Burundi CREI

The Water Sector and Climate Resilience Building Support Programme (PASEREC – Phase 1) in Burundi is a $15 million African Development Bank (AfDB) financed initiative designed to deliver high-impact, climate-resilient and gender-sensitive water and sanitation services for ~1.3 million residents across 15 municipalities, including the capital Gitega. The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), aligning with Burundi's national target of universal access to safe drinking water by 2025, provided technical assistance to the project to mainstream climate resilience and promote an enabling environment for the Water sector's development and sustainability of operations and outcomes.

Adaptation Need

Burundi ranks among the world's most impoverished and most climate-vulnerable countries—14th in exposure and 17th in lack of readiness—making it exceptionally ill-equipped to cope with escalating climate impacts. The WASH and irrigation sectors face a compounded crisis marked by insufficient infrastructure, fragmented institutional leadership, overlapping mandates, and chronic underfunding. These structural gaps are further strained by frequent climate shocks. Addressing these challenges demands urgent, climate-smart investment and the strategic mobilization of climate finance to stabilize and strengthen Burundi's WASH and irrigation systems for long-term resilience.

GCA's Added Value

To ensure PASEREC's investments are climate-resilient, GCA supported a detailed climate risk assessment for Burundi, which identified four climate hotspots and identified key risks—floods (flash and plain), droughts, erosion, and landslides—to water infrastructure, agriculture, and local livelihoods. These insights guided local stakeholder dialogues and informed a suite of adaptation measures tailored to site-specific risks. Proposed measures include reforestation, catchment restoration, riverbank stabilization, spring protection, rainwater harvesting, and Water Safety Plans—all prioritized based on local adaptive capacity, climate exposure, and cost-effectiveness. GCA's support enabled PASEREC to secure funding from AfDB's Climate Action Window, unlocking an additional USD 8.3 million to integrate climate resilience across its components. GCA also supported the preparation of a USD 3 million grant proposal awaiting submission through the GEF STAR-8 country allocation.

Total Investment Value Influenced

$15.06M

Beneficiaries

1.13M

IFI Implementation period

2023 - 2026

Program

Water and Urban

Partners

African Development Bank

Status

Completed

Countries

SDG contribution

PROJECT GOALS

Mainstreaming Adaptation and Resilience

This collaboration between GCA and AfDB demonstrates how climate adaptation can be systematically integrated into development planning—even in fragile and high-risk

Expected Outcomes

GCA has contributed to the following outcomes:

- Populations in targeted rural areas, especially women, have enhanced access to secure and climate-resilient drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, and related jobs.
- Climate-resilient drinking water supply and sanitation projects in three provinces (Gitega, Mwaro, Kayanza) and a modernization plan (‘villagization’) for four villages are prepared and made available to the government and development partners.
- Irrigated agricultural production is improved and income generating activities for women and youth are supported.

Climate-resilient rural drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services in Bubanza, Cibitoke, Cankuzo, Rutana, and Ruyigi Provinces.

TIMELINE

GCA Support Status

Technical Assistance Preparation

GCA Support Implementation

October, 2023

GCA Support Completion

Monitoring

FINANCE

Project Investment Value

Total Investment Value

$15.06M

IFI INVESTMENT VALUE

$13.30M

OTHER INVESTMENT VALUE

$1.76M

IFI partners

African Development Bank

CONTACTS

Lead contact

PROJECT MANAGER

Feisal Rahman

Senior Water Climate Adaptation Specialist

GENERAL MEDIA INQUIRIES

info@gca.org

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

waterandurban@gca.org

RELATED ARTICLES & RESOURCES

AfDB Project Portal