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Success Stories



# BURUNDI'S HEALTH ACCOUNTS DATA UNDERLINE NEED FOR HEALTH FINANCING REFORMS

Faced with a double burden of disease, Burundi's government is grappling with how to address growing demand for health care. At the same time, the government is working to balance financial constraints, rising costs, and limited resources. Policymakers need access to the reliable data to make well-informed decisions to raise sufficient funds for the health sector, allocate them according to need, and manage the burden of health costs on households.

Health Accounts can help. Health Accounts (HA) use an internationally-recognized framework known as the [System of Health Accounts 2011 \(SHA 2011\)](#) to measure the amount of funds spent on health in a given year and how those funds are allocated. In particular, Health Accounts reveal:

- ▶ who receives funding for health;
- ▶ who spends the received funds and through which types of providers;
- ▶ what goods and services are purchased with the funds; and
- ▶ which diseases or health conditions receive the most health spending.

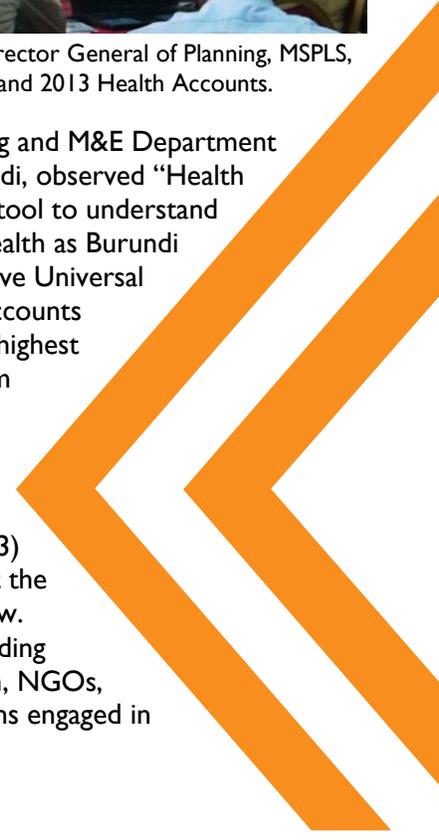
For more than a year, the Health Finance and Governance Project (HFG) has worked closely with Burundi's Health Accounts team to build their capacity to use HA and the SHA 2011 framework. The team is housed in in the Planning Unit of the Ministry of Health and Fight Against HIV/AIDS (MSPLS). As a result, MSPLS now has the expertise to produce HAs going forward with minimal external assistance.



Dr. Longin Gashubije, former Director General of Planning, MSPLS, presents the results of the 2012 and 2013 Health Accounts.

The Director of the Planning and M&E Department of MSPLS, Mr. Sublime Nkindi, observed “Health Accounts are an important tool to understand the financing available for health as Burundi introduces reforms to achieve Universal Health Coverage. Health Accounts should be promoted at the highest political levels to help inform national strategies.”

In April, 2015, MSPLS completed a new round of Health Accounts (2012-2013) and presented the results at the Annual Health Sector Review. Over 100 participants, including Burundi's Minister of Health, NGOs, and civil society organizations engaged in



A flagship project of USAID's Office of Health Systems, the Health Finance and Governance (HFG) Project supports its partners in low- and middle-income countries to strengthen the health finance and governance functions of their health systems, expanding access to life-saving health services. The HFG project is a five-year (2012-2017), \$209 million global health project. The project builds on the achievements of the Health Systems 20/20 project. To learn more, please visit [www.hfgproject.org](http://www.hfgproject.org).

The HFG project is led by Abt Associates in collaboration with Avenir Health, Broad Branch Associates, Development Alternatives Inc., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Results for Development Institute, RTI International, and Training Resources Group, Inc.

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SEPTEMBER 2015

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lively discussions about the results and their implications for Burundi's health sector.

While the government has demonstrated its commitment to health by increasing contributions to health since 2007, the new data highlight several challenges. The Total Health Expenditure (THE) per capita is below the World Health Organization (WHO) norm of USD \$44. Also, the percentage of the government budget allocated to health is lower than the 15 percent recommended by the 2001 Abuja Declaration.

In addition, the percentage of THE financed out-of-pocket (OOP) is higher than WHO's recommendation of 15-20 percent. According to the HA, the average household OOP spending was US\$ 29 in 2013. A recent survey of agricultural workers showed that more than 80% of the rural population could not afford to pay more than US\$16 per year. As a result of these findings, many participants called for greater reforms to ensure more affordable health care.



Participants at Burundi's Annual Health Sector Review in April 2015 listen to the findings of the 2012 and 2013 Health Accounts.

The new HA provide Burundi's government with critical health spending information, and give policymakers much-needed evidence to ensure that the country's upcoming Health Financing Strategy responds to the challenges highlighted by the data.

### Resources

*Comptes de la Sante au Burundi: 2012-2013*

<https://www.hfgproject.org/comptes-de-la-sante-au-burundi-2012-2013/>

*Comptes de la santé de Burundi 2012 et 2013: Principaux résultats*

<https://www.hfgproject.org/comptes-de-la-sante-de-burundi-2012-et-2013-principaux-resultats/>