

Burundi

Geography

Location: Central Africa, east of Zaire

Map references: Africa

Area:

total area: 27,830 sq km

land area: 25,650 sq km

comparative area: slightly larger than Maryland

Land boundaries: total 974 km, Rwanda 290 km, Tanzania 451 km, Zaire 233 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

Climate: temperate; warm; occasional frost in uplands; dry season from June to September

Terrain: hilly and mountainous, dropping to a plateau in east, some plains

Natural resources: nickel, uranium, rare earth oxide, peat, cobalt, copper, platinum (not yet exploited), vanadium

Land use:

arable land: 43%

permanent crops: 8%

meadows and pastures: 35%

forest and woodland: 2%

other: 12%

Irrigated land: 720 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: soil erosion as a result of overgrazing and the expansion of agriculture into marginal lands; deforestation (little forested land remains because of uncontrolled cutting of trees for fuel); habitat loss threatens wildlife populations

natural hazards: flooding, landslides

Note: landlocked; straddles crest of the Nile-Congo watershed

People

Population: 6,262,429 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 48% (female 1,489,721; male 1,494,730)

15-64 years: 50% (female 1,606,307; male 1,498,021)

65 years and over: 2% (female 105,446; male 68,204) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.18% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 43.35 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 21.51 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: NA migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

note: in a number of waves since April 1994, hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled the civil strife between the Hutu and Tutsi factions in Burundi and crossed into Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zaire; the refugee flows are continuing in 1995 as the ethnic violence has persisted

Infant mortality rate: 111.9 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 39.86 years
male: 37.84 years
female: 41.95 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.63 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:
noun: Burundian(s)
adjective: Burundi

Ethnic divisions:
Africans: Hutu (Bantu) 85%, Tutsi (Hamitic) 14%, Twa (Pygmy) 1%
non-Africans: Europeans 3,000, South Asians 2,000

Religions: Christian 67% (Roman Catholic 62%, Protestant 5%),
indigenous beliefs 32%, Muslim 1%

Languages: Kirundi (official), French (official), Swahili (along Lake
Tanganyika and in the Bujumbura area)

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1990 est.)
total population: 50%
male: 61%

female: 40%

Labour force: 1.9 million (1983 est.)

by occupation: agriculture 93.0%, government 4.0%, industry and commerce 1.5%, services 1.5%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Burundi

conventional short form: Burundi

local long form: Republika y'u Burundi

local short form: Burundi

Type: republic

Capital: Bujumbura

Administrative divisions: 15 provinces; Bubanza, Bujumbura, Bururi, Cankuzo, Cibitoke, Gitega, Karuzi, Kayanza, Kirundo, Makamba, Muramvya, Muyinga, Ngozi, Rutana, Ruyigi

Independence: 1 July 1962 (from UN trusteeship under Belgian administration)

National holiday: Independence Day, 1 July (1962)

Constitution: 13 March 1992; provides for establishment of a plural political system

Legal system: based on German and Belgian civil codes and customary law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage: universal adult at age NA

Flag: divided by a white diagonal cross into red panels (top and bottom) and green panels (hoist side and outer side) with a white disk superimposed at the center bearing three red six-pointed stars outlined in green arranged in a triangular design (one star above, two stars below)

Economy

Overview: A landlocked, resource-poor country in an early stage of economic development, Burundi since October 1993 has suffered from massive ethnic-based violence that has displaced an estimated million people, disrupted production, and set back needed reform programs. Burundi is predominately agricultural with

roughly 90% of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture. Its economic health depends on the coffee crop, which accounts for 80% of foreign exchange earnings. The ability to pay for imports therefore continues to rest largely on the vagaries of the climate and the international coffee market. As part of its economic reform agenda, launched in February 1991 with IMF and World Bank support, Burundi is trying to diversify its agricultural exports, attract foreign investment in industry, and modernize government budgetary practices. Although the government remains committed to reforms, it fears new austerity measures would add to ethnic tensions.

Industries: light consumer goods such as blankets, shoes, soap; assembly of imported components; public works construction; food processing

Agriculture: accounts for 50% of GDP; cash crops - coffee, cotton, tea; food crops - corn, sorghum, sweet potatoes, bananas, manioc; livestock - meat, milk, hides and skins

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:

total: 5,900 km

Inland waterways: Lake Tanganyika

Ports: Bujumbura

Airports:

total: 4

Defence Forces

Branches: Army (includes naval and air units), paramilitary
Gendarmerie