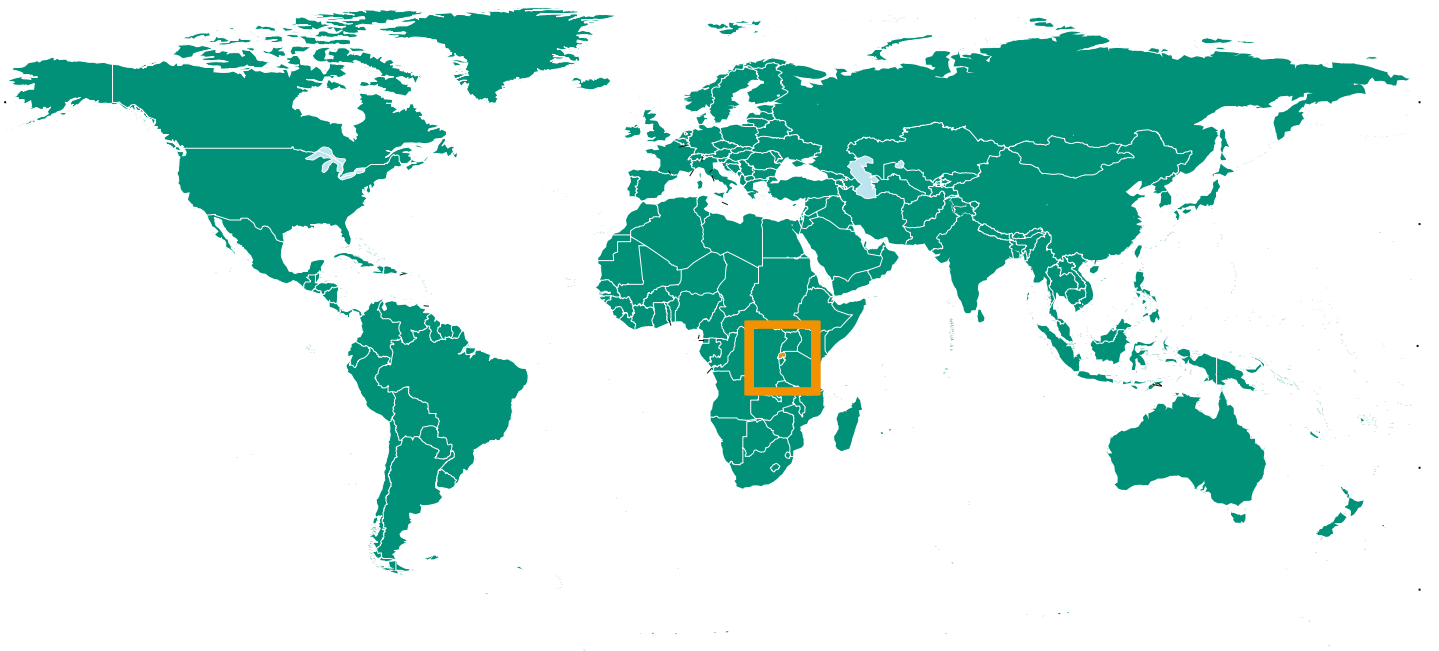


COUNTRY  
PROGRAMME  
DOCUMENT  
2008 – 2009

# RWANDA





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## FOREWORDS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents (HCPDs) are tangible components of this Plan as well as a genuine endeavour from UN-HABITAT to better coordinate normative and operational activities in a consultative and inclusive process involving UN-HABITAT's in-country focal points, UN-HABITAT Programme Managers

(HPM's), national governments, UN country teams, sister-UN agencies, development partners and all divisions of our Agency. The HCPDs are strategic tools meant to guide all UN-HABITAT activities over a two period. A major dimension of the HCPD is to advocate UN-HABITAT's mandate and address the urban challenge facing the world's developing countries.

