

Visitor's Guide to Burundi



green
tap
BURUNDI

Tapping into the **full potential of deep groundwater systems in Burundi**, Green Tap aims to gather NGO's into one village, inspired by what can be achieved together.



Green Tap Burundi is developing a model of collaboration for generational change. Together, Christian WASH partners can work towards total transformation.



HOW TO GET TO BURUNDI



There are many airlines that will get you into Bujumbura.

British Airways, American Airlines, Kenya Airways, Ugandan Airlines, Air Tanzania, Rwandair.

Total travel time from the US is around 25 hours. Burundi is 7 hours ahead of Texas. When you arrive you will be tired and take at least 3 days to feel normal.

KAZE! - WELCOME!



STEP 1

Email caelene@greentapburundi.org. Please give your full name, travel dates and scanned photo of the page in your passport with your photo and passport number.



STEP 2

Get your vaccinations: Yellow Fever & Typhoid. Get your malaria pills. Gather in a travel pouch: airline ticket, yellow fever card and a new, crisp \$100 bill for entry visa upon arrival.



STEP 3

Once you land, you will enter a small airport. Take a landing card to fill in. Then you walk to the window on the left where you pay for your visa.



STEP 4

Head for the passport line. An officer will ask you for your landing card on the way there. After your passport is stamped, you enter the baggage collection area. Collect your baggage and slide it through security on the moving belt scanner.



STEP 5

Exit the airport. Once outside, Green Tap staff will be there to pick you up! Get ready to sweat!

THE URBAN LODGE

Trendy, boutique guesthouse.
Close to town. Breakfast
included. \$70/night.

Find them on [Booking.com](#)



HOTEL BOTANIKA

Right downtown. Attached to a really
good restaurant with French food. A/C.
Comfy beds. \$60/night. Breakfast
included.

www.hotelbotanikabujumbura.com

CELL PHONE & MONEY

Get your phone unlocked so that you can put a local SIM card in it when you arrive. A Burundian SIM card can be purchased easily and used for local and overseas contact, wi-fi and hot-spotting for your computer.



Bring new \$100 bills to exchange. The local currency is the
Burundian Franc (BIF). The exchange rate fluctuates.
PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO ATM MACHINES IN BURUNDI.

WHAT TO PACK FOR YOUR TRIP



WOMEN

- 2 long skirts per week
- Pants and capris are great for around town (no shorts)
- T-shirts that have sleeves and/or blouses
- A hat is recommended for the sun
- A sweater/scarf and light rain jacket
- Sturdy sandals and walking shoes

MEN

- Long trousers / pants
- Long sleeve shirts
- Jumper/Fleece and rain jacket
- A wide-brimmed hat is recommended for the sun
- Sturdy sandals, and/or walking shoes.

Notebook / Bible

Pens

Sunglasses

Camera (optional)

Phone

Wipes & sanitizer

Soap & shampoo

Water bottle

Travel towel

Swimsuit

Charger & battery backup

Snacks

Adapter 110 VT - 220 VT

Multi- travel plug

Mosquito spray

Anti-itch cream

Anti-diarrhea meds

Antibiotic cream

Band Aids

GIFTS AND SUPPLIES FOR GREEN TAP



We kindly ask that you plan to check an additional suitcase in order to bring supplies to Green Tap from the First World!

If you are interested in bringing gifts or items to give towards people or projects, please inquire prior to your trip for the most up to date needs. Anything you bring will be much appreciated!

HEALTH



Vaccines



You must have Yellow Fever with the certificate in order to get a visa to enter Burundi.

Also check with your travel clinic for the current list of recommended vaccines for Burundi.



Travel Insurance

Please check with your insurance provider for a good international travel insurance policy for the duration of your travels.



Malaria Prevention

Mosquitoes bite during the early morning and early evening. Take malaria prevention tablets. wear long sleeves at dawn and dusk. Bring mosquito repellent with DEET.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BURUNDI

Original settlement in the Burundian territory is attributed to the Twa tribe. In the 11th century though, the Hutu tribe came onto the scene and dominated the land in terms of numbers. The Tutsi tribe came in the 14th century and began to dominate the land in terms of cattle wealth, land and influence. The Burundian Kingdom was established as early as the 16th century along the Eastern foothills.

In the Mid-1800's, European explorers and Christian missionaries came into the Kingdom. Germans officially commenced rule in 1903 when Burundi fell into the German East Africa colonies. Although the Germans came into power first, the Kingdom ended up being shared by Belgian and British rulers in 1923. Independence was finally won on July 1, 1962.

