

Luxembourg, 04/02/2026

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>ELECTRIFICATION BURUNDI</i>
Project Number:	<i>2022-0809</i>
Country:	<i>BURUNDI</i>
Project Description:	<i>The project focuses on rehabilitation and modernisation of the distribution electricity network in Bujumbura, densification and electrification of surrounding areas, reinforcement of the national 30 kV MV network, set-up of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition centre and building the repair and maintenance premise for transformers.</i>

E&S Risk categorisation *High*

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no  
(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The Project comprises multiple schemes that will be co-financed by the EIB and the World Bank (WB) on a joint basis. The project is focused on the rehabilitation and modernisation of the electricity distribution network in Bujumbura, Burundi capital city, the electrification of the surrounding areas and the reinforcement of the national 30 kV MV network.

The environmental and social risks related to the project are categorized as High, as per paragraph 4.18 of E&S Policy, and they are addressed through the elaboration of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAPs). The above mentioned studies have been prepared in two separated lots: one for Bujumbura and surrounding areas and a second one for the national 30 kV network connecting outlying districts and the interior of Burundi. The studies are based on the line routes and substation locations defined in the project feasibility studies (APD – Avant-Projet Détaillé) issued in late 2024.

The project Promoter, REGIDESO (Régie de Production et de Distribution d'eau et d'électricité du Burundi, Burundi Water and Electricity Production and Distribution Authority), is the state-owned water and power distribution company in Burundi, supervised by the Ministry of Water, Energy and Mines (MINHEM). REGIDESO currently serves about 170,000 customers of which 64% are based in Bujumbura.

### Environmental Assessment

The obligation to carry out the environmental impact assessment (EIA) is regulated by the Law No. 1/09 of May 25, 2021, on the Environmental Code of the Republic of Burundi. The Directorate of Environment and Climate Change is the central EIA authority, operating under

<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



Luxembourg, 04/02/2026

the OBPE, the Burundi Office for the Environment, within the Ministry of Environment (MEEATU).

According to the available ESIA studies, the densification and electrification works may lead to vegetation degradation, traffic disruption on main roads and streets during rehabilitation and expansion works of the network segments, occupational health and safety risks (e.g., working at heights, live power lines, etc.), community health and safety risks associated with construction sites, risk of soil and water pollution due to leaks and runoff from construction equipment and machinery, waste generation including hazardous waste from electrical equipment to be replaced, and nuisances such as dust and noise during construction and rehabilitation activities.

Possible mitigants include compensating for the destruction of vegetation cover, restoring sites at the end of construction works, applying proper construction methods and installation of insulated aerial cables for the protection of birds.

The available ESIA studies and the RAPs studies are currently being updated to address some inconsistencies identified in the feasibility studies. They are expected to be updated by Q1 2026, after which they will be submitted for review to the national competent authority, the Burundi Office for the Environment. The issuance of the relevant Environmental Compliance Certificates (Certificats de Conformité Environnementale) is expected in Q3 2026.

Climate risks affecting the Project area are flooding, high temperature and wildfires. Recently, the city of Bujumbura and its surrounding areas, especially in its northwest, have faced climate disasters almost every year, particularly floods caused by the rising waters of the five rivers crossing the city, causing landslides and destruction of river banks crossing the project area as mentioned above. The Government of Burundi, with support from the World Bank, initiated an Emergency Infrastructure Resilience Project (PURI) to design and implement flood protection measures along the Gasenyi and Nyabagere rivers. These risks are mitigated via appropriate planning, design, and operation of the Project facilities.

The source of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions for the Project is the ohmic losses of the network resulting from the increase in demand enabled by the Project. At Project completion the corresponding both absolute and relative emissions are estimated at 12 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

The Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned.

## **Social Assessment**

By enabling access to electricity supply, the Project is expected to improve the living conditions for the beneficiary communities in many ways. These include the development of economic activities, the reduction of expenditure for energy in households and economic activities that are currently relying on small diesel generator and oil lamps, creation of jobs, improvement of working conditions in schools and in health centres, improvement in productivity/competition in household enterprises where women are most represented and reduction of rural exodus.

The Project has however also the potential for some adverse social impacts among which the most significant are the loss of land and assets, disruption of commercial activities, damage to crops, potential increased prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and gender-based violence due to presence of workers at construction site.