The HCPD identify national urban development goals and priorities including shelter, urban governance, access to basic services and credit. Important cross cutting issues such as the environment, gender, response to disasters, and vulnerability reduction are also addressed. The HCPDs focus on UN-HABITAT country programming. They serve as a work plan for HPMs and a reference tool for national and local actors involved in sustainable urban development. According to the MTSIP Action Plan adopted by the UN-HABITAT Committee of Permanent Representatives on 6 December 2007, twenty HCPDs were completed during 2008, including One-UN Pilot countries where UN-HABITAT is active.

In line with UN reform process, HCPDs seek to strengthen the role of the UN and to demonstrate our commitment. I wish to thank our HPMs for their inputs and dedication and for putting together these HCPDs under guidance of the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division and with support from all branches and programmes of the Agency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Anna K. Tibaijuka'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anna K. Tibaijuka  
Executive Director, UN-HABITATs

## MINISTER



Although Rwanda is among the least urbanized countries in Africa, it has one of the highest urbanization rates currently at 18.7 %. The Government of Rwanda foresees that 30 % of the Rwandan population will live in urban areas by 2020.

This rapid urbanization occurs in a context

where 80% of the current urban population lack financial resources and live in slums without basic infrastructures. There is a lack of urban planning, financial resources, and efficient systems to fund real estate development; only a small proportion of urban population has access to the basic infrastructure.

The Government of Rwanda has prepared and adopted various documents together with tangible activities that aim at improving the living conditions of the local population through participatory means. The laws on decentralization, land management, urban environment as well as Rwanda urban development policy have been adopted within this context.

The Government of Rwanda is committed to addressing urban development challenges. The creation of the recent “National Urban Forum” was a result of one of the recommendations of the national conference on poverty reduction and good governance through sustainable urban development and housing in Rwanda. It is a clear sign of political will our government has shown in order to address the urban development challenges.

The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document (HCPD) has taken into account governance, environment, urban planning management and resettlement and protection. These thematic areas coincide with the urban development policy agenda and the priorities of the Government’s Vision 2020.

The urban development issues in general, the housing shortages in particular have encouraged some development partners to collaborate with the Government of Rwanda to improve people’s living conditions through the implementation of various development projects and programmes.

The Ministry of Infrastructure has contributed to the preparation and adoption of the UN HABITAT country program 2008-2009, based on four areas (governance, water, sanitation and environment, urban planning and management, settlement development). It matches quite well with the national priorities mentioned in the Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) and the sectoral priorities adopted by UNDAF sectoral and Common Operation Document (COD). It provides a new opportunity for collaboration between Rwanda and UN HABITAT in order to achieve the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).

I would like to express my deep appreciation of the efforts of the United Nations System in general and particularly the UN-HABITAT contributions which has contributed to the implementation of various projects and programs in the Ministry under my responsibility.

I would like to reiterate my commitment and that of the whole Government of Rwanda to do everything possible to improve the living conditions of Rwanda’s population.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Bihire'.

Eng. Linda BIHIRE  
Minister of Infrastructure

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

### URBAN NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

Rwanda is one of the most densely populated and least urbanized countries in Africa. It is also among the African countries experiencing high urban population growth. Between 1991 and 2002, the urban population growth in Rwanda increased three times, shifting from 5.5% to 17%.

In Rwanda, urban development goes hand in hand with migration; urban development depends essentially on the contributions of rural populations. The low urbanization rate and low urban development place Rwanda in the margin of the demographic transition trend which characterizes developing countries. However, this urbanization dynamic is neither well understood nor fully controlled. More than 80% of the urban population lives

in slums and the majority of households live under the poverty line. According to a long-term planning, Rwanda Vision 2020, the urban population growth will reach 30% in 2020 or five times in 30 years.

Historically speaking, urban development is a very recent phenomenon which was brought in Rwanda at the beginning of the 20th century when the colonizers arrived in Rwanda. Indeed, the absence of towns is partly due to scattered individual settlements and decentralized economic systems. Before the colonial period in Rwanda, peddlers moved from one hill to another selling their goods because there was no established places for trade.