Burundi continued as a Constitutional Monarchy until 1966 when a coup ushered in 27 years of successive military dictatorships. This exacerbated ethnic tensions, leading to a brutal rebel incursion in 1972. What followed has been described as genocide. People were called to public meetings or called in for questioning, and were never seen or heard from again. These silent and systematic killings affected everyone in the country, and killed an estimated 200,000 people.

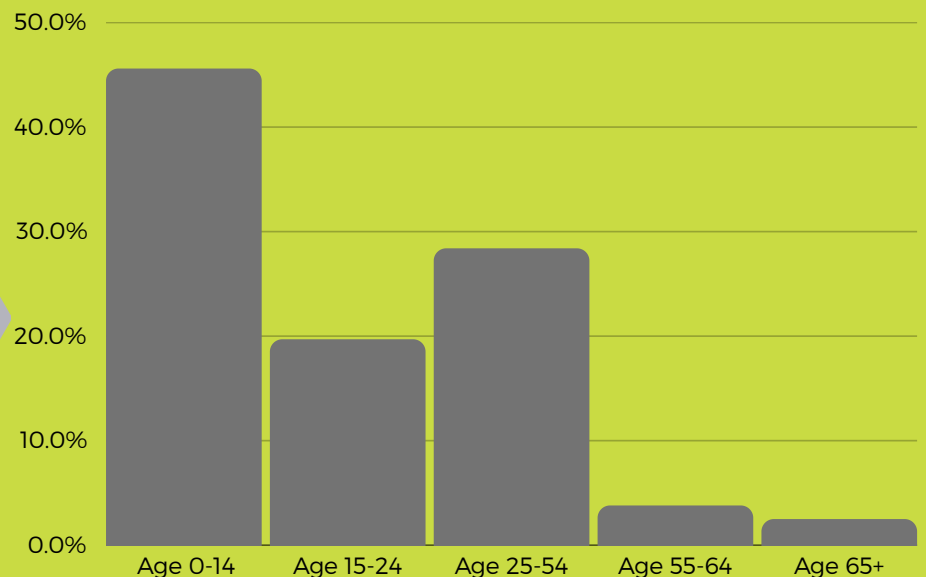
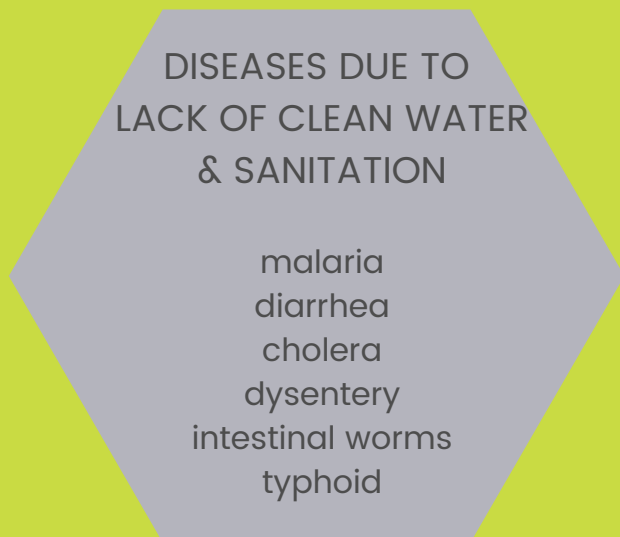
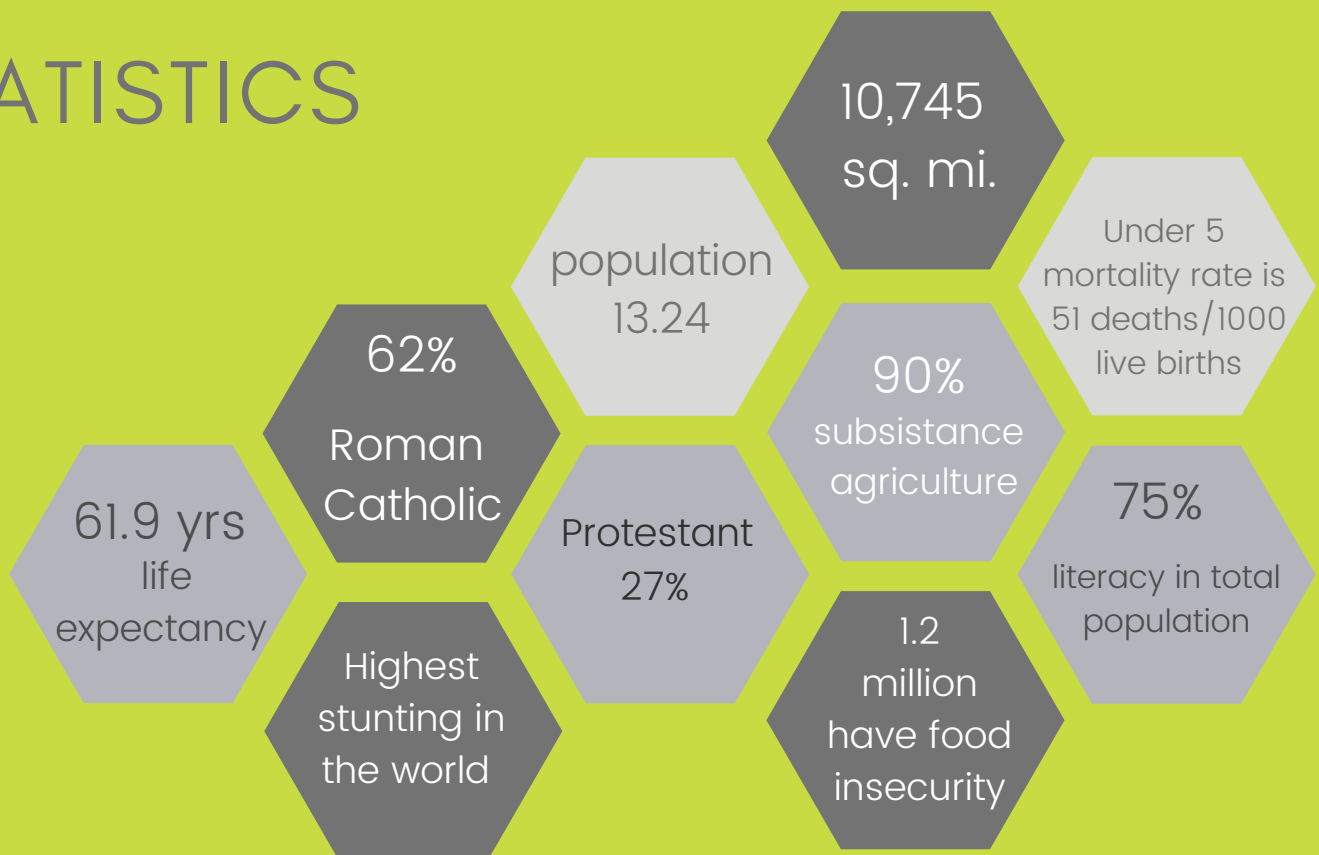
Burundi's first democratically elected president was assassinated in October 1993 after only 100 days in office, triggering widespread ethnic violence between Hutu and Tutsi factions. Between 300,000-500,000 Burundians perished during the conflict that spanned almost a dozen years. An internationally brokered power-sharing agreement between the Tutsi-dominated government and the Hutu rebels in 2003 paved the way for a transition process that led to an integrated defense force, established a new constitution in 2005, and elected a majority Hutu government.

