Country Profile: Burundi

One of the poorest countries in the world, Burundi is a small, densely populated central African nation bordering Lake Tanganyika, Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. After more than 12 years of civil and ethnic strife, an electoral process deemed free and fair resulted in the installation of a democratic government in 2005. Years of fighting have devastated a historically fragile economy that depends largely on subsistence agriculture. Poor public health and education, weather disasters such as drought and floods, crop diseases and lack of infrastructure exacerbate the effects of conflict and delay recovery. Facilities for tourism, particularly outside the capital, are limited. Read the Department of State Background Notes on Burundi for additional information.

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COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Country Name:	Burundi
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Bujumbura
Boundary Countries:	Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Bujumbura: Hospital Prince Regent Charles, Polyclinique Centrale
Main Cities:	Bujumbura, Ngozi, Bururi, Bubanza, Cibitoke, Gitega, Muyinga
Country Size:	27,830 sq km
Population:	8,390,505

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Kirundi (official), French (official), Swahili (along Lake Tanganyika and in the Bujumbura area)	
Currency:	Burundi Franc (BIF)	
Predominant Religions:	Christian 67% (Roman Catholic 62%, Protestant 5%), indigenous beliefs 23%, Muslim 10%	
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 1 July (1962)	
Economic Status:	Burundi is a landlocked, resource-poor country with an underdeveloped manufacturing sector. The economy is predominantly agricultural with more than 90% of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture.	
Security:	National Defense Force (Forces de Defense Nationales, FDN): Army (includes Naval Detachment and Air Wing)	
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy Bujumbura B.P. 1720 Avenue Des Etats-Unis Bujumbura, Burundi Phone: +257 22-207-000 Fax: +257 22-222-926	
Major Airports:	Airports: 8, Airports w/paved runways: 1 Bujumbura Airport (BJM/HBBA) Bujumbura Airport, Burundi, BP 694, Bujumbura, BURUNDI Tel: +257 2 23797, +257 2 22196, +257 2 23427 Fax: +257 2 23428 Customs Fax: +257 2 25931	

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