

Special Assistance to Muslim Communities in Non-Member Countries: A Case in Burundi

In Burundi, through an umbrella organization “Communauté Islamique du Burundi” (COMIBU) IDB supported three educational institutions, namely “Lycée Technique Moderne de Ngozi”, “Lycée Islamique de Rumonge”, and “Debout Bébés” Primary School. IDB’s contribution enabled these institutions to provide primary and secondary education for 810 students across various cities in Burundi. The projects also contributed in increasing the total number of teachers in each school. At “Lycée Islamique de Rumonge” school, the number of full-time teachers increased from 35 in 2007/2008 to 49 in 2012/13, causing the student-teacher ratio to fall from 23 to 11, which is lower than the average secondary school student-teacher ratio (38) in Burundi. Similarly, at “Debout Bébés” Primary School the number of full-time teachers has increased from 8 in 2007/2008 to 13 in 2012/13, and consequently the student-teacher ratio has dropped from 36 to 21, which is lower than the national average. More importantly, the institutions achieved high completion rates, with “Lycée Islamique de Rumonge” school and “Debout Bébés” Primary School having graduation rates of 97% and 64% respectively. Overall, all three institutions contributed towards the empowerment of women by giving equal access to education for both male and female students. In “Lycée Islamique de Rumonge” school and “Debout Bébés” Primary School, the gender parity ratios are close to one indicating equal share of male and female in their student population. On the other hand, the newly started “Lycée Technique Moderne de Ngozi” school is already known as one of the few schools in Ngozi that highly encourages female students to pursue technical track. Moreover, these institutions provide education to the most vulnerable children in the local communities. For example, “Lycée Islamique de Rumonge” school provides free education for 50 orphans every year whereas in the “Debout Bébés” Primary School there are 41 orphan students whose tuition fees have been waived.



Playground at “Debout Bébés” Primary School



Classroom at “Lycée Technique Moderne de Ngozi” School