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COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET ↓

BURUNDI

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ECONOMIC BACKGROUND HIGHLIGHTS

A. THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1) ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY:

- a) **AREA:** 10,744 square miles. (27,827 sq. km)
- b) **GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE:** Burundi is bordered in the west by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on the north by Rwanda and on the south and east by Tanzania. The climate varies according to the region. The plain along lake Tanganyika is tropical. The middle highlands are temperate, the central mountains are cold. There is a long rain season, March - May; long dry season June - September. Short rains October, December; short dry season January, February.
- c) **POPULATION:** 3.4 million (end of 1968) with annual rate of growth = 2%
- d) **LANGUAGES:** There are two official languages: French and Kirundi.
- e) **MAIN CENTRES:** A part from the capital at Bujumbura (71,000) and a few small towns with a few thousand inhabitants, almost all the population lives in hillside villages around family small holdings.
- f) **TRANSPORT FACILITIES:** The road network is good 5,162 kms of national roads, general interest roads, provincial roads and communal roads.
 - There is no railway in Burundi.
 - Lake transport operates from the large port at Bujumbura.
 - Bujumbura (the capital) is not suited to jets. There are four local aerodromes in other parts of the country.

- 2) **POLITICAL STATUS:** The achievement of independence as a constitutional monarchy in a customs and monetary union with Rwanda in July 1962. The separation from Rwanda and the division of the common institutions in December 1963. The proclamation of the Republic in November 1966.
- The ministries in the economic field are:
Ministry of Co-ordination and planning.
Ministry of Finance.
Ministry of Agriculture and livestock.

-
- Sources:
- EUROPA year book 1969.
 - Africa 69/70 - The editorial staff "Jeune Afrique".
 - AID Data Book - Africa 1970.
 - Year Book of National Accounts Statistics 1968.
 - IBRD Memorandum "The Economy of Burundi" Feb. 1969.
 - The statesman's Year Book 1968-69.

B. BASIC ECONOMIC DATA

1) ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

a) NATIONAL CURRENCY: The national currency is the Burundi Franc (BuF) which equals US\$ 0.01143.

b) GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT: 1965 in current prices.

Per Capita: US\$ 48

Primary Sector: over 70 %

c) PER CAPITA INCOME: US\$ 38 (1963)

d) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: April 1965 = 100

For African Consumption	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
	109,5	108,9	111,5
	=====	=====	=====

e) BALANCE OF PAYMENTS:

	<u>US\$ Million</u> <u>1967</u>	<u>Average annual</u> <u>Increase %</u> <u>1962-67</u>
Total Exports (f.o.b.)	16.6	7.4
Total Imports (CIF)	<u>19.4</u>	4.2
Trade Balance	-2.8	
Invisibles	<u>-3.9</u>	
Balance of Current Account	-6.7	
	=====	
Foreign aid	3.3	
Other transactions	1.0	
Change in Foreign Assets	2.4	
	====	

- 2) NATURAL RESOURCES: - The main economic activity of the country is subsistence agriculture. The main cash crop is coffee. Cotton is also grown.
- Cattle plays an important traditional role, and there are about 462,000 head in the country. There are some 358,000 goats and 141,000 sheep.
 - The main raw materials are bastnaesite, cassiterite and kaolin.

3) LABOUR FORCE: 759,766 in 1968. 95% of the labour force in agriculture.

- 4) ORIGIN OF GDP: The only national accounts estimates that are available for Burundi are for the year 1965. It indicates that GDP was 153.4 million (based on exchange rate after the devaluation in Feb. 1965). Agriculture accounts for about 70 percent of total GDP.

