



Informal Sector Dynamics in Urban Burundi: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry

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Published: 20 November 2005 | **Received:** 16 August 2005 | **Accepted:** 29 October 2005

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18820341](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18820341)

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Abstract

Informal sector operations are significant in urban areas across Africa, including Burundi where government policies often struggle to address their complexities and challenges. The research employs triangulation between qualitative in-depth interviews with key informants and quantitative surveys targeting small businesses. Data analysis includes thematic coding for qualitative findings and statistical tests for quantitative results. Businesses in the informal sector reported a significant challenge of navigating regulatory environments, particularly concerning compliance requirements which often varied and were unclear. The mixed-methods study reveals that while there is substantial variability in business practices within the urban Burundi context, regulatory clarity and support are crucial for fostering sustainable growth in this sector. Given the findings, policy recommendations include enhancing regulatory frameworks to provide clearer guidance and improving access to finance and training opportunities for small businesses.

Keywords: *African geography, urbanization, qualitative methods, quantitative analysis, mixed-methods approach, social dynamics, microeconomics*

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