

Burundi



Burundi has substantial natural resources, especially minerals and hydroelectric potential, but its landlocked position is aggravated by a lack of infrastructure, a poor business climate and a relatively unskilled labour force. Population density, one of the highest in Africa (about 310 people per km²) brought about by high annual population growth (2.6 per cent in 2010) is a burden on its natural resources.

These pressures, notes the *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO), published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, combined with traditional farming methods, constantly degrade the country's eco-systems and this trend is now accelerating, with farmland shrinking each year (from an average 1.04ha per family in 1973 to 0.50ha in 2012). Farming on smaller plots is partly responsible for weak agricultural performance and slowing modernisation. It causes soil exhaustion and erosion and also rules out agricultural practices like leaving land fallow and crop rotation.

Another major result is exhaustion of forest and agro-forestry areas which have shrunk since 1992 from 211,000ha (8 per cent of the total land area) to an estimated 133,500ha (5 per cent of the land area). This sub-sector provides about 95 per cent of the country's energy and is being

deforested by about 2 per cent a year. Despite government measures, the trend is socially and economically disastrous, especially for the poor who live off the land.

The government is trying to encourage investment in agro-food. Over the last decade, traditional cash crops, especially coffee and tea, have been hard hit by lawlessness, quality of services and low farm-gate prices. This led to inadequate husbandry, and coffee bushes now need to be renewed to boost productivity. Reforms to open up coffee and tea farming are lagging and output remains low, with erratic world prices a big challenge to producers in search of adequate income.

Several surveys highlight the medium- and long-term potential of mining, which is presently only a small sector. Burundi has large reserves of lateritic nickel, vanadium, phosphates, carbonatites, peat and limestone, along with the world's second largest reserves of coltan (colombite-tantalite) – some 200 million tonnes (6 per cent of the total). National refining of nickel ore is planned to add value before export and to provide jobs.

The government has begun reforming mining law, introducing the certification of ore for export so as to encourage big producers to invest. Meanwhile, and for lack of proper resources, mining is done by individuals for subsistence leading to environmental degradation and also by children, at the risk of their health. Despite the tough working conditions and the shady nature of the operations, individual mining does supplement agricultural incomes for families. It also increases commercial activity in mining areas and adds to the volume of financial transactions.

Burundi is linked to two watersheds – the Nile (13,800km²) and the Congo River basin (14,034km²) – which produces a dense network inside the country of permanent rivers and lakes, which enables the cultivation of irrigated crops and livestock farming. Hydroelectric potential is estimated at 1,300mW, of which only some 32mW is produced. Even though the country's average annual energy consumption is one of Africa's lowest (only 23kWh per person), local output is not enough to meet long-term local demand.

KEY FACTS

Official name: Republika y'Uburundi (Republic of Burundi)

Head of State: President Pierre Nkurunziza (Hutu) (from 2005; re-elected 28 Jun 2010)

Head of government: President Pierre Nkurunziza

Ruling party: Conseil National Pour la Défense de la Démocratie–Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (NCDD–FDD) (National Council for the Defence of Democracy–Forces for the Defence of Democracy) (from 2005; re-elected 23 Jul 2010)

Area: 27,834 square km

Population: 8.78 million (2012)*

Capital: Bujumbura (plans to build a new capital nearer to the centre of the country were announced in 2007)

Official language: Kirundi and French

Currency: Burundi franc (Buf) = 100 centimes

Exchange rate: Buf1,537.47 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$282 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 4.00% (2012)*

GDP: US\$2.48 billion (2012)*

Inflation: 11.76% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$576.00 million (2012)*

* estimated figure

The planned nickel refinery in the south-eastern town of Musongati would need 200mW alone, apart from the need for rehabilitation, creating other production units and the electrification of rural areas.

To meet the expected energy shortfall, the government has begun sectoral projects with support from the Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP) (AfDB, the European Union, the World Bank, the German KfW and others) and with private investors. These include hydroelectric plants at Mpanda (10.4mW) and on the Kaburantwa River (20mW) and a new thermal plant in Bujumbura (5mW). Work is under way on a hydroelectric plant on the River Kagunuzi (12mW). Burundi will also get 49mW from the Ruiz III hydroelectric plant (out of 145mW), built under the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (ECGLC), and 27mW from the plant at Rusomo Falls (out of 80mW), which will also supply neighbouring Tanzania and Rwanda.

Progress in managing Burundi's natural resources is still uneven and the extractive sector accounts for less than 1 per cent of GDP. Transparency is also a key issue even though the country has pledged to respect and apply the rules and measures for the minerals trade as agreed in the December 2010 Lusaka Protocol on the illegal extraction of natural resources. Among the instruments planned under the regional initiative are: the monitoring and certification of ore; harmonisation of national mining laws; and the establishment of a database for regional trade. The TFP members are also urging Burundi to join

the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

The economy

World economic conditions harmed the economy in 2012 and growth was stagnant at 4.3 per cent (and lower than the 4.8 per cent forecast at the beginning of the year), showing the vulnerability of an economy suffering (despite progress made) from lack of diversity, little investment, high production costs due to under-qualified labour and a poor business climate.