### Involuntary Resettlement

In Burundi, the expropriation of property for public utility is governed mainly by the Law No. 1/13 of August 9, 2011 revising the Burundi Land Code, and the Joint Ministerial Ordinance No. 710/540/553 of May 24, 2022, updating the compensation rates for land, crops, and buildings in the event of expropriation for public utility.



Luxembourg, 04/02/2026

The rehabilitation and expansion of the distribution electricity network will involve land acquisition for the establishment of a 12-meter wide Right of-Way (RoW) and for the construction of new posts (36 sqm per cabin) and centres of command.

In terms of land acquisition impacts, according to the available RAP studies, the Project may impact: 1073 project affected persons (195 households), in Bujumbura area, of which 70 households affected by the loss of primary house, and 3267 project affected persons (594 households) in outlying districts and the interior of Burundi, of which 11 households affected by the loss of primary house.

All affected people will be compensated<sup>2</sup> for the loss of land, and the relocation of property in a new area as well as for damages to crops, structures and disruption of economic activities resulting from the construction works. Given the linear nature of the resettlement, preliminary RAPs conclude that no households should be relocated outside the areas in which they presently live as the option of resettling within the same plot of land should be feasible.

The compensation scheme under the RAP includes special accompanying measures for vulnerable people. The types of vulnerabilities concern ethnic minority groups, age, widowed or divorced women, disability and health status.

The Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning will be responsible for mobilizing compensation funds and overseeing the distribution of compensation.

#### Rights and Interests of Vulnerable Groups

The ESIA's indicated the presence of Batwa communities in the project area, living in Bujumbura, Buterere, and Quartier Mugaruro, they appear to be integrated into the urban population and their livelihoods are the same as those of other urban dwellers. The level of potential resettlement impact remains to be confirmed through the update of the Resettlement Action Plans. The promoter will be required to develop, disclose and implement a Community Development Plan for each relevant project activity in accordance with EIB Standard 7, including associated requirements pertaining to stakeholder engagement, grievance mechanism and involuntary resettlement.

#### Labour Rights, Health, Safety, Security and Gender Aspects

According to the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) prepared by the World Bank and the Promoter, the Project Implementation Unit will prepare and implement Labour Management Procedures (LMP), including, among others, provisions on working conditions, management of working relationships, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct, management of risks of forced labour, child labour, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms including reporting of incidents. The ESCP also include measures to assess and manage risks of Gender Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH) with provisions for the training of project workers, community awareness-raising, and the project grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of GBVH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centred manner.

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<sup>2</sup> the inventory of impacted goods and the establishment of costs compensation are calculated on the basis of joint ministerial order No. 710/540/553 of May 24, 2022 updating the compensation rates for land, crops and buildings in the event of expropriation for reasons of public utility.



Luxembourg, 04/02/2026

## Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

ESIA and RAP include a reference to public consultations on the project for Bujumbura areas (3 communes of Bujumbura provinces), which took place during the period from 05 January to 01 February 2023 (15 meetings with a total of 200 participants). The consultation was based on draft project documents (Avant-Projet Sommaire and ESIA). The process undertaken during these consultations was based on a participatory and inclusive approach through the organisation of semi-structured interviews and workshops in the form of focus groups. It is important to mention that prior to these workshops, press releases were distributed disseminated in public places such as churches, posters were put up in the market to encourage mass participation by the population in the project area. Main concerns raised by the population concerned coordination during the implementation phase with neighbourhood leaders and the population itself, including sharing the calendar of the works in due advance, to receive proper compensations and to restore the premises after completion.

A similar process has been implemented for the national 30 kV network with ESIA and RAP including a reference to public consultations on the project taking place between 20 November and 22 December 2023 (23 meetings for a total of 486 participants). Prior to these workshops, press releases were distributed in public places such as churches, and posters were put up in the market to encourage massive participation by the population in the project area. Main concerns raised concerned the availability of electricity after the works, the replacement of existing poles that are damaged and dangerous and the compensations for affected people.

Most of the concerns raised during the consultation process on private properties have been addressed through modification of the route of the lines, when possible. Regarding the compensation it was clarified the procedure how to be identified as affected people (providing information about the ownership of the properties interested from the works) and it was confirmed that all the compensation will be provided before the start of the works.

The revised ESIA and RAP documents, will undergo public consultations before the approval.