Following the 2015 election, in which Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza won a disputed third term, violence increased leading to a failed coup attempt and to an estimated 285,000 refugees fleeing Burundi. The 2015 violence led to International sanctions, which many Burundians felt was unfair as Western countries and institutions seemed to them to have backed the coup plotters.

President Nkurunziza oversaw the beginning of the restoration of trust between the ethnic groups, and the rebuilding of a devastated country including the building of 2500 new schools in less than 8 years. He was also successful in bringing the FNL, a rebel group that had not signed the original peace deal, to the negotiation table and they signed a peace deal in 2008 officially ending the civil war. During this time, the majority of the over 2 million Burundians who had fled their country were repatriated.

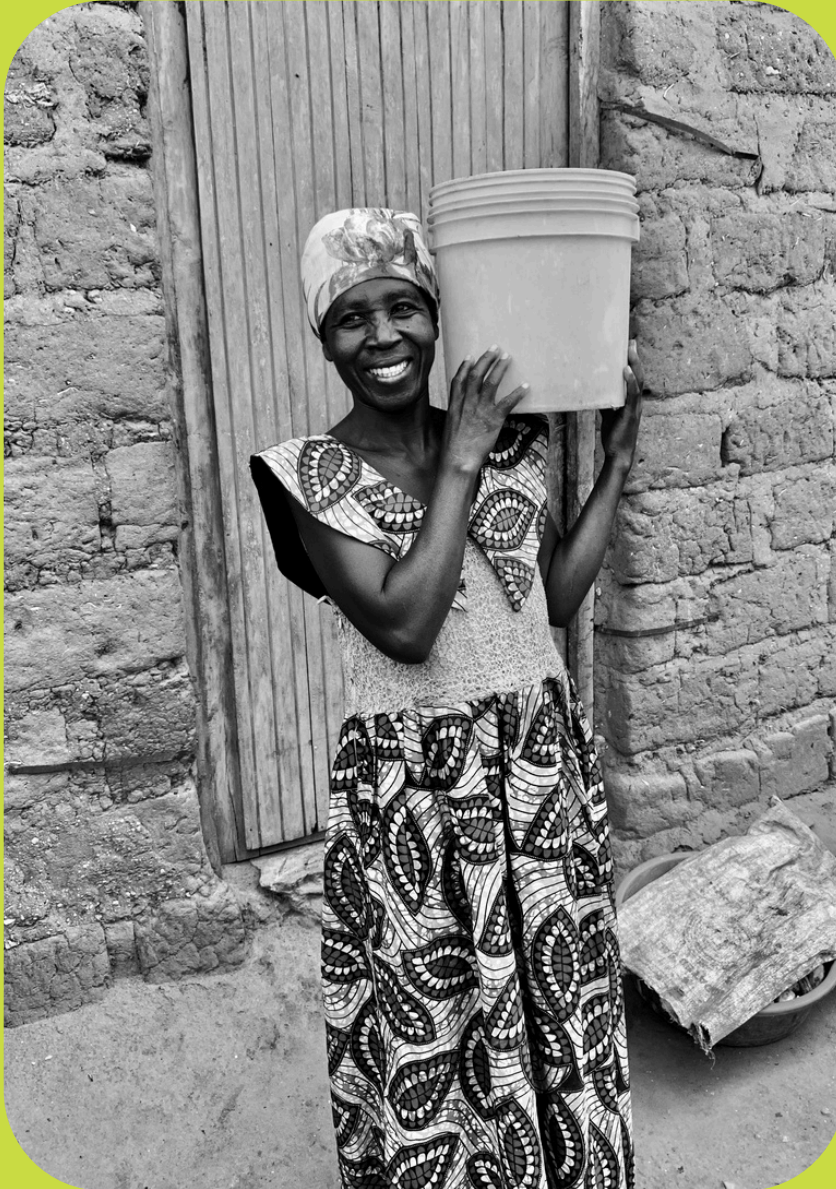
Relationships with the West have gradually warmed, especially after the voluntary transition of power before the 2020 elections in which Nkurunziza did not run, and instead endorsed Evariste Ndayishimiye, who went on to win the Presidential election. During the transition time, before Ndayishimiye could be sworn in, Nkurunziza passed away, but the country remained peaceful and the president-elect was sworn in soon after. With this change at the top, many Western countries saw a chance to further improve relations with Burundi, and the country has seen more aid and investment since 2021.

STATISTICS



Approximately 75% of Burundi's population lives in poverty. It is one of the world's poorest nations often ranking somewhere between the poorest and third poorest. According to the World Food Program, 56.8% of children under age five suffer from chronic malnutrition.

59%



"...of the population do not have consistent access to clean drinking water..."

SPEAKING KIRUNDI

Urwatsi Rutoto = Green



Basic Vocabulary

Oya - No

Ego - Yes

Buhoro buhoro - slowly

Bangwe! - stop!

Kira! - Bless you!

Kaze! - welcome!

Amahera/amafaranga - money

Sindabizi - I don't know

Neza - good

Useful Expressions

hehe? - where?

kuki? - why?

kuko - because

ninde? - who?

ryari? - when?

ejo - tomorrow, yesterday

vuba - soon

Amahera angahe? - How much does it cost

Jewe nitwa - my name is

Witwande - what is your name?

Ntabara - Help!

Ndaje - I'm coming!

Ndashaka - I want/I would like

Mpa... - give me...

Ishule - school

Greetings

Amahoro - Hello / Peace

Urakomeye? - how are you?

Ego ndakomeye - Yes I am well

Amakuru? - What's news?

Urugendo gwiza! - Have a good journey!

Expressing Gratitude

Urakoze - thank you

Murakoze - thank you plural

Urakoze cane - Thank you very much

FINALLY...

Cultural Sensitivity

Try to learn some Kirundi words before you arrive. That shows a deep respect for the people of Burundi. Burundians are softly spoken and prefer indirect communication. Being really loud and direct is a bit offensive. Try to learn as much as you can without discussing ethnic differences. Bring a big heart, an open mind and an attitude of generosity. Burundi is filled with beautiful, resilient people.

Recommended Reading

- **Burundi, Biography of a Small African Country** by Nigel Watt
- **The Night the Angels Came** by Chrissy Chapman
- **My Country Wept** by Jessica Komanapalli
- **We are all God's Children** by Zacharie Bukuru
- **Before You Go** by Jack Hempfling

Contact



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