The primary sector (mainly agriculture) was 41.2 per cent of GDP in 2012, about the same as 2011. Traditional farming methods and soil erosion has reduced production capacity over the years, with serious social and economic consequences for a vulnerable population, more than 80 per cent of whom depend on the sector for a living. Coffee and tea are the main export crops (more than 70 per cent of foreign exchange earned and the main income for more than 800,000 families). Coffee output rose 34 per cent in 2012 (to 23,309 tonnes from 17,446 in 2011), bringing in some US\$63.1 million in export sales, according to the (Banque de la République du Burundi (BRB) (central bank). Tea production was also higher (8,648 tonnes, up from 7,953 tonnes in 2011), earning some US\$22.9 million.

The secondary sector accounted for 20.5 per cent of GDP, mainly due to investment in industry, which increased to 14.6 per cent of GDP (from 13.5 per cent in 2010). The tertiary sector contributed 38.3 per cent of GDP in 2012.

The still-weak private sector mainly comprises mostly informal small- and medium-sized firms concentrated largely in Bujumbura. Private investment's share of GDP is quite small but has significantly increased, from 2.2 per cent in 2000, to 10.1 per cent in 2010 and about 14 per cent in 2012, led by tourism, mainly hotels. But high production costs, a poor business climate, unsuitable infrastructure (especially roads and energy) and few public services are unlikely to draw much foreign direct investment (FDI), which was estimated at less than 4 per cent of GDP in 2012. Corruption, a weak legal system and limited access to credit also hamper the sector's growth and the economy's competitiveness (Burundi ranked last in the World Economic Forum's 2012–13 Global Competitiveness Index).

Gross fixed capital formation shrank 2 per cent in 2012 to below the 2011 level of 20 per cent of GDP, but did not deter continuing private sector investment (about 4 per cent of the total by volume). However, despite booming coffee exports, the external sector again contributed negatively (minus 2 percentage points) to GDP growth in 2012.

The government intends in the medium term to continue its reforms and a macro-economic framework to revive growth, despite increasingly difficult world economic conditions. Plans include incentives to return coffee production to more than the 35,000 tonnes a year of the 1980s, expand tea production areas from 9,000 hectares to more than 14,000 by 2015 and also boost the growth potential of mining.

The government aims to achieve 5 per cent annual GDP growth between 2013 and 2016 in line with the poverty reduction and growth strategy framework (PRGSF 2). This depends on reducing inflation to 10 per cent in 2013 and 2014 by stabilising prices and maintaining the parity of the Burundian franc (Buf) and the US dollar, and on better domestic revenue collection and greater control of recurrent spending (especially civil service pay and defence). Also on support for exports by raising agricultural productivity (encouraging small-scale irrigation and improving roads to isolated areas) and expanding agro-industry and mining, as well as gradually tackling the energy shortage by investing in hydroelectricity. The tertiary sector recovery, especially in banking, telecommunications and tourism, should also boost GDP.

Medium-term prospects are seriously threatened however by the economy's great vulnerability to the weather and to

KEY INDICATORS

Burundi

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	8.94	*8.11	*8.27	*8.44	*8.78
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	1.17	1.32	2.03	2.36	*2.48
GDP per capita	US\$	147	164	245	279	*282
GDP real growth	%	5.0	3.5	3.8	4.2	*4.0
Inflation	%	24.4	11.3	4.1	14.9	*11.8
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	69.6	66.0	124.6	–	135.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	338.1	343.0	552.5	–	711.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	-268.4	-277.0	-458.5	–	-576.0
Current account	US\$m	-16.0	-30.0	-248.0	-323.0	*-387.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	265.7	322.0	330.7	342.6	307.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	265.0	217.0	217.4	204.9	177.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	1,186.10	1,230.20	1,203.70	1,236.86	1,505.60
* estimated figure						

sub-regional instability from fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This external uncertainty could also reduce foreign aid and obstruct the country's development.

Outlook

Much progress has been made since 2005 towards restoring peace and security and the country has enjoyed one of its longest periods of political stability. Implementation of the latest peace agreement with rebel forces opened the way to successful demobilisation and reintegration of former soldiers and a drop in lawlessness, which boosted the democratic process (as well as monitoring and management bodies) and should gradually lead to good governance. Efforts are being made to achieve an inclusive political dialogue and to create an independent electoral commission (CENI) to organise the 2015 presidential and parliamentary elections.

Application of the 2011–15 national good governance and anti-corruption strategy (adopted in 2011) continues, with awareness-raising work and prosecution of corrupt officials. The large-scale return of war refugees, under a plan negotiated with Tanzania and the UN High Commission for Refugees, is aggravating social tension, especially over access to land. The fighting in eastern DRC has not yet had a major social and economic effect on Burundi but it could pose a threat to domestic security through the movement of refugees.