According to the ESCP prepared by the World Bank and the Promoter, the Project Implementation Unit will update and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Grievance Mechanism including a process to receive, register and facilitate the resolution of GBVH complaints.

## Other Environmental and Social Aspects

A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is being set-up with the purpose of managing the Project's environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) risks and impacts, including GBVH risks. The PIU will be staffed with two full-time qualified E&S specialists to strengthen its capacity to handle ESHS matters. The PIU will be supported by an Owner's Engineer who will assist REGIDESO in updating of environmental and social studies and management plans and in supervising the implementation of the environmental and social mitigation measures.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the information available, and with appropriate conditionalities (see below) and monitoring, the Project is expected to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for Bank financing.

The following disbursement conditions and undertakings will apply.

### Conditions:

Conditions for all disbursements:



Luxembourg, 04/02/2026

- Provide to the Bank a copy of the CV of the qualified environment, health, safety, social and gender experts of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), as well of the E&S staff of the Owner Engineer, in charge of updating the E&S studies and management plans.
- Evidence that the PIU is staffed with environmental, social, health and safety resources satisfactory to the Bank, including support from external consultants, when required.

For disbursements related to works contracts:

- Provide to the Bank a copy of the Public Utility Declaration (DUP) decree adopted by the Government formally declaring the project or its relevant components as one of public utility which allows for acquisition of the land and other necessary permits.
- Update of the ESIA (including ESMP) of the Project for Bujumbura region, subject to conclusion of the public consultation process, satisfactory to the Bank and provide associated approval by the competent authority.
- Update of the ESIA (including ESMP) of the Project for 30 kV network, subject to conclusion of the public consultation process, satisfactory to the Bank and provide associated approval by the competent authority.
- Update of the RAP for the Project for Bujumbura Region, subject to conclusion of the public consultation process, satisfactory to the Bank, inclusive of vulnerability assessment and livelihood restoration plan for the project area.
- Update of the RAP for the Project for 30 kV network, subject to conclusion of the public consultation process, satisfactory to the Bank, inclusive of vulnerability assessment and livelihood restoration plan for the project area.
- A detailed plan of compensation/reinstallation compatible with the final RAPs and clearly outlining the phasing of activities to ensure works on any section of the project do not start before compensation/reinstallation of the related PAPs has been completed
- Evidence acceptable to the Bank that compensation/reinstallation has been completed as defined in the RAP for each component or line section as soon as completed and before disbursement against relevant component or line section.
- A Community Development Plan for each relevant project activity in compliance with EIB Standard 7, satisfactory to the Bank, and integrating where required information relating specifically to the affected ethnic minority group.
- Update of the SEP and grievance mechanism of the Project for Bujumbura Region satisfactory to the Bank.
- Update of the SEP and grievance mechanism of the Project for 30 kV network satisfactory to the Bank.
- A Labour Management Plan and procedures satisfactory to the Bank, and inclusive of aspects relating to Occupational Health and Safety, the management of GBVH risks, Workers grievance arrangements, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors.

If compensation/reinstallation in any specific component / line section could not be completed, provide to the Bank with:

- Evidence that the funds related to the outstanding compensation/reinstallation have been deposited into a dedicated account or entrusted to a third party acceptable to the Bank.
- Evidence that the situation has resulted from:
  - The impossibility to identify one or more of the PAPs;
  - An ongoing litigation involving one or more of the PAPs that affects the compensation/reinstallation process;
  - Any other reasons beyond the Borrowers control as discussed with and accepted by the Bank.

### **Undertakings**

The Promoter shall undertake to:

- Works on the ground shall not start until compensations to project affected people are paid.



Luxembourg, 04/02/2026

- Prepare and submit to the satisfaction of the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health, safety and security performance of the Project, including any unexpected events, any updates to E&S safeguard documents, and a detailed planning of upcoming project E&S activities.
- Implementation of the project in accordance with the Bank's environmental and social standards.
- Satisfactory evidence that the Grievance Mechanism for the Project is operational before the start-up of project activities.
- Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESIA's and corresponding ESMPs, the SEP, the Labour Management Procedures, and Codes of conduct, into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and that they require their subcontractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts.
- Upon completion of all resettlement activities, prepare and submit RAP(s) implementation audit report(s) satisfactory to the Bank.
- The Promoter shall store and keep updated the E&S documentation that may be relevant to this operation and shall, upon request, promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.