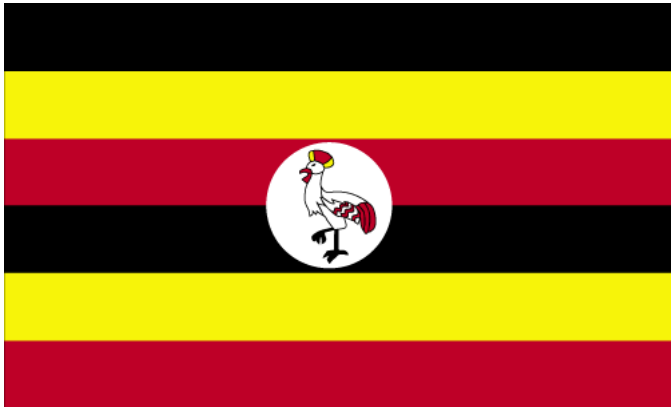


UGANDA COUNTRY PROFILE

Capital: Kampala



Quick Facts

Population: 28,195,754

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$48.73 billion

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity): \$1,800

GDP composition by sector:

Agriculture: 31.1%

Industry: 22.2%

Services: 46.9%

Size of labor force: 13.17 million

Labor force: by occupation:

Agriculture: 82%

Industry: 5%

Services: 13%

Unemployment Rate: NA

Population below poverty line (\$2/day): 35%

Life expectancy at birth: 52.67 years

HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate: 4.1%

Adult Literacy Rate (age 15 and over):

Male: 79.5%

Female: 60.4%

For more information: <http://cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ug.html>

Political History

Uganda gained its independence from Britain in 1962 and was first led ceremoniously by Edward Mutesa II, the king of Buganda. In 1966, Milton Obote took over as president, led for 5 years, and was ousted by Idi Amin in 1971. It is estimated that around 300,000 people lost their lives under the Amin's military government. Amin even took measures to forcibly remove the Entrepreneurial Indian minority, leading to a severe recession of the economy. In 1979 he was ousted by a combined force consisting of Tanzanian troops and Ugandan exiles. 1979 saw the return of Oboto, who ruled until 1985, when Tito

Okello took over for six months. Finally, in 1986 the National Resistance Army took power under the authority of Yoweri Museveni. Museveni has led ever since. Museveni has been praised for his progressive leadership and challenged for his involvement in the DR Congo Civil War and other conflicts in the Great Lakes Region.

The country of Uganda is a place where intense fear exists side by side with indescribable hope. The rear exists in Northern Uganda, where the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continues to abduct members of the Acholi ethnic group. The LRA came to be in 1987 after the Holy Spirit Movement of Alice Auma took off. Now led by Joseph Kony, the LRA claims to be fighting for peace. In 1994, the LRA began to abduct children for use as soldiers and sex slaves. The government of Uganda began taking the LRA seriously in 1996 when it designated the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) to fight against the LRA. The LRA is currently weakened, but is still very much alive. Every night, tens of thousands of children walk ten to twenty miles from their government-designated "displaced persons camps" to seek refuge in the busier cities. The hope of Uganda lies in the fact that since 1992, the Ugandan government has been highly successful in consistently reducing the rates of HIV/AIDS in the country. The key to this success has been the government's willingness to talk about HIV/AIDS openly with the public. On top of this, Museveni approved the "multi-sectoral AIDS control approach. Since the early 1990s, the HIV/AIDS rate has gone down consistently every year.

For more information: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uganda>

The Economy

After a period of military coups and economic meltdown, the new government of Uganda under the leadership of Yoweri Museveni began to turn the economy around. Since 1986, the government - with the support of foreign countries and international agencies - has acted to rehabilitate and stabilize the economy by undertaking currency reform, raising producer prices on export crops, increasing prices of petroleum products, and improving civil service wages. The agricultural sector employs roughly 80% of the workforce. Coffee continues to be the major export product. The major Agricultural products in Uganda are coffee, tea, cotton, tobacco, cassava (tapioca), potatoes, corn, millet, pulses, cut flowers; beef, goat meat, milk, and poultry. The primary industries are sugar, brewing, tobacco, cotton textiles; cement, and steel production. In 2000, Uganda qualified for enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief worth \$1.3 billion and Paris Club debt relief worth \$145 million. These amounts combined with the original HIPC debt relief added up to about \$2 billion. The economy continues to grow at a rate of 4%. The distribution of income in Uganda is relatively equitable (although still inequitable) with the lowest 10% of society receiving 4% of the income and the top 10% of society receiving 21% of the income.

For more information: <http://cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ug.html>

Advocacy Issues

- The Lords Resistance Army (LRA) rebel group and the Government of Uganda are in the midst of negotiations that could lead to the end of a 20 year civil war. This war has displaced over 2 million people and has been labeled by the UN as

- “the most neglected conflict” of our time. To learn more and find out how the peace talks are going, go to <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm>.
- There are many organizations working in this region, including Invisible Children. This organization works with children in Northern Uganda that have been or are in danger of being taken as soldiers for the LRA. Their website can be found at www.invisiblechildren.org.
 - HIV/AIDS is an ongoing battle in Uganda. Despite having the reputation of a successful African country in the fight against HIV/AIDS, there is still much work to be done.
 - United States trade policy both positively and negatively affects the Ugandan economy. Before trading or sending items, do some reading about what industries are trying to develop in Uganda. Oxfam’s “Make Trade Fair” campaign provides useful tools for advocacy in this regard. Their site can be found at www.maketradefair.org