The political gains are still fragile and the government must urgently step up reforms to tackle a range of challenges, among them strengthening the rule of law, guaranteeing a lasting peace, eliminating impunity and establishing an independent and effective judiciary.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Poor

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1899 Burundi and its neighbour, Rwanda, were incorporated into German East Africa.

1916 Belgium occupied the area.

1923 Re-named Ruanda-Urundi, Belgium continued its administration.

1959 Many Tutsi refugees from Rwanda sought shelter from ethnic violence.

1962 On 1 July the Kingdom of Burundi became independent from Belgium under a Tutsi King, Mwambutsa IV.

1963 Many Hutus fled into Rwanda due to ethnic violence.

1965 Hutu candidates won a majority in parliamentary elections. However, Mwambutsa refused to appoint a Hutu prime minister. A Hutu coup led by Michel Micombero failed and the Hutu elite were massacred in retaliation.

1966 Mwambutsa was deposed by his son Ntare V. Micombero led a successful *coup d'état* overthrowing the monarchy.

1972 Ntare was killed, supposedly by Hutus, sparking violence that led to the killing of 150,000 Hutus.

1976–87 Micombero was deposed by Tutsi Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. Bagaza's dictatorship was notorious for its violations of human rights.

1987 Bagaza was overthrown by Tutsi Major Pierre Buyoya.

1988 Thousands of Hutu were killed and many more fled into Rwanda

1992 A new constitution endorsed multi-party elections.

1993 Melchior Ndadaye, who was committed to reforming the Tutsi-dominated army, won the elections and became the first Hutu president. Ndadaye was assassinated by pro-Bagaza paratroopers. More massacres followed.

1994 Cyprien Ntaryamira, a Hutu, was appointed president by the National Assembly. He and the Hutu president of Rwanda were killed in a plane crash. Sylvestre Ntibantuganya, a Hutu, became president.

1995 A coalition government was formed under Antoine Nduwayu, a Tutsi. Ethnic violence continued.

1996 Major Pierre Buyoya seized power and suspended the constitution.

1998 Buyoya came to an agreement with parliament under a transitional constitution and was formally sworn in as president.

1999 Tutsi and Hutu factions agreed to talks brokered by former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere.

2000 President Buyoya and 13 political parties signed the Arusha peace accord but two important Hutu groups refused to sign.

2001 In talks chaired by former South Africa president Nelson Mandela, it was agreed that Buyoya, a Tutsi, should remain president for 18 months of a new three-year transitional government, when a Hutu vice president would become president.

2002 The Burundi franc was devalued by 20 per cent to the US dollar. Violence between government forces and Hutu rebel groups continued.

2003 Vice President Domitien Ndayizeye was sworn in as president in accordance with the power-sharing agreement. The president and Pierre Nkurunziza, the

leader of the main opposition group Conseil National Pour la Défense de la Démocratie–Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (CNDD–FDD) (National Council for the Defence of Democracy–Forces for the Defence of Democracy), signed an agreement to end the civil war.

2004 A South African-style truth and reconciliation commission was set up. A new constitution was deferred until the transitional government was replaced with a fully elected Assembly.

2005 A referendum approved a new power-sharing constitution. The main former rebel Hutu group, CNDD–FDD, won the parliamentary elections. Pierre Nkurunziza was sworn in as president. Martin Nduwimana (Tutsi) and Alice Nzomukunda (Hutu) were appointed vice presidents.

2006 The 34-year old midnight-to-dawn curfew was lifted. A cease-fire between the government and the longest-established Hutu rebel group, the Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL) (National Liberation Forces), the armed wing of the Parti Pour la Liberation du Peuple Hutu (Palipe Hutu) (Hutu People's Liberation Party), was agreed. Burundi was admitted to membership of the East African Community (EAC).

2007 The Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL) (Great Lakes Countries Economic Community) was re-launched by Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. CEPGL promotes regional economic co-operation and integration. Fighting between rival FNL factions resulted in 100 deaths; 40,000 civilians fled the fighting. Burundi joined the African Union (AU) peacekeeping force in Somalia.

2008 The UN assessment mission to implement the peace agreement was postponed due to fighting between government forces and the FNL.

2009 Agathon Rwasa, the leader of the FNL formally surrendered to AU troops in a ceremonial end to hostilities. They were the last rebel group to lay down their arms. The FNL became a political party – FNL under the leadership of Alain Mugabarabona Icanzo.

2010 Five candidates, including Agathon Rwasa, withdrew from the presidential election following criticism by the opposition of the electoral commission. When the presidential election took place, incumbent Pierre Nkurunziza was the only candidate; he won 91 per cent of the vote (turnout was 76.9 per cent). All opposition parties boycotted the parliamentary elections; the NCDD–FDD won 81 seats (out of 106), Union pour le Progrès National (Uprona) (Union for National Progress) (predominately Tutsi) 17; turnout was 67

per cent. The global anti-corruption watchdog organisation, Transparency International, stated that Burundi was considered the most corrupt state in Eastern Africa and that its neighbour, Rwanda was by far the least corrupt.

