

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

COUNTRY PROFILE

RWANDA

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Ottawa.

February, 1973.

IDRC - doc 028



RWANDA

HISTORY

From the 16th Century to 1959, present day Rwanda was dominated by the Tutsi. In a bloody uprising in 1959 the Hutu destroyed the Tutsi feudal hierarchy and led to the end of the Hutu domination. In the elections and referendum under the auspices of the United Nations in September, 1961, an overwhelming majority voted for the Republican Party Parmehutu (Parti de la Mouvement Democratique) and in effect the rejection of the Institution of the Monarchy. The Republic proclaimed by the Parmehutu on January 20, 1961, was recognized by the Belgium administration but not by the United Nations. Internal self government was granted on January 1st, 1962 and by a decision the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Republic of Rwanda attained independence on July 1st, 1962. An Agreement, signed with Burundi under United Nations auspices at Addis Ababa in April, 1962 provided for monetary and customs union. These and other common organizations came to an end on the 1st of October, 1964.

GEOGRAPHY

Rwanda lies in latitude $1^{\circ} 3^{\circ}$ South and Longitude $29^{\circ} 31^{\circ}$ East. An area of approximately 26,330 square kilometres. The Nile-Congo mountain divide about 9,000 feet and the Kirunga volcanos (Mount Karisimbi, 14,822 feet, Kivu in the West sloping to a hilly central plateau (7,000 to 5,000 feet) and further eastwards to a complex of marshy lakes in the upper regions of the Kagera River. Rwanda is bounded in the South by Burundi, in the West by Lake Kivu and Zaire, in the North by Uganda and in the east by Tanzania.

GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION

Rwanda is a republic with an executive President as Head of State. The National Assembly consists of 47 members elected by universal adult suffrage every four years.

Head of State and Government: Gregoire Kayibanda

President of the National Assembly: Thaddée Bagaragaza

President of the Supreme Court: Fulgerce Seminega

Secretary of State Political and
Administrative Affairs President's Office: J. B. Seyanga

Secretary of State for Economic, Technical
and Financial Affairs: D. Gashonga

Minister of Interior and Justice: A. Sebatinare

Minister of The National Guard and Police: Col. J. Habyarimana

Minister of National Education: M. G. Harelimana

Minister of Health: Dr. T. Sindikubwaba

Minister of Information and Tourism: F. Minani.

Minister of Family and Community Development: M. Ath Shiramaka

Minister of Post Telecommunications and Transport: A. Kamoso

Minister of Public Works and Energy: F. Nshunguyinka

Minister of Agriculture and Livestock: P. D. Nkezabera

Minister of Commerce, Mines and Industries: Anastase Nakuza

Minister of Finance: Fidele Nzanana

Minister of International Cooperation: A. Munyaneza

Secretary of State of Planning and Development: E. Hitayezu

Secretary of State Civil Service: G. Nyilibakwe

Secretary of State Youth and Sports: A. Bizimana

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Rwanda is divided into ten prefectures: (Kigali, Kibwage, Byare, Byumba, Rubengin, Giseayi, Kibuye, Gitarama, Gikongoro, Butare, Cyaugugu) and 144 Communes.

POLITICAL PARTIES

There is one political party - Mouvement democratique Republican - Parmehutu.

TRADE UNIONS

There are two trade unions -

- 1) Confédération General du travail du Rwanda (C.G.T.R.)
- 2) Union des Travailleurs du Rwanda (U.T.R.)

JUDICIARY

The Supreme Court is the guardian of the Constitution. It has sole jurisdiction over penal matters affecting the President, Ministers, Members of Parliament, if indicted by a three-third majority of the National Assembly. The Judiciary is independent of the Executive. Codified law is administered by the Courts of First Instance, and on appeal, to the Court of Appeal. Traditional law is administered by the Supreme Court. The Nyabisindu dealing with appeals from Lower Native Courts, Traditional Native Law, Council of State (Elders) Cassation and Financial Matters.

INFORMATION

Press

L'Umuhoza, bi-monthly

Le Rwanda Carrefour D'Afrique, published by the Ministry of information, monthly.

Press (cont'd)

Kibya Mateka

Co-operative Trafipro

Radio

There are two radio stations -

Radiodiffusion de la Republic Rwandaise, broadcasts in Kinyarwanda, Swahili, English and French.

Deutsche Welle Relay Station Africa broadcasts in Kiswahili, Amharic, Hausa, English, French and German.

EDUCATION

There were in 1972, 4,862 pupils in Primary Schools, 825 pupils in Secondary Modern Schools and 1,818 pupils in Grammar Schools. In technical schools, 1,472 students and 1,599 students in Higher Studies.

The University of Rwanda was founded in 1963 -

Student enrollment - 1971/72:

Men	395
Women	<u>28</u>
	423

Academic Staff - 1971/72: 57.

RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Instituts des Sciences Agromoniques du Rwanda (I.S.A.R.)

B. P. 138 Butare.

Institut National de Resherche Scientifique, B. P. 80, Butare, undertakes research in anthropology, economics, geophysics, animal husbandry, vegetable and mineral resources and nutritution.

Director: Botany - Prof. Paul Deuse

Director: Linguistics, Prof. Audre Coupez

Director: Social Anthropology, Prof. Marcel d'Hertefelt

Director: Nutrition - Prof. H. Vis

Service Geologique de Rwanda, B. P. 15 Ruhengeri undertakes research in geology and mineral prospecting.

Director: P. Corminboeuf.

DEFENCE

The National Army has a strength of 3,000 officers and men.

