



STRONG WOMEN = STRONG COFFEE CASE STUDY

Working Together Grows Quality and Premiums

Leadership, community engagement, and partnership in the Ngozi and Kayanza regions of Burundi create economic empowerment and drive progress.

Pauline Ntaconkurikira, a coffee producer, joined IWCA Burundi in 2012 and gathered neighbors to join with her. Working together as an IWCA Chapter, the group formed partnerships that provided new training and education which members readily implemented. Coffee quality improved quickly for men and women farmers, opening the door for the coffee "IWCA Burundi Premium" program and an additional premium from partner organizations.



Community members arrive to receive premiums.

Burundi Country Context

- **Population** (2017): 10,900,000
- **Poverty** (2013): 71.7 % population at International Poverty Line US\$1.90/day.
- **Gender Inequality Index (GII)** (2015): 0.47
0=equality, 1= high inequality
- **World Risk Index Ranking** (2015): 33
1=high disaster risk, 171=low disaster risk

References

Population & Poverty: <http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/country/BDI>
GII measures human development & status by gender: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>
World Risk Index measures exposure & vulnerability to natural hazards: <http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/ireus/Internationales/WorldRiskIndex/>



Global IWCA Connections Provide a Catalyst for Local Impact

In 2013, Pauline participated in the 3rd IWCA Convention in Guatemala. When she returned home, she started a new coffee farm named "Pauline's Guatemala farm." Pauline's group is planning to build their own coffee washing station allowing them to process their own beans. They are currently hard at work preparing the road to improve the infrastructure en route to the washing station. Pauline has been an inspiration and motivator for her coffee community.

Summary

As women began to receive a coffee premium, recognition and appreciation for their participation increased, which led to their involvement as partners in family businesses, including planting new trees and extending their family coffee farms.

Cup of Excellence. On the chapter level, IWCA Burundi members competed in the 2014 Cup of Excellence and won second place for the Kirema washing station and 20th for the Karehe washing station. Their achievement meant that farmers earned twice as much as their next best available option at the local sogestal. In Burundi, a sogestal is a regional grouping of washing stations.

Significant Growth. Cup of Excellence and other successes have encouraged a continued focus on coffee quality, and the value of working together as an IWCA chapter. Membership has grown from 156 members to more than 2000. Similarly, total coffee production of IWCA Burundi chapter members has increased dramatically - up from 94 green coffee bags in 2012 to 2065 green coffee bags in 2017.

Important Partners. Several women are part of the Women Empowered (WE) project, sponsored by Project Concern International and Burundi Friends International. The project trains small groups of women and youth in financial literacy and planning and facilitates a model for micro-loans funded within the group. Equipped with skills and capital to better manage and invest in their coffee businesses, women can also invest in their families and communities.

Local impact. Since it began, IWCA Burundi has had a positive impact on the families in Ngozi and Kayanza by offering opportunities for skills training and coffee bonuses resulting in improved livelihoods. Women no longer need to ask their husbands to cover necessary expenses and have invested in their households such as by purchasing bikes, goats, cows and being able to pay school fees for their children.

To contact the IWCA Burundi Chapter, including Pauline Ntaconkurikira, please visit the Chapters page of the IWCA website:
www.womenincoffee.org.



The mission of the International Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA) is to empower women in the international coffee community to achieve meaningful and sustainable lives; and to encourage and recognize the participation of women in all aspects of the coffee industry.