2011 In June, the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved a US\$67.23 million grant from the AfDB's Fragile States Facility (FSF) to fund phase two of the Gitega-Nyangungu-Ngozi road project. An attack in September on a crowded bar in Bujumbura by over a dozen unidentified gunmen killed 36 people. Although the government blamed 'bandits' there were reports that the attackers wore army uniforms and had come from the DRC; the more likely notion was that it had been carried out by former FNL fighters in revenge for the killing of FNL personnel since 2009.

2012 In a Unicef report published in September, Burundi was ranked as first for its strides in education, by providing free, compulsory education, with school enrolment rising from 59 per cent in 2005 to 96 per cent in 2011. On 25 September the India government provided US\$120 million in credit for two projects; US\$80 million to help fund the Kabu hydroelectric plant and US\$40 for a farm mechanisation and food processing project.

Burundi and India also signed memorandums of understanding concerning rural development, education, health and medicine and to strengthen bilateral trade and investment. On 27 September the US State Department announced that Burundi had declared itself free of land mines.

2013 The Tanzanian government announced on 25 July that all 'illegal aliens' had to leave the country by 11 August 2013. As a result over 19,000 Burundians fled across the border to Burundi in the 15 days before the deadline.

Political structure

Constitution

The constitution endorses multi-party elections by universal suffrage.

The 2005 referendum approved a new power-sharing constitution, under which Burundi's president has a deputy from each of the ethnic groups while 60 per cent of the cabinet is Hutu and 40 per cent Tutsi.

Representation in the National Assembly is apportioned on a 60/40 basis between the Hutu and Tutsi with three seats reserved for the Twa ethnic group. In the Senate (upper house) two members are elected from each of Burundi's 17 provinces (one Hutu and one Tutsi), plus three from the Twa ethnic group. Women must account for at least 30 per cent. Four former presidents were also co-opted as senators in July 2005.

The army and the police service are staffed equally along ethnic lines.

Independence date

1 July 1962

Form of state

Republic

The executive

Executive power is vested directly in the elected president, with one each Hutu and Tutsi vice presidents.

National legislature

The bicameral parliament consists of the Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly) and Senate. The National Assembly has 100 deputies which are elected by proportional representation from party lists in 17 multi-seat constituencies. In addition, there are 18–21 co-opted members. The Senate has no fewer than 37 and no more than 54 members. Electoral colleges of communal councillors chose one Hutu and one Tutsi in each of the 17 constituencies. All members of parliament serve for five-year terms.

Legal system

Burundi law is based on Belgian and German law. The legal system is composed of a Supreme Court, Constitutional Court and a Courts of Appeal.

Last elections

23 July 2010 (parliamentary); 28 June 2010 (presidential)

Results: Parliamentary: Conseil National Pour la Défense de la Démocratie–Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (NCDD–FDD) (National Council for the Defense of Democracy–Forces for the Defense of Democracy) won 81 seats (out of 106), the Union pour le Progrès national (Uprona) (Union for National Progress) 17; other opposition parties had boycotted the elections. Turnout was 67 per cent.

Presidential: Pierre Nkurunziza won (unopposed) 91.62 per cent of the vote; turnout was 76.98 per cent

Next elections

2015 (parliamentary); 2015 (presidential).

Political parties

Ruling party

Conseil National Pour la Défense de la Démocratie–Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (NCDD–FDD) (National Council for the Defence of Democracy–Forces for the Defence of Democracy) (from 2005; re-elected 23 Jul 2010)

Main opposition party

Union pour le Progrès national (Uprona) (Union for National Progress)

Population

8.78 million (2012)*

Approximately 46 per cent of the total population is under 15 years.

Last census: September 1990: 5,139,073

Population density: 250 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 11 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 2.0 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) 381,000 (UNHCR 2004)

Ethnic make-up

The Hutu people are believed to comprise 85 per cent of the population, the Tutsi 14 per cent and the Twa 1 per cent, but there have never been any census statistics on ethnic groups.

Religions

Christianity (over 60 per cent), 32 per cent traditional beliefs.

Education

In a Unicef report published in September 2012, Burundi was ranked as first for its strides in education, by providing free, compulsory education, with school enrolment rising from 59 per cent in 2005 to 96 per cent in 2011

Secondary education is divided into two: academic and technical. Academic secondary education is available for four years between ages 12 and 16, then a national test determines access to higher education. Technical secondary education lasts from ages 12–19.

Kirundi is the language of instruction in primary schools and French in secondary schools.

Higher education is mainly provided by the Université du Burundi, which is largely financed by the government.

Literacy rate: 50 per cent adult rate; 66 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: Six to 12.

Enrolment rate: 55 per cent boys and 46 per cent girls, total primary school enrolment for the relevant age groups (including repetition rates) (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 42 in primary schools.

Health

Burundi's infant mortality rate is relatively high compared to the other African countries. Although women have a higher life expectancy, it is still less than the other East African countries. Immunisation campaigns have resulted in high levels of vaccinations against measles, TB, polio and other childhood diseases.

