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# Burundi

**Date of Independence:**  
July 1, 1962

**Capital:** Bujumbura

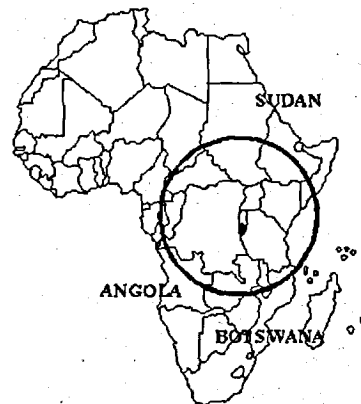
**Population:** 5.3 million

**Head of State:** His Excellency  
Melchior Ndadaye

**Head of Government:**  
Sylvie Kinigi

**Foreign Minister:**  
Sylvestre Ntibantunganya

**Economy:** Primarily a  
subsistence economy: coffee,  
cotton and tea are the main  
exports.



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**Canada-Burundi Relations:** Our modest relations with Burundi are geared primarily to co-operation. An aid program relating mainly to institutional co-operation was established in 1983. Since then, the main areas of Canadian assistance have been professional training and rural development. Several projects have also received financial support over the last few years as part of industrial co-operation and special programs, such as the mass immunization program.

**Canadian Aid:** Canadian assistance began in 1983 with a focus on institutional co-operation. Since then, professional training and rural development have become the main areas of Canada's assistance. Bilateral assistance for 1991-92 stood at \$1.73 million.

**Political Authorities:** His Excellency Melchior Ndadaye, President: Born in 1953, he is a member of the Front pour la démocratie au Burundi (Frodebu). A bank official, he took refuge for several years in Rwanda. On his return to Burundi in 1984, he was given responsibility for promotion and training in the Co-opératives d'épargne et de crédit. In 1989, Mr. Ndadaye was appointed adviser in the office of the Minister of Rural Development. Sylvie Kinigi, Prime Minister: Mrs. Kinigi was appointed to this position following the presidential investiture on July 10, 1993.