and security stability.
- A strategic geographical location allowing direct access to several neighboring countries.
- A constantly improving business environment (Doing Business Report 2015 Burundi has been ranked 18th on registering business indicator).
- Freedom of settlement and investment.
- Burundi is member of Common Market of the EAC and the Free Trade Area of COMESA.
- Relatively cheap manpower compared to countries in the sub-region.
- Burundi is eligible for the "Everything but Arms" of the European Union and the AGOA (African Growth Opportunity Act).
- Non-discriminatory and attractive Investment Code ensuring protection of investors and investments.
- One-Stop-Shop that allows starting a business in a day for 40,000 BIF (about 25 \$).
 - Three other operational One-Stop-Shops: one for obtaining a building permit, another for the transfer of property and one-stop-shop for connection to electricity.

Opportunities in Burundi:

Energy

- A deficit of commercial hydroelectric power production of 300 MW.
- The potential for commercial production of geothermal energy of 10 MW is not yet exploited.
- Good potential for generating wind energy.
- A huge potential for production of solar energy.

ICT

- Public company ONATEL (landline, cellular telephony and internet) is in the process of being privatized.
- The market for broadband internet is largely untapped.

- Many opportunities after installation of fiber optics including e-administration and e-banking.

Manufacturing industries

- Almost all manufactured consumer goods are imported, thus providing full opportunities in almost every industry.
- Need for food products processing industry.
- Need for industrial production of building materials such as glasses, profiles, metal sheet, tile, cement, etc.
- Need for chemical industry and especially fertilizers for agriculture.
- There is one textile industry with very limited technology.
- Need for pharmaceutical industry.
- Need for biodegradable packing industry.

Hotel and Tourism

- Full opportunities to improve beach tourism and water sports on Lake Tanganyika.
- Need to build hotels and other accommodation in national parks and other attraction infrastructures.
- Need to build high standing conference centers.
- Insufficient high standard hotel capacity: Major international hotel chains are not represented.

Maritime transport and port services

- Improving the system for automated loading in the port of Bujumbura and its expansion to large container ships and other vessels for passengers.
- Improving transport services of passengers and freight on Lake Tanganyika.
- Link the Bujumbura port and the port of Durban through the construction and operationalization of a line of 200 km railway between Mpulungu and Kasama (Zambia).
- Building a naval building site.
- Install a cold chain at the port of Bujumbura.
- New locomotives and wagons for central corridor as a multi-user Lake Railway, Dar Es Salaam to the port of Bujumbura via Kigoma.

India – Burundi: Bilateral Trade and Investments

- India's trade with Burundi is very modest, with the total bilateral trade for 2013-14 being US\$ 30.89 million. The balance of trade is heavily skewed in favour of India, with Indian exports to Burundi in the same period amounting to US\$ 30.71 million.
- However, Burundi is also poised to benefit from the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme extended by India to Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Sources:

Ministry of External Affairs : http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Burundi_2015_08-31.pdf

Burundi Investment Agency : <http://www.comesaria.org/site/en/burundi-investment-promotion-agency-api.52.html>