HIV/Aids

In 2009 there were an estimated 180,000 adults living with HIV.

HIV prevalence: 3.3 per cent aged 15–49 in 2009 (Unicef 2012)

Life expectancy: 50 years, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 4.3 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 104 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Welfare

Burundi has 800,000 internally displaced people, while another 250,000 refugees fled to Tanzania.

The National Social Security Institute administers the old age, disability and survivor's pension insurance fund. It is a scheme funded by workers who contribute 2.6 per cent of their wages (3.8 per cent if working an arduous job), and employers contribute 3.9 per cent of the payroll (5.7 for arduous occupations). Old age pensions are paid at aged 60 (45 for arduous work).

Main cities

Bujumbura (capital, estimated population 392,863 in 2012), Muyinga (100,715), Ruyigi (44,220), Makamba (26,644), Ngozi (24,932), Rutana (23,654), Gitega (22,989).

Languages spoken

French is the administrative language; Kiswahili is used commercially. English is a compulsory subject in secondary academic education.

Official language/s

Kirundi and French

Media

Press

There is a low readership for newspapers.

Dailies: In French, *Le Renouveau du Burundi* is a government-run newspaper that has had Unesco investment to allow it to publish every day and increase readership.

Weeklies: In French, *Arc-en-Ciel* and in Kirundi (local language) *Ubumwe* is government-run and the fortnightly *Ndongosi* is a Catholic publication and *Intahe* published by the Tutsi dominated political party, Union pour le Progrès national (Uprona) (National Progress Union).

Broadcasting

The government-controlled, Radiodiffusion et Télévision Nationale du Burundi is the national public broadcaster.

Radio: With low levels of literacy radio is the primary source of news and information. Radio Burundi (RTNB) broadcasts in Kirundi and Swahili as well as French and English. It also broadcasts an educational network. Radio Culture is funded partly by the health ministry. Private radio stations include Radio Isanganiro (www.isanganiro.org) and Radio CCIB+ is operated by the Chamber of Commerce. Bonesha FM (www.boneshafm.org) and Studio Ijambo (www.studioijambo.org) are funded by international organisations.

Television: The only TV station operating is the state-owned RTNB.

National news agency: Agence

Burundaise de Presse: www.cbinfo.com

Other news agencies: Burundi Information (in French): www.burundi-info.com
Burundi Quotidien (in French): www.burundi-quotidien.com

Iteka (in French and English):

www.ligue-iteka.africa-web.org

Net press (L'Agence Burundaise

d'Information): www.netpress.bi

Economy

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, but particularly subsistence farming, is still the principal industry. Contributing 45 per cent of GDP to 2009 it had however dropped to 36.4 per cent by 2011. Even so, its regeneration is driving the economy, through revitalisation of food and export (cash) crops, development of livestock production (by rebuilding the national herd and improving cattle, pig and goat breeds), development of bee-keeping and fisheries and the revival of fish farming. Traditional crops of tea and coffee account for around 90 per cent of all foreign earnings.

GDP growth was 5 per cent in 2008, which weakened to 3.5 per cent in 2009, due to lower private transfers and less foreign direct investment (FDI); it grew modestly to 3.8 per cent in 2010; projections for 2011 and 2012 are 4.2 and 4.8 per cent respectively. As prices for imported oil and foods fell, headline inflation fell from 26 per cent to 4.5 per cent between 2008–10. However inflation was estimated to have jumped to 14.9 per cent in 2011, due partly because of the rising prices of food and fuel imports.

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Sporadic fighting between ethnic groups has continued since the civil war ended in 2003, disrupting the social and economic fabric. The per capita income during the period of the civil war fell by 33 per cent – in 2007 it was still only US\$169 and US\$245 in 2010.

In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Burundi 185 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 2000, Burundi's progress has grown overall, but still lags behind the improvement of other sub-Saharan African countries. In 2010, 62.7 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty and 81.3 per cent of the population lived on less than the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day. The IMF reported in 2009 that the latest estimates indicated 66.86 per cent of the population 'lives below the level of consumption that ensures the minimum vital to the individual'. This may go some way in explaining why Burundi was

ranked as top for the 'most bribery prone country in East Africa' in 2011 by Transparency International.

Remittances in 2009 amounted to US\$28 million, and were estimated to have risen to US\$34 million in 2010.

To assist agricultural development the government, with the help of international aid and financial institutions, is investing in infrastructure projects, such as inter-province link roads. A feasibility study has been undertaken to determine the possibility of linking such roads to the Tanzanian railway system. Deregulations of the coffee, tea and cotton industries initiated by 2009, have improved the prospects of coffee and cotton farmers whose industries had been in decline. Despite the improving outlook for Burundi, it still has much to do to make a significant impact on poverty and development. The mining industry is underdeveloped although there are, among other minerals, deposits of petroleum, nickel, gold, copper, uranium, platinum and rare earth oxides. The manufacturing sector is small and caters for local needs.

External trade

As a founding member of the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Burundi operates a free trade zone to 13 of the 19 Comesa member states.

