



World Glaucoma Association

The Global Glaucoma Network

WGA membership application

March 21, 2023

Name: Burundi Glaucoma Association (BGA)

Your full name: Dr. Deus Bigirimana

Your email: bigirideus@gmail.com

Society name: Burundi Glaucoma Association (BGA)

Country: Burundi

Website: <https://glaucome-burundi.bi>

Year of establishment: 2022

Number of members: 29

How did you first hear about the WGA? I heard about WGA when i was an Ophthalmology registrar in Algeria through the Algerian Glaucoma Society (AGS). My mentor was, and is still the treasurer of the AGS. I am also one of the ICO/WGA fellowship alumni and serve as member of the WGA education committee since 2021 helping my fellow African Ophthalmologists to run research projects in Africa.

What is the main reason to join the WGA as a member? All of the above

Board members: Dr Deus BIGIRIMANA
Dr Adrien BIRONKWANINGUVU
Dr Alphonse NKUNZIMANA
Dr Cynthia IRAKOZE
Mr Salvator NDIKURIYO
Ir. Fleury NININHAZWE

Mission/Goals: The goals of Burundi Glaucoma Association is to

- Raise awareness of glaucoma in Burundi
- Advocate for affordable high quality glaucoma care in Burundi
- Include glaucoma into the list into diseases for which medications are receiving government subsidies.
- Promote partnership between patients and Ophthalmologists to prevent glaucoma related blindness across the country

Upload Statutes/Bylaws:



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[Burundi Glaucoma Association Statutes \(English\)](#)

[BGA-approval-letter-translated-.pdf \(wga.one\)](#)

[BGA-French.pdf \(wga.one\)](#)

[Microsoft Word - Statuts .docx \(wga.one\)](#)

I have read and understood the [WGA Membership Criteria & Expectations](#) and confirm the society adheres to these. true



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Additional information

The idea of creating the Glaucoma Burundi Association (BGA) came from our ongoing discussion between patients and doctors who were concerned by the lack of glaucoma services and medications across the country. We aimed to work with patients and doctors in order inform decision makers and advocate for available glaucoma service for all. The task wasn't easy in country with very poor healthcare system.

1. Activities

1.1. Awareness of glaucoma

Since 2020, we organize public awareness of glaucoma to inform our community about glaucoma in partnership with local Ophthalmologists, patients and community leaders. An example of one of the activities conducted can be found [Here](#). We believe that together we can achieve and that using the most watched national TV where patient and doctor discuss about glaucoma to send message to patient will assist with patient education.

1.2. Education and research

We believe that together we can serve our patients, and that using media and social media national TV where patients and doctors discuss about glaucoma would inform the vast majority of people including patients and eye practitioners will assist with patient education. We also promote research involving young ophthalmologists supporting in abstract preparation and submission to local or international conference (e.g. World Glaucoma Conference).

1.3. Advocacy

We have partnered with local organizations to advocate for inclusion of glaucoma into the [2021-2025 years strategic national plan to fight against blindness](#) along with other blinding disease such as cataract, diabetic retinopathy and refractive errors. Glaucoma is currently recognized as a public health issue by the ministry of health ([video here](#)) This was possible due to partnership with [Conseil pour l' Education et le Developpement](#) (COPED) that sponsored one of our workshops intended to the health ministry staff.

2. Current committee (2024-2025)

We have recently elected a new committee including board directors, executive committee, the committee of surveillance and ethic as required by the current policy regulating non-for-profit organizations in Burundi.

2.1. Board directors

1. Dr Deus Bigirimana (President)
2. Dr Adrien Bironkwaninguvu (Secretary)
3. Dr Cynthia Irakoze (Member)
4. Dr Jean Delacroix Butoyi (Member)



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5. Ndikuriyo Salvator (Patient representative)
6. Fleury Ininahazwe (Patient representative)
7. Noella Mahoro (Member)

2.2. Executive committee

1. Ndikuriyo Salvator: Legal representative
2. Reverien Nshimirimana: Vice president
3. Fleury Nininahazwe: Executive Secretary and IT officer
4. Noella Mahoro: Treasurer
5. Fabrice Kezimana: Communication officer

2.3. Ethic Committee

1. Dr Adrien Bironkwaninguvu (President)
2. Dr Deus Bigirimana (Vice president)
3. Dr Jean Delacroix Butoyi (Member)
4. Dr Leopold Niyonsabo (Member)
5. Dr Honorine Nizeyimana (Member)

3. **Website:** <https://glaucome-burundi.bi/>