

Burundi

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About Burundi

- Seven million people live in Burundi. Over half (58.4%) were living on less than one dollar a day in 2003.
- Burundi's government was elected in free and fair elections in 2005, the country's first democratic elections since 1993.
- In 2003 Per capita income was \$648 compared with the UK's \$27,147. (Human Development Report (HDR) 2005)
- 57% of Burundi's primary school age children were enrolled in primary school in 2003 compared with 100% in the UK (HDR 2005).
- Average life expectancy in 2003 Burundi was 43.6 years compared with 78.4 years in the UK (HDR 2005).
- In 2003 190 children out of every 1,000 died before the age of 5 compared with 6 in the UK (HDR 2005)
- 1,000 women out of every 100,000 died in childbirth compared with 13 in the UK (HDR 2000 adjusted figures)
- 6% of Burundi's 15 – 49 year olds were living with HIV and AIDS in 2003, compared with 0.1% in the UK (HDR 2005)
- Average per capita annual growth rates in Burundi between 1990 and 2003 were – 3.5% in Burundi, compared with 2.5% in the UK (HDR 2005)
- In 2003 79% of the population had sustainable access to an improved source of water (HDR 2005)

DFID: Working to reduce poverty in Burundi

Over the six years to April 2008, DFID has provided around £38m in aid to Burundi. Our programme expanded over this period and in the current financial year we plan to provide £10m in aid. Burundi has been classified by the World Bank as the fourth least developed country in the world. It has only recently emerged from more than 12 years of bitter Civil War. Its democratically elected government has committed itself to eliminating poverty, but the problems it faces are immense. DFID is working with the Government to deliver the new and peaceful Burundi it has promised to its people.

Making aid effective

DFID is working with other donors to support Burundi's first Poverty Reduction Strategy. We are joining sector wide approaches for the Health and Education and also developing a joint £6m Governance Programme with Sida to promote democratic governance over the next 3 years. Burundi is amongst the first countries to benefit from the International Health Partnership which aims to improve the way that international agencies, donors and poor countries work together to develop and implement health plans.

DFID: Reducing poverty in Africa

Governance

Poor governance is a cause of poverty. People suffer when governments don't allow participation in political life, provide access to justice, deliver adequate public services or control corruption. Serious problems with governance still exist in much of Africa – but there are signs of improvement. Through its work with the Burundi Government DFID is: -

- Working directly with Government to improve service delivery in health and education. We are implementing a substantial £1.5m programme to help the Government provide free health services for childbirth and children under 5, and have directly contributed to improving primary education facilities and teacher training following the lifting of primary school fees in 2005
- Developing a 3 year £6m Governance Programme, which will include initiatives to give the public a voice in the governance of Burundi.

Education

DFID provided £2m to the education sector in 2005. This was delivered through UNICEF in support of the Government's 2005 commitment to free primary school education and provided additional resources to finance the extra classrooms, teachers and books required. With other donors, we are drawing up a substantial programme of support for the Government of Burundi's Education Sector Strategy.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

DFID has a 3-year £5,150,000 programme of support to improve access to health care, education and social support, and increase economic self-sufficiency for 30,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Making progress against the Millennium Development Goals...

Given its recent emergence from war, there are very few reliable statistics on Burundi's progress in meeting MDGs. Its recently elected Government faces huge problems, but has made a good start. In August 2005, when the President was inaugurated, he announced fee-free primary school education for Burundi's children and on 1 May 2006, he announced free health care for childbirth and all children under 5. DFID is directly supporting both these positive and important initiatives.

For more information about DFID's work in Burundi please visit www.dfid.gov.uk

If you are a journalist and wish to know more about DFID and its work to reduce poverty in Africa please call DFID press office: 0207023 0600.