Burundi is a member of the East African Community (EAC) (with Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda). The East African Community Common Market Protocol (EACMP) was launched on 1 July 2010, which will lead to the free movement of labour, capital, goods and services between member states as well as employment opportunities and easier flow of investment capital. The signed protocol now requires that legislation in all states must be harmonised to conform to its jurisdiction.

Imports

Saudi Arabia (typically 18.9 per cent of total), Uganda (9 per cent), Belgium (8 per cent).

Main sources: China (12 per cent of total in 2010), Belgium (12 per cent), Japan (9.4 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports are coffee (normally 75 per cent of total), manufactures, tea, sugar, cotton and hides.

Main destinations: Switzerland (26.9 per cent of total in 2010), UK (13.4 per cent), Belgium (13 per cent).

Agriculture

Total agricultural land is 2.6 million hectares of which pasture and arable each accounts for 35 per cent and 13.6 per cent given over to permanent crops.

The agriculture sector is the mainstay of the economy, although there was a sharp drop in agricultural output due to disruptions caused by the civil war. The sector has to contend with a damaged infrastructure, broken market networks and poor productivity. Internally displaced persons (IDP) caught up in the civil war were made to over-exploit land causing ecological damage. Although Burundi is potentially self-sufficient in food, large numbers of IDP rely on humanitarian assistance. Food products account for around 13 per cent of all imports.

The main cash crop is coffee, which accounts for up to three-quarters of the country's exports. More than 90 per cent of coffee production is arabica, which is being encouraged for its higher producer prices. The Burundian brand of coffee has won international best quality prizes.

Other cash crops include tea, cotton, palm oil and tobacco.

Agriculture traditionally employs around 90 per cent of the population and contributes around 50 per cent of GDP. Most land under cultivation is devoted to subsistence crops – mainly cassava, bananas, sweet potatoes, pulses, maize and sorghum

Cattle rearing is also an important source of food, as is fishing on Lake Tanganyika. Lake Tanganyika is a rich source of fish. Almost 4 per cent of the land area, around 95,000 hectares, is forest. Around 8.7 million cubic metres of wood is felled each year, of which 8 million cubic metres is used for firewood.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector, which is centred almost entirely in Bujumbura, is based on import substitution and typically accounts for around 20 per cent of GDP. Production includes beer, soft drinks, cigarettes, glass, textiles, insecticides, cement, oxygen and coffee processing.

The civil war discouraged foreign investment and high import costs hampered development of industrial capital, with strengthening peace these trends are reversing.

Tourism

Tourism, particularly ecotourism, could be Burundi's principal revenue earner if security in the country can be improved. Infrastructure, both tourist and generally, is under-developed. Although the country has a wealth of natural beauty to offer the visitor, warnings by several governments to their citizens to avoid certain areas and restrict travel to others to daylight hours, due to threats from terrorists and lawlessness, deters visitors.

Travel and tourism accounted for 4.5 per cent of GDP in 2011, a fall of 4.8 per cent on 2010, Employment in the sector

was 3.9 per cent of total employment, a fall from 4.2 per cent in 2010. Capital investment in travel and tourism rose by 11.5 per cent in 2010, but fell by 4.4 per cent in 2011, although it remained at 0.8 per cent of total capital investment. Foreign interest in the Eastern Lowland Gorillas, found in the border region with Rwanda and Uganda, have the potential of bringing in significant foreign exchange.

Mining

Gold and tungsten are mined.

Substantial nickel reserves (up to 5 per cent of world total) have been found, but low world prices and an inadequate infrastructure mean extraction is not economically viable. Deposits of vanadium and uranium are being surveyed.

Phosphates and limestone are used for cement production.

Hydrocarbons

There are no known deposits of hydrocarbons, making Burundi reliant on imported petroleum products, which represent 10 per cent of the country's energy needs, 15 per cent of all imports and cost up to 30 per cent of all foreign exchange earnings. In 2009 the East African Community discussed oil and gas exploration and future exploitation including petroleum exploration in Burundi in the Ruzizi and Tanganyika basins, which have, as yet, yielded no commercial discoveries.

A feasibility study on the extension of an oil pipeline from Uganda to Bujumbura, was announced in 2009. The proposed pipeline will connect with one under construction between Kenya and Uganda.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 33MW in 2007, producing 9 million kilowatt hours; virtually all electricity is generated by hydropower. Burundi is considered to be one of the world's poorest countries; only Bujumbura and Gitega have a municipal electricity service. The majority of the population relies on non-commercial biomass, mostly fuel wood and peat for cooking, lighting and power; only around 1 per cent of the population has access to electricity.

There are two private companies in operation, the Régie de Production et Distribution d'Eau et d'Electricité (Régideso), which operates all thermal power stations and is responsible for urban distribution as well as some small hydro units in rural areas; and the Société Internationale des Pays des Grand Lacs (Sinelac) (a joint Burundi, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo entity) which develops and maintains international power projects, including the major Ruzizi hydroelectric

power plant, which is under consideration for an upgrade and extension.

