

## **Burundi Saemaul Undong: added value of activities in pilot villages**

Burundi Saemaul Undong is a local community-based organization registered in the Ministry of Interior, Public Security and Community Development in 2014. Since then, the organization contributes in the development of the country especially in the communities and is organized from central level up to the community level. Burundi Saemaul Undong has now more than 400 volunteers spread over more than 84 villages.

The saemaul approach that guides all the organization's activities on ground is changing the mind of communities and gives the visibility of Burundi saemaul Undong. Today, it is playing its role of auxiliary of public administration at all levels and to invest in national partnership. The partnership concluded between Burundi Saemaul Undong and its partners facilitate the dissemination of saemaul spirit. This year the new province ( Karusi) is added for the action of the organization as part of the implementation of 3 years (2019-2021) Burundi Saemaul Undong Strategic Plan. Actually, Burundi Saemaul Undong is operating in 9 provinces of Burundi: is Cibitoke province, Bujumbura Province, Mwaro province, Makamba province, Bubanza province, Rumonge province, Gitega province, Bujumbura Town Hall province including this new one Karuzi Province.

### **Partnership**

In the implementation of Burundi Saemaul undong programs, the organization uses the 3 pillars of the movement:

- **Diligence:** leads to sincerity, a value which is a spirit of work in ridding of corruption, hypocrisy and vanity (Work hard with sincerity)
- **Self-help:** defines someone's destiny based on their efforts. The proverb "help yourself, heaven will help you» proves that you are master of your destiny (Take responsibility for your life).
- **Cooperation:** is based on the continued growth of community, cooperation encourages team effort (Pursue Community growth together).

The third principle contributes to disseminate the saemaul philosophy around the country. Partners constituted by the government of the Republic of Burundi, UN system Agencies and International Organizations are cooperating with Burundi Saemaul Undong in the implementation of their activities.

By this cooperation, local the central government help Burundi Saemaul Undong in facilitation of the implementation of activities on ground. Documents of authorization are regular issued by the competent authorities when are requested. The local government helps Burundi Saemaul Undong the facilitation of the operation of saemaul activities as well as the support in terms of local material, like cars for quarry transportation when villagers are rehabilitating road, and lands for village's projects.

Burundi Saemaul Undong concluded a partnership with Korea Saemaul Undong Center since 2017. Thus various projects are implementing in four pilots villages ( Mugina village in Cibitoke Province, Bisoro Village in Mwaro province, Nyanza-Lac village in Makamba province and Nyamuye village in Bujumbura province) with the support of Korea Saemaul Undong Center.



*The team of Korea Saemaul Undong Center visiting pilot villages in 2019*

Burundi Saemaul Undong concluded the partnership with UN Women since 2018 and various projects implemented support 235 women's cooperatives groups in six provinces of Burundi. Projects are focusing in income increase of women for their empowerment.



*Participation of Burundi Saemaul Undong in meetings with representative of UN Women in Burundi*

### **Added value of Saemaul Undong in pilot villages**

Burundi saemaul Undong Center realizes regularly trainings of villages leaders. The sense of responsibilities based on change mind guides by seamaul undong spirit (diligence, self-help and cooperation).



*Training of villager's leaders in Burundi Saemaul Undong Center*

#### **1. Mugina village**

In mugina village the general assembly adopted various project to be implemented in the village. These are constituted by conditions improvement in the village and increasing of income of villager's members projects.





*Villagers in general assembly*



Agriculture project



Rice production project





Living conditions improvement

## 2. Bisoro village

In Bisoro village, projects of agriculture and cooperative groups, improvement of living conditions for environment protection have been approved.



*Agriculture and cooperative groups projects*



*Village cooperative project*



### 3. Nyanza-Lac village

In Nyanza-lac village villagers selected the projects of environment protection and increasing of income



*100000 trees produced and planted in Nyanza-lac Village*

### 4. Nyambuye village

In Nyambuye village, the improvement of living conditions and income projects have been adopted to be implemented.



*Cooperative groups project*

#### **Consideration by the administration**

Burundi Saemaul Undong is well considered by local administration. This is confirmed by the participation of local authorities in Saemaul activities. For example, the Mugina

administrators encourage Saemaul activities and visit villagers on ground.



*The administrator of Mugina Commune in Cibitoke province visits and encourages villages on ground*

During the activity of exhibition of products by cooperative groups supervised by Burundi Saemaul Undong, the Chief of Cabinet of Governor in Cibitoke province congratulated Burundi Saemaul Undong and encourage beneficiaries for working hard for the inclusive and sustainable development.



*The Chief of Cabinet of Governor and UN Women Representative during the exposition in Cibitoke Province*