HEALTH

In 1971 there were 145 Dispensaries, 22 hospitals, 6 clinics and 4,893 health centres, 42 doctors, 100 nurses, 373 midwives, 246 medical auxiliaries and assistants and 1,801 other medical personnel.

Since 1966 Rwanda has embarked on an extensive health programme for example, the medical school and the school for medical auxiliaries.

BANKS

Banque Nationale du Rwanda is the Central Bank responsible for the issuing of bank notes and coins.

Other Banks - Banque Commercials du Rwanda, Banque de Kigali, Banque Rwandaise de Developpement and Caisse d'E'pargne du Rwanda.

Currency - 92.1 Rwanda francs = 1 US Dollar.

TABLE I NATIONAL BANK ACCOUNTS (Millions of Rwanda Francs)

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Foreign Assets	225	554	708	595	305	786	709
Claims on Government	545	797	918	1,058	1,219	876	1,112
of which: Government Agencies	23	-	6	18	36	21	91
Claims on Commercial Banks	-	45	9	15	16	92	129
Reserve Money	938	1,079	1,266	1,259	1,440	1,526	1,827
of which: Currency Outside Banks	845	899	1,032	987	1,092	1,239	1,410
Foreign Liabilities	164	814	788	767	666	496	160
Government Deposits	100	114	118	182	156	191	245
Counterpart Funds	-	70	203	186	81	86	64
Other Items (Net)	-433	-682	-740	-736	-803	-545	-347

SOURCE: International Financial Statistics VOL XXVI No. 1, January, 1973 IMF.

TABLE II COMMERCIAL BANKS (Millions of Rwanda Francs)

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Reserves	97	149	218	259	337	263	326
Foreign Assets	78	32	42	98	50	73	7
Claims on Government	107	107	138	149	204	317	458
Claims on Private Sector	82	162	173	129	188	375	484
Demand Deposits	323	316	441	524	686	828	954
Savings Deposits	22	30	34	31	50	104	128
Foreign Liabilities	8	25	40	39	15	15	95
Credit from National Bank	-	44	10	13	12	16	5
Capital Accounts	30	33	94	99	106	115	134
Other Items (Net)	-20	2	-48	-70	-89	-50	-41

SOURCE: International Financial Statistics VOL XXVI No. 1, January, 1973 IMF.

INTERNATIONAL LIQUIDITY (Millions of US Dollars)

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
National Bank Reserve	3.69	5.13	6.69	5.85	3.05	7.86	7.68
SDR's	-	-	-	-	-	.50	1.55
Reserve Position in the Fund	.13	-	-	-	-	-	.08
Foreign Exchange	3.56	5.13	6.69	5.85	3.05	7.36	6.05
Fund Position							
Credit Tranche Position:							
Stand by	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit Tranche Position:							
Other	11.25	7.32	7.25	9.07	10.06	16.07	20.63
Drawings Outstanding	-	5.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	2.17
Use of Fund Credit	-	4.68	5.50	5.93	4.90	2.93	-
Quota	11.25	12.00	12.75	15.00	15.00	19.00	20.63

SOURCE: International Financial Statistics VOL XXVI, No. 1, January, 1973.

POPULATION

Mid-1972 - 3,830,000

Main Towns:

Kigali - Capital - 7,000

Other Towns:

Butare

Giseryi

Cyangugu

Kiburgo

AGRICULTURE

Subsistence agriculture accounts for most of the Gross National Product. Staple food crops are beans, cassava, maize, sweet potatoes, peas, groundnuts and sorghum. The annual rainfall there is under 40 inches in the north east to 60 inches in the west and over 70 inches in the extreme north west. The main cash crop is coffee. Tea and pyrethrum are also produced on a limited scale. There is at present a pilot rice growing project. The Rwanda industrial produce bureau established in 1964 is responsible for organizing and controlling the qualities of Rwanda's agricultural exports notably coffee. Long horn and ankole cattle play an important traditional role. Efforts are being made to improve their present negligible economic value.

TABLE III CROPS

	Area Hectare		Production Tons	
	<u>1962</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1971</u>
Coffee	18,250	28,800	9,525	15,698
Tea	622	3,439	200	1,819
Pyrethrum	651	2,216	405	864
Cotton	291	292	298	307
Bark	51	778	-	191
Sugar Cane	-	295	-	5,714
Vegetables	-	50	-	112
	19,865	35,870	10,428	24,705

SOURCE: Carrefour D'Afrique No. 115-116, July, 1972.

TABLE IV INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS (Millions of Rwanda Francs)

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Exports	682.4	1,083.0	1,403.9	1,474.4	1,418.7	2,470.8	2,220.8
Coffee	367.7	650.0	774.4	845.8	663.5	1,409.0	1,117.1
Tin	253.0	308.8	416.5	345.6	439.5	455.0	86.7
Imports							
(Cif)	1,047.2	1,776.8	2,022.2	2,245.8	2,362.4	2,909.9	3,298.3

Rwanda is one of the "less developed" of the Developing Countries and has the highest population density in Africa. With an economy heavily based on agriculture, Rwanda will depend on financial aid for a number of years. However, with increased diversification of agriculture, and the prospect of exporting natural gas, the future outlook is bright. Politically the troubles of 1964 in which several thousand of Tutsi were massacred by the Hutu seems to be stable now.

DEVELOPMENT AID

IDA gave a loan of \$3 million towards a \$5.1 million project to reorganize and strengthen road maintenance by providing supplies, equipment and workshop facilities.

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