



# UNFPA BURUNDI

BECAUSE EVERYONE COUNTS

*Special Newsletter on the Visit to  
Burundi by UNFPA Regional Director  
for Eastern and Southern Africa*

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## VISIT TO BURUNDI BY THE UNFPA REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

**T**he UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, **Dr Julitta Onabanjo** visited Burundi from 26 February to 01 March 2017.

**Dr. Julitta Onabanjo** was

warmly welcomed by all UNFPA Burundi staff on Sunday 26 February 2016 along with different representatives from the Government of Burundi lead by the General Director in charge of the office for Regional and International Organizations in

the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation.

A joyful celebration and a lot of emotions prevailed at the International Airport of Bujumbura.



*UNFPA Burundi Staff present at the airport to welcome their Regional Director*

## EXCHANGE WITH UNFPA BURUNDI STAFF

On Monday, February 27, 2017, Dr. Onabanjo met all the UNFPA Burundi staff. During this meeting, the main results of the current program were presented, followed by very rich discussions and clarifications.

*Photos: UNFPA Burundi staff welcoming their Regional Director*



*Presentation of Key Results Program*

The UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa appreciated everyone's efforts to bring out tangible changes in the lives of Burundian women, youth and adolescents.

She took the same opportunity to provide all staff with precious advices that will enable them to produce, once again, better results.



*Dr. Julitta Onabanjo addressing UNFPA Burundi staff*

“  
*The experience we always share as a team rises up the bar. Our "UBUNTU" spirit will surely allow us to cross the year of 2017.*  
— shared Dr. Julitta Onabanjo.

”

After that, she shared a warm moment with all the staff.

*Family photo of all UNFPA Burundi staff with their Regional Director*



*Dr. Julitta Onabanjo dancing with refugee women and girls*



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**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS**

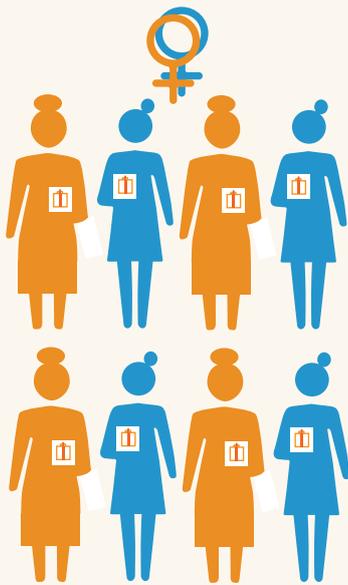
**O**n February 27th, the UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa visited 200 refugee women and girls from the Democratic Republic of Congo, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in their office in Bujumbura. A warm wel-

come was reserved to Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, as well as the entire team that accompanied her. Songs and dances were part of the celebration.

For Dr. Onabanjo, no one can ignore problems refugees are facing while they have left their countries, their homes and their families behind.

This visit was also an opportunity to offer to these women and girls **200 solar lamps and 200 dignity kits** in order to improve their life conditions and participate in respect of their dignity.

**200** SOLAR LAMPS      **200** DIGNITY KITS



**GIVEN TO**  
**WOMEN AND GIRLS**



Gratitude was expressed by these refugee women and girls. **KUBEMBELEZA Huguette**, a 19-year-old girl shared her joy after receiving a solar lamp and dignity kit.



*Huguette shares her testimony*

“  
*I'm so happy to receive these gifts. The solar lamp will help me to revise my courses at night, which was not easy without electricity.*  
-Shared Huguette.

”



Huguette shares her testimony

She added that the clothes received in the dignity kit will surely be very useful:

“

*God bless you so much, you have made my day".  
- shares Huguette with a smile.*

”

As for **Kabola Tumba Carine**, she is touched that they are people who always think about their well-being:

“

*I have been here since 2013, I did not bring anything from my home because we were fleeing the rebels. The kit of dignity that we were offered meets the basic needs of a woman in general and more particularly of a refugee woman. I cannot thank you enough.*

”



Carine shares her testimony

## THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN GATUMBA REGAIN THEIR SMILE AND DIGNITY



Dr. Julitta Onabanjo dancing with internally displaced people in Gatumba

The UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa also met the internally displaced women and girls from Gatumba in Bujumbura Rural province (western Burundi). They were victims of the floods caused by the Rusizi River in June 2016, and they lost everything.

These internally displaced women and girls also received the

Regional Director with a warm welcome and thanked UNFPA for the humanitarian assistance they had received twice since last June, in partnership with the Red Cross Burundi.

