



November 2025 - January 2026 • Bujumbura

## Official visit by the President of JICA to Burundi

### SUMMARY



Official meeting between the President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye, and the President of JICA, Dr. Akihiko Tanaka

JICA President Dr. Akihiko Tanaka paid an official visit to Burundi from January 26 to 27, 2026, to strengthen cooperation between Japan and Burundi and consolidate the achievements of 20 years of partnership in the country. He was received in audience by His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, and held discussions with national authorities and partners on the progress of ongoing projects and future prospects for collaboration.

Discussions focused on infrastructure and transportation, agriculture, health, vocational training for young people, economic development, and humanitarian assistance. The delegation also conducted field visits to assess the concrete impact of JICA's interventions, including Boulevard du Japon, a symbol of friendship between the two countries.

This mission reaffirmed JICA's commitment to supporting Burundi in its sustainable development priorities and to pursuing a strong, inclusive, and forward-looking partnership.

### JICA promoting educational quality in Burundi



### Seminar on long-term and short-term training: Promoting women's participation in JICA training



### Strengthening post-harvest processing capacities for sustainable improvement of rice quality in the Imbo plain



## Capacity Building in Math and Science: JICA Working to Improve Educational Quality in Burundi

For several years, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been actively involved in improving science education in Burundi. In partnership with the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, JICA supports the SMASE-Burundi (Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education) program, notably through the National Technical Coordination Team (ETNC).

This team is composed of Burundian trainers who have received specialized training in Kenya, Japan, and other SMASE-Africa member countries such as Rwanda, Zambia, and Malawi. It works to put the skills acquired into practice through workshops, exchanges, and targeted training at the national level.

With this in mind, Lycée Notre Dame de Rohero (LND Rohero) has been identified as a reference school. This center hosts pilot activities aimed at strengthening the performance of teachers and students in scientific disciplines. The objective is twofold: to improve the quality of teaching and learning and to introduce concrete, experiment-based teaching approaches.

From November 11 to 14, 2025, an intensive monitoring and evaluation session was organized in Rohero with logistical and financial support from JICA. It brought together teachers, educational supervisors, and members of the ETNC. Activities focused on analyzing teaching practices, producing local teaching materials, scientific demonstrations, and enriching exchanges of experiences. All of this was part of a structured framework aimed at identifying real needs and evaluating the impact of educational interventions already carried out.

This partnership between Japan and Burundi in the education sector is part of a sustainable effort to strengthen local capacities. It demonstrates JICA's commitment to promoting quality education for development.



Two students use a microscope during a scientific activity supported by JICA



The SMASE National Technical Coordination Team during a scientific activity supported by JICA

## Seminar on long-term and short-term training: Promoting women's participation in JICA training



Ms. Erika Kusune, Project Formulation Officer at JICA, with Ms. Claudine AHISHAKIYE, Director of Women's Empowerment at the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights, and Gender



Ms. Nina Ngarura, National Technical Coordinator at JICA, and Ms. Lysette NINDORERA, Director in charge of promoting local development of entrepreneurship and cooperatives at the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security

Gender equality remains a priority for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which works to promote inclusive and sustainable development. In this context, JICA Burundi organized a seminar in Bujumbura in September 2025 aimed at encouraging greater participation by women in training programs offered by Japanese cooperation agencies.

The event opened with a speech by the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights, and Gender, emphasizing the importance of promoting women's access to training and capacity-building opportunities. The seminar provided an opportunity to present in detail JICA's two major training programs: the ABE (African Business Education) Initiative, a long-term program (master's and PhD), and the KCCP (Knowledge Co-Creation Program), a short-term program. The organizers emphasized the accessibility of these training programs to Burundian women, whether they are in the public or private sector.

Several former participants spoke about their experiences. They shared the skills they acquired in Japan, the challenges they faced, and the tangible impact these experiences had on their careers and communities. Their powerful testimonials inspired the audience, particularly the young professionals in attendance.

This seminar served not only as a platform for information, but also as a rallying cry for equal opportunities. It is part of a broader effort to promote women's leadership in all sectors through cooperation between Japan and Burundi. JICA thus reaffirms its commitment to strengthening the role of women in the country's socio-economic development by providing them with the means to train, exchange ideas, and take action.



QR code  
ABE Initiative



QR code  
Japanese Embassy  
Scholarships

## Strengthening of capacity for processing for the sustainable improvement of rice quality in the Imbo plain

The activities of the Project to Support the Improvement of Rice Farming in the Republic of Burundi (PAARIB) aim to develop and equip the post-harvest processing infrastructure of the Imbo Regional Development Company (SRDI), while strengthening the technical capacities of the actors involved in post-harvest management and processing. To this end, the project supports the installation of appropriate equipment within the SRDI, thereby contributing significantly to improving the quality of rice produced in the Imbo plain.

In this context, and with a view to improving rice quality in the long term, *flat bed dryers* with a capacity of one ton, as well as seed sorters with calibrators, were donated to the SRDI and ISABU in Gihanga. In addition, rice destoners, designed to improve the marketability of rice by removing impurities, and grain moisture meters for monitoring moisture levels during storage and processing, were provided to cooperatives under the supervision of the SRDI.

All of this equipment ensures more efficient post-harvest processing, including optimal drying, reduced post-harvest losses, and a significant improvement in the marketability of rice. It thus contributes to strengthening the competitiveness of Burundian rice on local and regional markets, while supporting the development of more resilient, sustainable, and market-oriented rice cultivation.



Flat bed dryers with a capacity of one ton



Technical training for operators on the use of flat bed dryers, with an emphasis on calculating the temperature and time required to achieve a moisture content that meets rice quality standards

### CONTACT

The JICA BURUNDI newsletter focuses on JICA's international perspectives and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter details JICA's work in Burundi.

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JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is the world's largest bilateral aid agency, providing various forms of assistance in more than 150 countries around the world.