



BACB

BANK OF KIGALI

*Financing Rwanda's campaign to reopen schools safely
in the COVID-19 environment*

In Rwanda, a nationwide lockdown swiftly followed the initial COVID-19 outbreak in mid-March 2020. This included the closing of schools across the country. Though a small number of private schools were able to move to online classes, the lockdown unfortunately meant that the vast majority of Rwandan schoolchildren had their education put on hold indefinitely.

The detrimental effects that managing the public health crisis was having on vital schooling led the Rwandan government to search for solutions that would enable them to reopen schools in the safest possible manner. In June 2020, the government launched wide-ranging school expansion plans to ensure that schools could reopen and maintain social distancing measures. The venture – supported by the World Bank – required the building of 22,500 new classrooms and other essential facilities.

Thanks to BACB's pre-existing relationships with both the Bank of Kigali and the advising banks in Egypt, BACB was able to facilitate the trade.



TRADE
FINANCE

“BACB was a great partner in confirmation of Letters of Credit, serving the Bank and the Bank’s customers in a timely manner when they were needed the most.”

Diane Mukunde,
Corporate Relationship Manager,
Bank of Kigali

“Keeping schools open safely during the pandemic has been a major challenge for many countries.”

says David Smithson,
Associate Director at BACB.

“We are delighted to support this effort to make education safer and more accessible to all Rwandan students.”

HOW DID BACB HELP?

BACB was keen to support the project, and through their banking network and by adding their guarantee to the transactions, they were able to help the Rwandan government achieve their goals and complete the building work. This required importing steel from Egypt to be used in the construction of one- and two-story classroom blocks. Thanks to BACB’s pre-existing relationships with both the Bank of Kigali and the advising banks in Egypt, BACB was able to facilitate the trade, guaranteeing two letters of credit issued by the Bank of Kigali, covering transactions of over US\$9 million. To retain jobs in the community, local businesses were employed for the construction projects.

Given the venture’s time-sensitive nature, BACB’s swift LC confirmation process played a crucial part – ensuring contractors were able to comply with the ambitious timeframe that saw the classrooms completed by Q4 2020. Indeed, by the end of 2020, schools had re-opened gradually to allow thousands of children to safely resume their education.



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