Dr. Julitta Onabanjo had the opportunity to visit this displaced people's camp and to exchange with them about their life conditions and the unfortunate experience they have had.

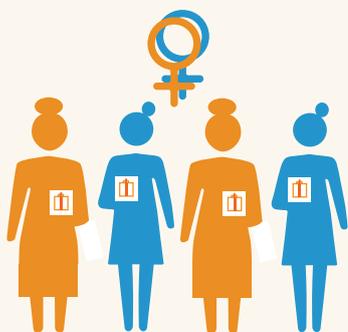


*Visit of Dr. Julitta Onabanjo in one of the tents*



*Moment of exchanges with internally displaced women sharing their experiences and pain*

**755** SOLAR LAMPS      **860** DIGNITY KITS



**GIVEN TO  
WOMEN AND GIRLS**



*Distribution of Kits to Internally Displaced Women and girls in Gatumba*

The UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa shared words of support and encouragement while promising that UNFPA will continue to do their best to support and advocate for them and their families.

This was also an opportunity to offer them 860

dignity kits and 755 solar lamps to enable them to regain their dignity and maintain an acceptable level of cleanliness and hygiene.



## MEETING WITH BENEFICIARIES OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AT ABUBEF

**O**n Tuesday, February 28th, 2017, the UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa visited the Family Wellness Association (ABUBEF) clinic, a key UNFPA partner in promoting family planning in Burundi.

After a presentation of the key results obtained by ABUBEF in collaboration with his partners, including UNFPA, Dr. Julitta Onabanjo was informed about the services offered through a guided tour. She was

*Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, being informed about services offered by the mobile clinic located at the ABUBEF*



able to discuss with the patients but also with the nursing staff of the clinic

Testimony was also shared. This father of 5 children who asked for anonymity reported he underwent a vasectomy surgery, although it was not easy to convince his wife:



*A beneficiary of the vasectomy, who requested anonymity, sharing his testimony*



“

*When we had our 3rd child, I started to tell my wife that I want to resort to vasectomy because she did not want to hear about family planning. She said she will give birth to as many children as God will allow her to have. It worried me because I did not want my children to endure the same thing I had experienced.*

”

Indeed, this father was born from a large family of 8 children and his parents could not raise them properly because of poverty. None of them has ever been at school and so far, they had difficulty to find work.

After consulting the Holy Scriptures, he says that nowhere he has seen the prohibition of planning his life and his family:

“

*My wife told me that doing vasectomy is against the will of God. I consulted the Bible and I did not see it anywhere, but I found that it would be irresponsible to have children that I could not raise.*

*Helped by ABUBEF, my wife was convinced and today we live a better life, we can provide the needs of our children and family. Even my wife has become more fulfilled and can pay attention to something else.*

”



