



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

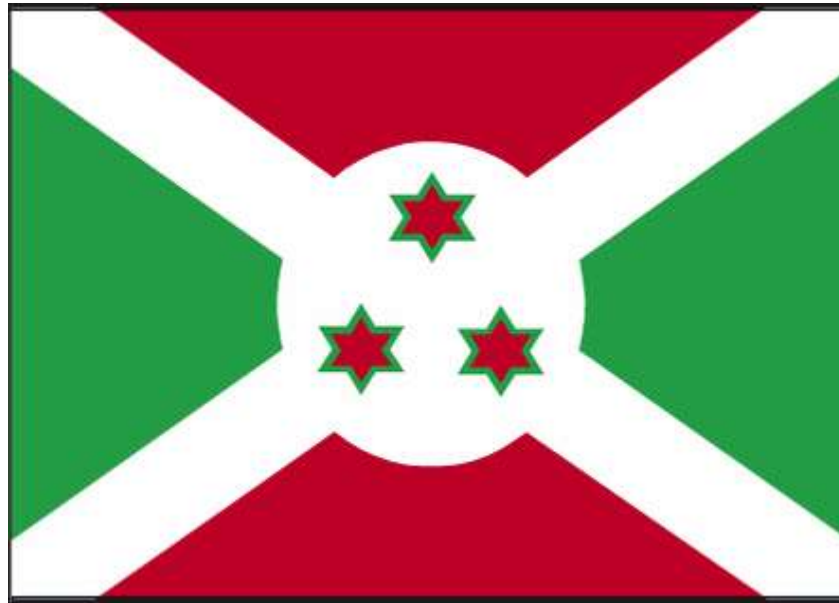
M.Ed. In TESL Program Country Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Country: Burundi

Author: Jintana Pond

Program Contact Person: Nancy Cloud (ncloud@ric.edu)



REPUBLIC of BURUNDI

Jintana Pond
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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**.



BURUNDIAN DIFFICULTIES

- ❖ 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



Language & Ethnicity

- ❖ 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%



SCHOOL LIFE



- ❖ 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



TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ❖ 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



TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ❖ 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



EDUCATION ISSUES



- ❖ 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

Views and Values

❖ Social Stratification

❖ Classes and Caste System

- ❖ Tutsi 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

www.komezalaramga.com



❖ 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



Resources

Articles

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Maps and Images

Map of Burundi, and Burundian Refugees pictures. Retrieved February 17, 2013 from <http://www.Google.com/images>

M.Ed. in TESL Program
Nancy Cloud, Director
Educational Studies Department
Rhode Island College, HBS 206 #5
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Phone (401) 456-8789
Fax (401) 456-8284
ncloud@ric.edu

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