Although the administration centers were created fifty years later during the colonial period, jobless people were not allowed to remain there. After independence, the regimes which came to power opposed urban development under the pretext that priority ought to be given to the development of rural areas. To support this strategy, the following decisions were taken: (i) the creation of rural centers to keep the rural populations in one place; (ii) introduction of new administrative policies where citizens had to get a pass in order to move to town, (iii) citizens were obliged to get a residence permit and a permanent employment card, (iv) regular raids to catch and send back jobless people in their respective rural communes.

During independence in 1962, Kigali's population was 6,000 people. There were urban centers were province headquarters. A newly created province distribution map at the time had classified rural areas as towns. The urbanization rate increased three-fold between 1962 and 1972 (from 1 to 3%), it reached 5% in 1978 and approximately 9% just before 1994. With more than 17%, Rwanda remains the least urbanized country in Africa, behind Burundi.

Rwandan cities share the following common characteristics: they are highly dependant on agriculture, many host a high percentage of immigrants, they lack proper urban planning (lack of appropriate town planning tools) and access to basic infrastructure and many of the cities' inhabitants cannot afford to buy land

Although the towns were essentially public administration headquarters, the population growth increased gradually between 1994 and 2002 (during this period the urban population doubled). The current population growth is between 4 and 6% and this growth can be explained by the social and economic changes which occurred after the 1994 tragedy

#### STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

##### Urbanisation (2008)

- Total Population: 10 m
- Urban Population: 1.8 m (18.2%)

##### Annual growth rates (2005-2010)

- National: 2.7%
- Urban: 4.2%

##### Major cities (2008)

- Kigali: 860 000

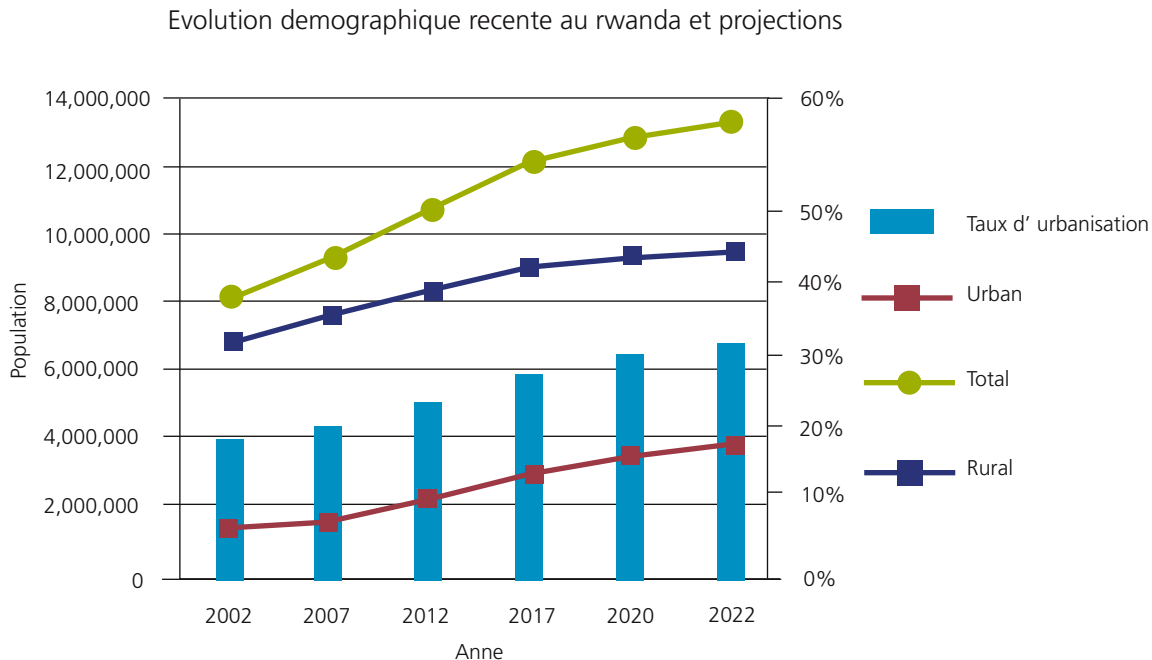
*Source: UN DESA*

##### Slum indicators

- Slum to Urban Population: 71.6%
- % urban population with access to:**
  - Urban Population with access to safe water: 60.8%
  - Urban Population with access to piped water: 55.4%
  - Urban Population with access to improved sanitation: 74.9%
  - Urban Population with sufficient living area: N/A
  - Urban Population with durable housing: 47.8%