IF NOTHING IS DONE ABOUT  
FAMILY PLANNING

2017:   
11 Millions

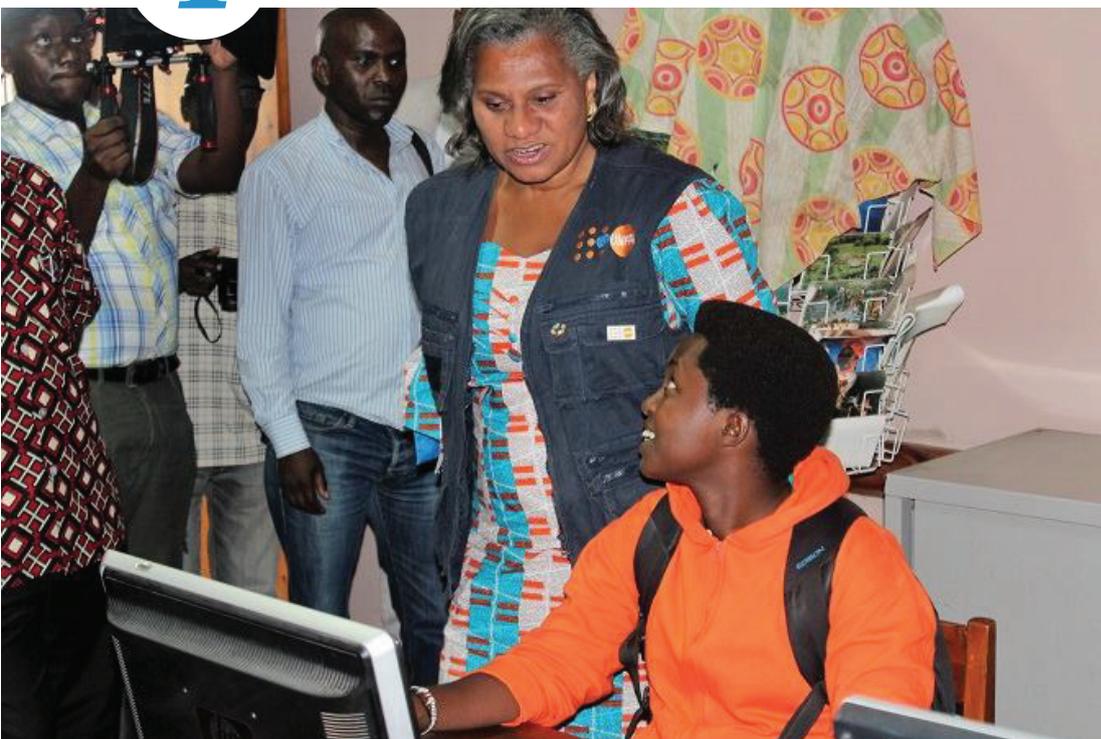
2030:   
22 Millions

After several testimonies, **Dr. Julitta Onabanjo**, UNFPA's Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, encouraged family planning recipients to become ambassadors for the promotion of family planning because the population of Burundi is growing very rapidly. It is up to couples to make the choice, in order to avoid the worst.

Indeed, when the population of Burundi is almost 11 million today, it will double by 2030 if nothing is done.

## MEETING WITH YOUTH AT THE KAMENGE YOUTH CENTER

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*Dr. Julitta Onabanjo visiting the Youth Kamenge Center*

**D**r. Julitta Onabanjo visited the Kamenge Youth Center located in north of Bujumbura City, on Tuesday, February 28th, 2017. At this center, she had the opportunity to meet youth involved in the peace building and social cohesion project and she heard about difference edifying peace rebuilding stories in the communities. She also learnt about the services offered to young people for their fulfillment.

That center, in partnership with UNFPA Burundi also provides sexual and reproductive health services to adolescents and youth. At the same time, a radio station run by the young people and for the youth, Radio Colombe, was created by UNFPA Burundi, which continues to support it in training and informing young people about their health in general and their sexual and reproductive health. In particular, and also by integrating programs that encourage young people to be fulfilled and to develop social cohesion.



*Dr. Julitta Onabanjo visiting the Youth Kamenge Center*

**Dr. Julitta Onabanjo** took the opportunity to deliver message to young people, live at Radio Colombe :

“

*My message to Burundi in general and to young people in particular, who are the majority of the population (65%) is that these young people must be protected, empowered, educated and informed from an early age on everything that will contribute to their development and good health in general and sexual and reproductive health in particular. They could then use these informations later to make good choices that will contribute to their own development and to the development of their country.*

”



*Dr. Julitta Onabanjo live on Radio Colombe*

The Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa said that this issue was not unique to Burundi. For her, all countries in Africa must ensure that their young people are healthy, well educated, protected and fulfilled so that they can

contribute to the development of their country and of Africa.

A Musical Caravan was organized on the same day at the Kamenge Youth Center to mobilize adolescents and young people who attend school or not

on Sexual and Reproductive Health in order to change their behavior, to improve their health and later their socio-economic well-being.



*Viva Maëlla Ndashinze, delivering a message on behalf of the youth of Burundi*

On this occasion, a 12-years-old girl shared a message on behalf of young Burundian teenagers. **Veva Maëlla Ndashinze** expressed in her message the need for young people to be educated and protected while thanking the government and its partners, including UNFPA, for the step already taken. She has also challenged young people themselves to make the right choices that will preserve their lives and help them to improve their families and develop their countries

For **Docteur Julitta Onabanjo**, young people must be educated, protected and helped to fulfill their potentials and young people themselves have a part to play on it.



## BURUNDI LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN UNION 2017 THEME: "HARNESSING THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN YOUTH"

On February 28th, 2017, His Excellency the Second Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), launched the

African Union 2017 theme:

*"Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth".*

UNFPA's Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa congratulated the Republic of Burundi for being the first country

to launch this theme in the region of 23 countries she direct. She called on everyone: Government, civil society organizations, and international organizations, anyone involved to work synergistically to invest in young people.