Banking and insurance

Central bank

Banque de la République du Burundi

Main financial centre

Bujumbura

Time

GMT plus two hours

Geography

Burundi is a landlocked country lying on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, in central Africa, just south of the Equator. It borders Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the south and east, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west.

Plains rise from Lake Tanganyika in the west to a central sloping plateau; hills and valleys have cultivated fields and pastures. In the east the region is mostly savanna.

The southern tributary of the Nile begins its 6,650km journey to the Mediterranean in the south. The highest peak is Karonje at 2,760 metre.

Hemisphere

Southern

Climate

Around Lake Tanganyika (including Bujumbura), equatorial with hot, humid temperatures 23–33 degrees Celsius (C), and frequent winds. Elsewhere is temperate with average temperatures of 20 degrees C. The rainy season is from October–May (except brief dry period December–January); the long dry season is from June–September.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all, with at least six months validity remaining at time of departure.

Visa

Required by all. Applications for tourist and business visas should include itineraries and vaccination certificates against yellow fever and cholera. Business visas require a company letter of introduction from the employer and a local host company.

Currency advice/regulations

Import and export of the local currency is limited to Bf2,000.

Import and export of foreign currency is unlimited but subject to declaration on entry. All currency exchanges must be made through the main banks in Bujumbura or Gitega.

Travellers cheques have a limited market and commissions can be high; to avoid extra exchange rate charges cheques are best in US dollars or euros.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Cholera vaccination certificates are required by all visitors. Visitors arriving from

countries where yellow fever is endemic are required to have meningitis and yellow fever vaccination certificates.

Advisable precautions

Yellow fever and cholera vaccinations are considered essential. Occasionally a certificate for meningococcal meningitis is required when arriving. Vaccinations for hepatitis A, polio, tetanus and typhoid are recommended. Malaria prophylaxis should be taken as risk exists throughout the country. Hepatitis B is endemic; visitors should seek advice on diphtheria, dysentery and tuberculosis vaccinations. There is a rabies risk.

To avoid the risk of Bilharzia use only well-maintained swimming pools. Drinking water precautions are essential and water must first be boiled or otherwise sterilised for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice. Eat only well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot; vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled. Pork, salad and mayonnaise and most dairy products, made from unboiled milk, may carry an inherent risk. Avoid food from street vendors.

HIV/Aids is widespread, with 15 per cent HIV positive among adults in Bujumbura. A travel kit including a disposable syringe is a reasonable precaution; all personal medications should be carried, along with their original packaging. Medical insurance, including repatriation is essential.

Hotels

Advisable to book in advance. Very little accommodation available outside Bujumbura. A 10 per cent tip is usual.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 5 Feb (Unity Day), 12 Mar (Labour Day), 1 Jul (Independence Day), 15 Aug (Assumption), 13 Oct (Anniversary of Rwagasore's Assassination), 21 Oct (Anniversary President Ndadaye's Assassination), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day).

Variable dates

Easter (Mar/Apr), Ascension (May), Eid al Fitr.

Working hours

Banking

Mon–Fri: 0800–1130; 1500–1600.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0730–1200, 1400–1730.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0730–1200, 1400–1730.

Shops

Mon–Fri: 0830–1200, 1500–1800. Sat: 0830–1230.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

Several GSM 900 services operate in major areas of population in the north, west and south of the country.

Electricity supply

220V AC

Security

It is not recommended driving to and from Rwanda, unless travelling as part of a UN convoy; militia from rival political factions are likely to ambush lone travellers.

Getting there

Air

The only direct intercontinental flights are from Europe.

National airline: Air Burundi (not approved by IATA)

International airport/s: Bujumbura (code: BJM), 11km north of city; café, currency exchange and post office.

Airport tax: Departure tax: US\$20.

Surface

Road: All border crossings can be closed at very short notice depending on prevailing political conditions. There are reasonably passable roads from the Democratic Republic of Congo, either north or south, however the roads from Tanzania are generally in poor condition. The road from Kigali in Rwanda may be passable.

Water: There are connections across Lake Tanganyika, with ferries operating from Kigoma, (Tanzania), Kalenje (DCR) and Mpulungu (Zambia).

Dar es Salam (Tanzania) is the closest sea port.

Main port/s: Bujumbura, Nyanza-Lac

Getting about

National transport

Air: There are no scheduled internal flights operating.

Road: Most of the roads leading to provincial towns are surfaced. Unsurfaced roads elsewhere can be difficult in the rainy season. Surfaced routes are being extended and local advice should be sought. Major roads are often closed after 1600 for security reasons. Driving outside the cities can be dangerous, particularly in border areas.

Buses: Very little public transport is available and buses are not recommended.

Water: Local boats are available on Lake Tanganyika, they can be slow depending on their cargo.

City transport

Taxis: Available in Bujumbura.

