REPUBLIC of BURUNDI

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Population and Location

- Population: 10,557,259 (2012 estimate)
- Capital: Bujumbura
- Great Lakes Region of Eastern Africa
- Landlocked
  - Rwanda to the North
  - Tanzania to the East and South
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west
- Temperature various tropical highland climate from one region to another.
  - Rain is irregular
  - Dry seasons vary
  - Long periods of drought.
Independence from Belgium in 1962
First democratically elected Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye, 1993
1996-2006 civil war between Tutsi and Hutu
- 200,200 Burundians killed
- Tanzania Safari Camps
- Burundian Refugees
Current Difficulties

- Current Chief of State: President Pierre Nkurunziza-Hutu
  - Economic struggles
  - Food insecurity
  - Inefficient healthcare system
  - Struggling education system
Official Languages
- Kirundi
- French
- Swahili

Major Religions
- Christianity, 82.8%
- Islamist, 2.5%
- Adventist, 2.3%
- Other, 6.5%

Ethnicities
- Hutu, approximately 85%
- Tutsi, approximately 14%
- Twa, 1%
Schooling required ages 7-13
- Male: 9 years
- Female: 7 years

Language of instruction
- Kirundi for first four years
- French in the final two years of primary school

Literacy rate is 35%
- 49% men
- 22% women
School Life

- Ranked 174/182 on Human Development
- Highly respected storytellers
  - Legends
  - Fables
  - Poems
  - Riddles
  - Songs
Kindergarten: Children 3-6 years

Primary Education

  Six years

  Must obtain Primary School Leaving certificate to continue to Secondary School

  Free for all Burundian nations since 2005

Lower Secondary Education

  Four years

  Available to those who pass National Entrance Examination

  Test determines what student should specialize in
Upper Secondary Level
- Scientific A: major in math and physics
- Scientific B: biology and chemistry
- Literary: arts, languages

Technical Secondary Education
- 5-7 years
- Available to those who pass National Entrance Exam
- A2 Diploma

Higher Education
- State Technical Schools: agronomy, nursing, accounts, electricity, mechanics
Many schools destroyed during Civil War
More difficult for girls to be educated
Education interrupted for child soldiers and refugees
Limited qualified teachers, schools, and supplies after war
Over crowding and increased student-teacher ratio
High Dropout Rates
  50% loss after primary school
  Additional 50% loss before completion of secondary school
Discipline and Respect

- Respect for elders and authority
- Group discipline
  - Baby is your child while it is in the womb, once out it belongs to the community.
  - Everyone feels responsible for their neighbor’s child
  - Social obligation
- Parental roles
  - Mother takes care of all children until puberty
  - Father takes over guidance of young boys once they reach adolescence
Social Stratification

Classes and Caste System
- Tusti higher than Hutu
- Join Tutsi through acts of bravery, fall to Hutu with dishonorable acts
- Symbols of wealth: cattle, spears, and drums
  - Drum folk dance
    
Gender

Division of Labor
- Women: childbearing and care, domestic chores, food preparation
- Men: business, agriculture

Family
- Women have very little decision making power
- Fatherhood is an important responsibility, man is the head of the house
- Polygamy traditionally practiced/arranged marriage
Burundian Views of USA

- Freedom
- Sharing food
- Education
- Opportunities
- Employment

- Burundian culture is more conservative - USA too much freedom for children
Things to Consider When Interacting

- Burundians do not distinguish their ethnic groups
- Burundian refugees may have lost relatives during the Civil War
  - Images of war, soldiers, and guns may terrorize Burundian students
  - Be sensitive when discussing family and family units
- Burundians do not like to talk about what is going on inside their family
- Burundian belief in fate as opposed to free will and great respect for dead ancestors
- Considered rude to turn down food or drink when offered
- Hand shakes are important when greeting
Articles


Internet Sites
Culture of Burundi. Retrieved February 17, 2013 from http: www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/Burundi.html
Burundi.com

Maps and Images
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