“

*If we invest in these 10-year-old girls and boys, we will agree in the next 15 years that we have made the best investment of our life.*

”

- said **Dr Julitta Onabanjo**



*Dr Julitta Onabanjo delivering a speech at the Burundi launch of the AU 2017 theme*



*His Excellency the Second Vice-President of the Republic, Dr. Joseph Butore delivering his speech*

His Excellency the **Second Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, Dr. Joseph Butore**, acknowledged the challenges that the country is facing and presented the Government's response stressing that one of the strategies adopted was to invest in young people, especially in the promotion and improvement of family planning and reproductive health services among adolescents and young people.

At this ceremony, a report on the contraceptive revolution in Burundi was also launched entitled: *"The Contraceptive Revolution in Burundi: Perspectives of the Demographic Dividend"*.

This study is the result of a collaboration between UNFPA and the Government of the Republic of Burundi in which a roadmap on demographic dividend was proposed.

His Excellency the Second Vice-President of the Republic ceremoniously handed over this report to the UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, who in turn handed him the African Union Roadmap.

Several members of the Government attended the ceremony. Also in attendance, the diplomatic community, United Nations Agencies Representatives, national and international NGOs working in the field of youth and the private sector Representatives such as banks and insurance companies.



*Documents exchange between the UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa and His Excellency the Second Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi*

## COURTESY VISIT TO THE HIGHEST STATE AUTHORITIES

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The UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa made a courtesy visit to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, on Wednesday, March 1st, 2017.

*The President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza, and Dr Julitta Onabanjo, the UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa.*

They had the opportunity to discuss about population matters. Dr. Julitta Onabanjo warmly thanked His Excellency the President of the Republic for the efforts undertaken by his Government to promote family planning in Burundi through free of

charge care of children under 5 and pregnant women who give birth, as well as free access to basic education. His Excellency the President of the Republic, for his part, thanked the Regional Director of UNFPA and reiterated to her the commitment of

the Government of Burundi to ensure that the Burundian population can have a respectable well-being and ensure that this achievement can be also exported to the rest of Africa.

## VISIT TO HER EXCELLENCY THE FIRST LADY OF BURUNDI



*From left to right: UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa and Her Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi*

The UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa also met the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi on the same Wednesday, March 1st, 2017. Dr Julitta Onabanjo congratulated the First Lady for her efforts to promote sexual and reproductive health and her fight against obstetric fistula made through the Ubuntu foundation.

**Her Excellency Denise Nkurunziza** also indicated that UNFPA is very

useful since the vision of its foundation "Ubuntu" is like the mandate of UNFPA.

**Dr. Onabanjo** encouraged her to continue to make her own and personal advocate of family planning on the one hand and the promotion of the well-being of adolescents and young people of Burundi on the other.



On February 28th, 2017, Dr. Julitta Onabanjo met His Excellency Dr. Joseph Butore, The Second Vice-President of the Republic. They exchanged views and family values regarding the education of young people. Dr Julitta Onabanjo suggested that it would be a great help if the bill on health and family life education were rapidly enacted.

*From left to right: UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa and The Second Vice-President of the Republic.*

## MEETING OF THE UNFPA REGIONAL DIRECTOR WITH BURUNDI MINISTERS

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*From left to right: The Minister in charge of Good Governance & Plan, the Minister in charge of Education, the Minister in charge of Youth and the Minister in charge of Gender*

**D**uring her visit in Burundi, Dr Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, met various Ministers of the country.

On February 28th, 2017, she met Mr. Alain Aimé Nyamitwe, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. They shared about the achievements of the program, the commitment to develop and implement the Demographic Dividend Roadmap.

On the same day, Dr Onabanjo met, in a panel, 4 key Ministers, such as the one in charge of Education, the one in charge of Youth; The one in charge of Gender and the one in charge of Good Governance and Plan.

They all agreed on the importance of young adolescents' access to sexual reproductive health information and services, but also on the importance of adopting the Health and Family Life Education Bill.

They also discussed about the implementation of the Demographic Dividend Roadmap, the national strategies for the prevention and management of Gender-based Violence, as well as the empowerment of adolescents and women



*From left to right: The Minister in charge of Good Governance & Plan, the Minister in charge of Education, the Minister in charge of Youth and the Minister in charge of Gender*



*Panel overview*



On February 28th, 2017, the UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa met with **Dr. Josiane Nijimbere** the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS. They exchanged views on national strategies to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate in Burundi.