*Source: UN-HABITAT, 2005*

TABLE 1: URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION GROWTH BY CALENDAR YEAR 2002-2022



Source: MINECOFIN, Feb 2005

## FOCUS AREA 1: ADVOCACY, MONITORING AND PARTNERSHIPS

### VULNERABILITY REDUCTION

Results of the Completed survey on Living Conditions households (EICV <sup>1</sup>) carried out in 2005 shows that 56.9% of the total population in 2005 lived below the poverty line, corresponding to 250 RWF/day. The survey also reported that 13% of people living in Kigali city live below the poverty line compared to 41.5% of those living in other towns in the country. This number decreases when we consider the households living in the urban areas: 13% in the city of Kigali and 41.5% in the other towns of the country. The average volume of annual expenses for the households living in the urban area is equal to 35.000 RWF, less than 3.000 RWF/month, showing an increased level of poverty in the towns where the cost of living is high.

The EICV survey reported that unemployment hit 23% of the active population in Kigali city and 10% in the other cities in 2005. The level of poverty ravaging towns is especially visible in the precarious districts where 90% of the urbanized populations reside.

The main reasons behind the social and economic exclusion of the urbanized in Rwanda are: low levels of education and professional training; an absence of economic and urban planning; insufficient investments in infrastructure (investment budget, foreign donations, etc); and a lack of decentralized entities (at the level of the administrative sectors).

Even though poverty is not yet eradicated in the cities of Rwanda, the urbanization of

Rwandan cities gradually increasing has already contributed to poverty reduction especially in creating jobs offer through urban activities (ex. Housing activities occupying 7.5% of economic growth).

## FOCUS AREA 2: PARTICIPATORY URBAN PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

### GOVERNANCE

Good governance is possible through decentralization to promote viable alternative to sustainable social economic development and boost national peace and reconciliation for Rwanda. Policies and institutions that support and promote autonomous and participatory governance have been established. This development

<sup>1</sup> Enquête Intégrale sur la Conditions de Vie des ménages (EICV)

greatly facilitated the devolution of administrative and financial powers to local administrative units closer to the communities. These administrative reforms largely initiated a process that eventually resulted into the formulation and successive adoption of the decentralization policy in 2000. The decentralization policy under implementation has been enshrined in the laws and is at the heart of the nationwide democratization process as well as the poverty reduction strategy. It is founded on the principles of participation and empowerment of local governments to plan and execute their own developments programmes. However the major issue of this decentralization policy rises from projects planners when it comes to map out the size of towns where projects are to be implemented. This mapping issue is due to extension of existing towns to almost the whole District size.

#### URBAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Since the 2006 administrative reforms, the wider rural areas have now been included as part of the urban areas either in Kigali City or other cities. In all the towns in Rwanda, except Kigali city, agriculture is the main economic activity (more than 50% of the working population). In Kigali, 15.5% of the working population work in the primary sector compared to 15.8% for the secondary and 68.7% for the tertiary sector (statistics records from National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). The majority of buildings are single storey houses, except in Kigali city where some buildings have up to four floors. There are very few areas where houses have been built according to the city plan requirements. Slums account for 70% to 80% of settlements. The Ministry of Infrastructure is in charge of urban planning and is in command of a sectional strategy document that outlines its principle intervention areas, especially those dealing with urban



#### FOCUS AREA 3: PRO-POOR LAND AND HOUSING

##### LAND REFORM IN RWANDA

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_19060](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_19060)

