

Burundi



Background: Burundi's first democratically elected president was assassinated in October 1993 after only one hundred days in office. Since then, some 200,000 Burundians have perished in widespread, often intense ethnic violence between Hutu and Tutsi factions. Hundreds of thousands have been internally displaced or have become refugees in neighboring countries. Burundi troops, seeking to secure their borders, briefly intervened in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1998. A new transitional government, inaugurated on 1 November 2001, signed a power-sharing agreement with the largest rebel faction in December 2003 and set in place a provisional constitution in October 2004. Implementation of the agreement has been problematic, however, as one remaining rebel group refuses to sign on and elections have been repeatedly delayed, clouding prospects for a sustainable peace.

Location: Central Africa, east of Democratic Republic of the Congo

Area: total: 27,830 sq km

land: 25,650 sq km

water: 2,180 sq km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Climate: equatorial; high plateau with considerable altitude variation (772 m to 2,670 m above sea level); average annual temperature varies with altitude from 23

to 17 degrees centigrade but is generally moderate as the average altitude is about 1,700 m; average annual rainfall is about 150 cm; wet seasons from February to May and September to November, and dry seasons from June to August and December to January

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

Natural resources: nickel, uranium, rare earth oxides, peat, cobalt, copper, platinum, vanadium, arable land, hydropower, niobium, tantalum, gold, tin, tungsten, kaolin, limestone

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

People

Population: 6,370,609

note: estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2005 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.22% (2005 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2005 est.)

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

Government

Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of Burundi

Government type: republic

Capital: Bujumbura

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

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

Executive branch: *chief of state:* President Domitien NDAYIZEYE

International organization participation: ACCT, ACP, AfDB, AU, CEPGL, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT, ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, Interpol, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO (subscriber), ITU, MIGA, NAM, OPCW, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WToO, WTO

Economy

Economy - overview: The economy is predominantly agricultural with roughly 90% of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture. Economic growth depends on coffee and tea exports, which account for 90% of foreign exchange earnings. The Tutsi minority, 14% of the population, dominates the government and the coffee trade at the expense of the Hutu majority, 85% of the population. Since October 1993 an ethnic-based war has resulted in more than 200,000 deaths, forced 450,000 refugees into Tanzania, and displaced 140,000 others internally. Doubts about the prospects for sustainable peace continue to impede development.

GDP: purchasing power parity - \$4.001 billion

GDP - real growth rate: 3% (2004 est.)

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$600

GDP - composition by sector: *agriculture:* 48.1%
industry: 19%
services: 32.9%

Investment (gross fixed): 10.7% of GDP

Population below poverty line: 68%

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 8.5%

Labor force: 2.99 million (2002)

Unemployment rate: NA

Budget: *revenues:* \$152.5 million

expenditures: \$187.7 million, including capital expenditures of NA (2004 est.)

Agriculture - products: coffee, cotton, tea, corn, sorghum, sweet potatoes, bananas, manioc (tapioca); beef, milk, hides

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

Oil - production: 0 bbl/day

Oil - consumption: 2,750 bbl/day (2001 est.)

Current account balance: -\$59.5 million

Exports: \$31.84 million f.o.b.

Exports - commodities: coffee, tea, sugar, cotton, hides

Exports - partners: Switzerland 25.8%, Germany 12.2%, Belgium 7.9%, US 5.5%, Thailand 5.3%, Rwanda 5.2%

Imports: \$138.2 million f.o.b.

Imports - commodities: capital goods, petroleum products, foodstuffs

Imports - partners: Kenya 11.7%, Tanzania 9.6%, US 9.1%, Belgium 9%, France 8.8%, Italy 5.4%, Japan 4.8%, Uganda 4.8%, Zambia 4.2% (2004)

Currency: Burundi franc (BIF)

Exchange rates: Burundi francs per US dollar - 1,100.91 (2004), 1,082.62 (2003), 930.75 (2002), 830.35 (2001), 720.67 (2000)

Transportation

Highways: *total:* 14,480 km

paved: 1,028 km

unpaved: 13,452 km (1999 est.)

Waterways: mainly on Lake Tanganyika (2004)

Ports and harbors: Bujumbura

Airports: 8