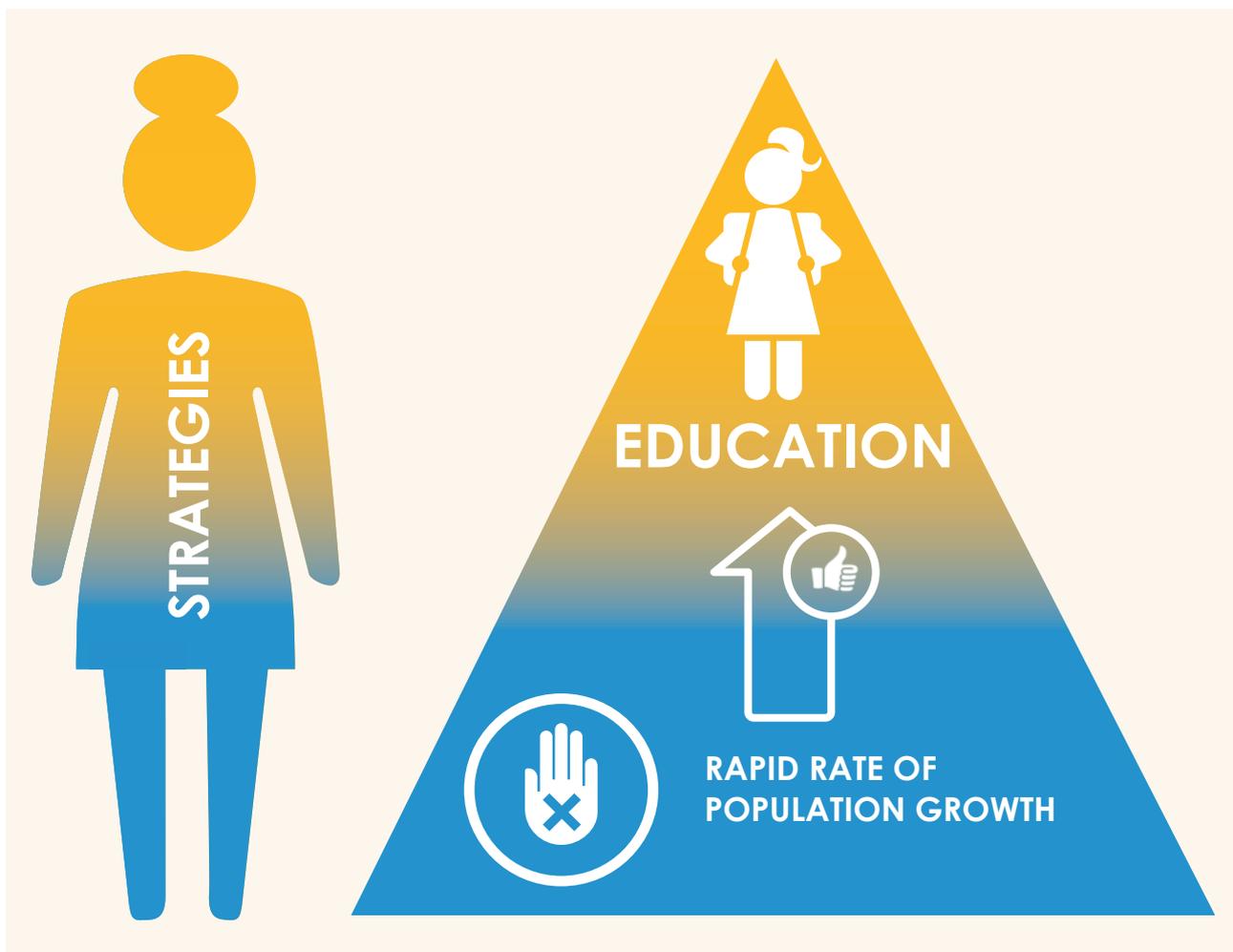
*From left to right: The Minister in charge of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS and the Regional Director of UNFPA for Eastern and Southern Africa*

The UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa met on 27 and 28 February 2017 respectively the Burundi UN Country Team and key donors for population and development programs.

They discussed on how to strengthen partnership and to do synergistic activities to achieve the best results for the benefit of the Burundian population through the achievement of the demographic dividend in Burundi.

They also discussed strategies on how to stop the rapid rate of population growth that could jeopardize all development efforts if strategic investments are not considered to control the birth rate in the country.

**Per Dr. Julitta Onabanjo**, the population is growing rapidly because young girls get pregnant very early. *"These adolescent and young girls need to be at school and not to be pregnant,"* adds Dr. Onabanjo.



# REPRESENTATION OF UNFPA IN BURUNDI



*BECAUSE EVERYONE COUNTS*

✉ [burundi.office@unfpa.org](mailto:burundi.office@unfpa.org)

🌐 <http://burundi.unfpa.org>