

Journées sur l'Accès à l'Energie Renouvelable au Burundi

BREAD 2026



5-6 novembre 2026

Bujumbura, Burundi



©Projet Soleil Nyakiriza

Organisées par



En partenariat avec



AGENDA

5 – 6 November 2026 | Donatus Conference Centre, Bujumbura

Time (EAT) Day 1 – Thursday 5 November 2026

08:30 – 09:00 **Arrival & Registration**

- Welcoming of participants
- On-site and virtual check-in

09:00 – 10:00 **Opening Ceremony**

A high-level launch segment where key political and development leaders formally open BREAD 2026. This ceremony will set the tone by emphasizing national commitment, aligning the audience around shared goals and reinforcing the political will to move from plan to action. Ministers, donor representatives and private sector leaders will deliver remarks intended to galvanize momentum and signal early opportunities for collaboration and investment.

10:00 – 11:00 **Session 1 | High-Level Plenary: One Year After the Energy Compact – From Commitment to Implementation**

One year after the launch of Burundi's National Energy Compact, this session will provide a comprehensive review of implementation progress toward achieving 70% electricity access by 2030. It will examine achievements across grid expansion, decentralized renewable energy, clean cooking, sector reforms and investment mobilization while identifying key bottlenecks that continue to hinder delivery.

The session will present updated access figures, progress against Compact targets and lessons learned from the first year of implementation. Discussions will focus on whether the current pace of investments and reforms is sufficient to achieve the country's ambitions under Mission 300 and what corrective actions may be required. Particular attention will be given to institutional coordination, the role of the Compact Monitoring Unit, and mechanisms for strengthening accountability and results tracking.

The objective is to establish a shared understanding of where Burundi stands today, what remains to be done, and how all stakeholders can align their efforts to accelerate implementation over the next four years.

The session will also examine an often-overlooked dimension of the first year of implementation: the jobs already created. From construction and installation activities to operations, maintenance, project development and administration, energy investments have begun generating employment. Presenting this early evidence serves a dual purpose – it demonstrates

the tangible economic returns of the Compact and strengthens the case for sustaining and accelerating investment. It also establishes a baseline against which future job creation can be tracked under the Compact's monitoring framework.

11:00 – 12:30

Session 2 | From Investment to Employment – What Jobs Will Burundi's Energy Transition Create?

Investment in energy infrastructure does not only deliver electricity – it creates jobs. This session will examine the employment potential of Burundi's energy transition and map the jobs expected to emerge across the renewable energy value chain as a result of Compact implementation. It will explore what types of jobs will be created, in what numbers, at what skill levels, and where across the country.

Experts from government, industry, academia and development organizations will discuss current skills gaps against the anticipated jobs pipeline, and what this means for workforce planning. The session will also examine the role of productive uses of electricity in stimulating enterprise development and indirect employment generation – from agro-processing and cold storage to digital services and electric mobility.

This session bridges the investment discussion of the morning with the skills development discussion that follows. By the end of the session, participants will have a clearer picture of the workforce Burundi needs to build, and the urgency of beginning that process now.

12:30 – 13:00

Official Opening of the Renewable Energy Expo and Green Jobs Fair

The exhibition will showcase renewable energy technologies, clean cooking solutions, productive-use applications, university programs, digital innovations, youth-led enterprises and employment opportunities across Burundi's energy sector. Participants will include renewable energy companies, development partners, universities, TVET institutions, financial institutions, innovation hubs and start-ups. Official ribbon-cutting followed by an exhibition tour.

13:00 – 14:00

Networking Lunch

14:00 – 15:00

Session 3 | Building the Workforce – Skills Development for Burundi's Energy Future

Having established what investments are planned and what jobs they are expected to generate, this session turns to the central question of how Burundi will develop the skills needed to fill those jobs. It will explore the full spectrum of human capital development required – from higher education and professional engineering training to technical and vocational education, certification and on-the-job learning.

The session will officially launch Burundi's new master's program in Renewable Energy, which will provide the country with a pipeline of highly qualified graduates capable of leading the energy transition. It will also examine the role of TVET institutions, industry training programs and professional certification schemes in developing the broader technical workforce.

Panelists will address persistent bottlenecks – including weak coordination between education and industry, limited work-based learning opportunities, inadequate professional certification and barriers to youth and women's participation in technical careers. The session will identify the institutional partnerships and policy priorities needed to align skills supply with the demand generated by Compact investments and will draw on the conclusions of the previous sessions to ensure that skills development efforts are targeted, relevant and responsive to the jobs pipeline that has been identified.

15:00 – 16:00

Session 4 | Powering the Digital Economy: E-Mobility, Digital and Youth Innovation

Renewable energy is increasingly converging with digital technologies and electric mobility to create new markets, innovative business models and high-value jobs. While e-mobility is still emerging in Burundi, it offers an opportunity to stimulate entrepreneurship, strengthen digital skills and accelerate private sector development.

This session will explore opportunities related to electric motorcycles and three-wheelers, charging infrastructure, battery management, smart mini-grids, mobile payments, IoT applications, remote monitoring systems, artificial intelligence and digital energy platforms.

The discussion will focus on how young Burundians can become innovators, software developers, engineers and entrepreneurs driving the country's green and digital economy.

16:00 – 16:20

Special Segment: Launch of the Burundi Renewable Energy Innovation Initiative

Possible announcements:

- PPP agreement between Weza Power and the Government of Burundi
- Interim Agreement on the PURE program between GIGAWATT Burundi and the Government of Burundi
- MoU between CRDB and the Government of Burundi

16:20 – 17:00 **Closing & Summary of Key Takeaways**

A synthesis moment drawing together the day's discussions across all four sessions – from Compact implementation, to investments and jobs, to skills development. Outstanding commitments, actionable items and next steps will be highlighted. Ministers and development partner representatives will reaffirm what is expected from each stakeholder, what timelines look like, and how performance will be tracked.

Time (EAT) **Day 2 – Friday 6 November 2026**

09:00 – 12:00 **Site Visit**

- ETS Kamenge and RNI station, with students of the Renewable Energy Master's program