Car hire

Local firms only. International driving licence is required.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Burundi is +257, followed by area code and subscriber's number:

Bubanza	42	Gitega	40
Bujumbura	2	Muramvya	43
Bururi	50	Ngozi	30
Cibitoke	41		

Useful telephone numbers

Police: 18, 19.

Chambers of Commerce

Burundi Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Handicrafts, Avenue du 18 Septembre, PO Box 313, Bujumbura (tel: 222-280; fax: 227-895; e-mail: ccib@cbinf.com).

Banking

Banque Commerciale du Burundi, PO Box 990, Libere Ndabakwaje; 84 Chaussee Prince Louise Rwagasore, Bujumbura (tel: 222-317; fax: 221-018).

Banque de Crédit de Bujumbura, PO Box 300, Avenue Patrice Emery Lumumba, Bujumbura (tel: 222-091; fax: 223-007; email: bcb@bi-network.com).

Interbank Burundi SA, PO Box 2970; 15 Rue de l'Industrie, Bujumbura (tel: 220-629; fax: 220-461; email: interb@cbinf.com).

Central bank

Banque de la République du Burundi, PO Box 705, Avenue du Gouvernement, Bujumbura, Burundi (tel: 225-142 fax: 223-128).

Travel information

Air Burundi, BP 2460, Avenue du Commerce, Bujumbura (tel: 223-460; fax: 223-452).

Bujumbura International Airport, PO Box 694, Bujumbura (tel: 223-707; 223-797; fax: 223-428).

Tourist office (for accommodation) 7 Place de l'Indépendance, Bujumbura, BP 1402, (tel: 222-321, 220-704; email: nitra@cbinf.com).

National tourist organisation offices

Office National du Tourisme, 2 Avenue des Euphorbes, BP 902, Bujumbura (tel: 222-202/023; fax: 222-390; email: ontbur@cbinf.com); internet (in French): www.burundi.gov.bi).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Bujumbura (tel: 210-342; fax: 222-873).

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Bujumbura (tel: 217-775; fax: 225-595).

Ministry of Communication with the Government, Bujumbura (tel: 212-601; fax: 216-318).

Ministry of Community Development, Bujumbura (tel: 213-098; fax: 224-678).

Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

Ministry of Defence, Bujumbura (tel: 219-994; fax: 225-686).

Ministry of Education, Bujumbura (tel: 217-776; fax: 226-839).

Ministry of Energy and Mines, Bujumbura (tel: 218-586; fax: 223-337).

Ministry of the Environment, Bujumbura (tel: 221-649; fax: 228-902).

Ministry of Finance, Bujumbura (tel: 217-918; fax: 223-827).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Bujumbura (tel: 217-595; fax: 226-313).

Ministry of Health, Bujumbura (tel: 218-200; fax: 229-916).

Ministry of Human Rights, Law Reforms and Relations with the National Assembly, Bujumbura (tel: 217-365; fax: 213-847).

Ministry of the Interior, Bujumbura (tel: 212-480; fax: 223-904).

Ministry of Justice, Bujumbura (tel: 210-595; fax: 222-148).

Ministry of Labour, Public Office and Professional Education, Bujumbura (tel: 217-928; fax: 224-079).

Ministry of Peace Process, Bujumbura (tel: 219-457; fax: 219-459).

Ministry of Planning, Development and Reconstruction, Bujumbura (tel: 219-079; fax: 224-193).

Ministry of Public Works and Equipment, Bujumbura (tel: 219-646; fax: 226-840).

Ministry of Repatriation of Displaced Persons, Bujumbura (tel: 218-184; fax: 218-201).

Ministry of Social Action and Promotion of Women, Bujumbura (tel: 210-376; fax: 216-102).

Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications, Bujumbura (tel: 210-462; fax: 226-900).

Ministry of Youth Sport and Culture, Bujumbura (tel: 216-729; fax: 226-231).

Office of the President, Bujumbura (tel: 217-806; fax: 226-424).

Other useful addresses

APEE (export promotion) BP 3535, Bujumbura (tel: 225-997; fax: 222-767).

BCC (Burundi Coffee Co) BP 780, Bujumbura.

Burundi Embassy (USA), Suite 212, 2233 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20007 (tel: (+1-202) 342-2574; fax: (+1-202) 342-2578).

Burundi Mining Co. BP468 Bujumbura (tel: 223-229).

CIGERCO (Cotton growers), BP 2571, Bujumbura (tel: 222-208).

National news agency: Agence Burundaise de Presse: www.cbinfo.com

Other news agencies: Burundi Information (in French): www.burundi-info.com

Burundi Quotidien (in French): www.burundi-quotidien.com

Iteka (in French and English): www.ligue-iteka.africa-web.org

Net press (L'Agence Burundaise d'Information): www.netpress.bi

Internet sites

Africa Business Network: <http://www.ifc.org/abn>

AllAfrica.com: <http://www.allafrica.com>

African Development Bank: <http://www.afdb.org>

Africa Online: <http://www.africaonline.com>

Mbendi AfroPaedia (information on companies, countries, industries and stock exchanges in Africa): <http://mbendi.co.za>