5) MAIN INDUSTRIES: Capacity

Food processing

Cotton seed oil	18,000 tons of seed annually
Coffee	30,000 tons annually
Brewery	30 million bottles of soft drinks
Dairy	10,000 liters milk daily
Milling, manioc	10 tons per day
Milling, rice	15 tons per day
Refrigeration	50,000 tons annually

Textile industries

Cotton ginning	22-22,000 tons annually
Blanket factory	75,000 per month
Shirt factories	5,200 per day
Fishing nets	25 tons annually

Metallurgy

Forging, stamping, etc.	3,300 tons annually
Hoe factory	600,000 annually

Construction

Cement, blocks	24,000 m ² , annually
Prefabricated cement articles	750,000 m ² /5mm

Chemical industries

Soap	300 tons annually
Paint	275 tons annually
Oxygen	10,000 m ³ monthly
Acetylene	2,000 kg. monthly

Miscellaneous industries

Plastic shoes	600,000 pairs annually
Sawmill	8,000 m ³
Slaughterhouse	100 head daily

C. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 1) INVESTMENTS: Burundi authorities are preparing their first systematic development plan. The government has passed incentive legislation to attract new investment and established the National Development Bank. The estimated public Sector Investments for the years 1963-1967 were as follows:

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1963-67</u>
Total (Bu F million)	74	137	411	378	573	1675
	<u>Percentage of Total</u>					
Agriculture	12	18	12	12	24	17
Industry, Mines + Power	1	3	3	16	5	10
Transport + communicat.	49	41	33	28	19	28
Education	5	7	4	1	8	5
Health	8	17	9	4	10	9
Other Social + Administrative	25	14	39	38	24	31
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
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In 1965 the National Income and the Industrial Production by main Category of Industry, (Million Burundi Francs) are as follows:

	<u>Food, Beverages</u> <u>and Textiles</u>	<u>Cotton</u> <u>Fibres</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Inputs	247.0	61.5	368.4	676.9
Factor Incomes	429.5	31.4	85.6	546.5
Indirect Taxes Paid by Producers	165.2	-	2.7	167.9
Output at Sector Price	<u>841.7</u>	<u>92.9</u>	<u>456.7</u>	<u>1,391.3</u>
Of which:				
Beer	508.4	-	-	508.4
Food	135.3	-	-	135.3
Textiles	198.0	-	-	198.0
Mechanical and Electrical Equipment			210.3	210.3
Other	120.0	92.9	246.4	459.3

- 2) SOURCES OF FINANCING: Public Sector Investment 1962-1967.

<u>Total Public Sector</u> <u>Investment 1962-1967</u>	<u>Bu.F.</u> <u>Million</u>	<u>Percentage</u> <u>of Total</u>	<u>By Sector</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>of Total</u>
of which:				
Ordinary budget	142	9	Agriculture	17
Extraordinary budget	365	22	Industry	10
Parastatal agencies	120	7	Transport and Communications	28
External financing	1,048	62	Education	5
			Health	9
			Other Social + Administrative Services	31
Total	<u>1,675</u>	<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>
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D. FOREIGN TRADE DATA1) FOREIGN TRADE BALANCE: (Bu.F.million - 1965 exchange rate)

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Exports	580	1561	1266	1292	1456
Imports	1142	1499	1603	1698	1694
Balance	-562	63	-337	-406	-238
	====	==	====	====	====

2) VALUE OF IMPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS (Million Burundi Francs)

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Food, beverages, tobacco	226.6	303.7	347.1	304.5
Clothing	441.6	425.3	383.4	355.7
Transport equipment	144.1	158.6	184.0	189.4
Machinery and metal products	108.1	121.7	103.0	155.4
Cement	29.9	26.2	32.6	51.4
Petrol products	138.4	83.6	123.2	111.3
Pharmaceutical products and insecticides	48.6	64.3	94.8	67.2
All other products	<u>363.6</u>	<u>419.4</u>	<u>429.9</u>	<u>458.6</u>
Total	<u>1,500.9</u>	<u>1,602.8</u>	<u>1,698.0</u>	<u>1,693.5</u>

3) VALUE OF EXPORTS; MAIN PRODUCTS (Million Burundi Francs: 1965 exchange rate)

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Coffee	341.0	1,421.8	1,008.7	1,007.1	1,199.9
Cotton	89.5	91.7	127.4	114.0	93.7
Hides + Skins	25.5	19.6	27.0	37.0	44.0
Others	124.0	29.2	103.3	134.0	118.0
Total exports	<u>580.0</u>	<u>1,562.3</u>	<u>1,266.4</u>	<u>1,292.1</u>	<u>1,455.6</u>
	====	====	====	====	====
Coffee as percentage of total exports	59	91	80	78	82



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