

Rwanda



Located in central Africa Rwanda is a small landlocked country and supports the densest population in continental Africa.



A message from Berra Kabarungi Country Director, Rwanda

I have had the pleasure of being the Country Director in Rwanda since 2004. From this time, I have personally seen more than 24,000 women rebuild their lives after the 1994 genocide. All because of the generosity and compassion of people like you.

I am very proud of the progress our program has made and continues to make every day. Women for Women International-Rwanda has implemented a program of direct financial assistance, rights education, vocational skills training and income-generating opportunities. In addition we work to improve women's awareness about health and nutrition by making sure that every participant is trained in malaria prevention and treatment.

And today, our graduation ceremonies have become highly celebrated community events attended by local officials and the media!

On behalf of the participants and staff, thank you for all that you do.

Berra Kabarungi



genocide. The impact is devastating - but Rwanda is rebuilding with the leadership of its women.

Women won 49% of parliament seats in 2003 and as of the September 2008 elections, women control 56.25% of parliamentary seats. And because of Rwandan women's courage and willingness to speak, rape is now being prosecuted as a war crime in the country, instead of a third-degree crime, as before.

However, Rwandan women still need support: over one-third of households are headed by women, and 80% of these are run by impoverished widows. Many women also adopt as many as 6 orphaned children, treating every child like their own, as their president has asked. Women for Women provides job skills training, health education and rights awareness classes to help these women succeed and give themselves and their families a hope for a better future.

IN BRIEF

The murder of over 800,000 people during the 1994 genocide and the displacement of two million more left Rwanda's population 70% female. Up to 500,000 women and girls were raped and tortured as part of the

Language: Kinyarwanda, French, English

Life expectancy (female): 51 years

Life expectancy (male): 48.56 years

Population: 10,186,063

Per capita income: \$237

Unemployment: 50%

Literacy (female): 64.7% female

● 71% of our program participants can read more than their name

● 69% of our program participants can write more than their name

Literacy (male): 76.3%

Access to safe drinking water: 41%

Learn more about our program in Rwanda at www.womenforwomen.org/rwanda

Rwanda

A Day In the Life

A typical Rwandan woman wakes up early in the mornings to help her children prepare for school, and to sweep and clean her home. She works all day, likely as a subsistence farmer, cleaner, or a trader and seller of goods at regional markets, and returns home in the evenings to help her children with school work, (if she is literate), and prepare dinner. Most Rwandan families eat two meals each day, consisting of cassava, yams, rice, beans, and peanuts; families who can afford three meals eat porridge for breakfast. Most homes in Rwanda lack electricity and running water. Water is purchased from public pumps.

One Woman's Story: Clotilde

Clotilde Mukakinani is a 41-year old widow with three boys. Clotilde's husband was the sole provider for the household, and since his death she struggled to support her family. She tried to find temporary jobs in housing construction, but often did not get hired because of her age.

When Clotilde joined Women for Women International, she used her sponsorship funds to buy charcoal from a wholesale distributor and resell it on the local market. Investing just a small amount of money in the business, Clotilde has increased her sales so that she can support her family's basic needs – her family is now able to have two full meals a day, and they have new clean clothes. She has also started her first savings account. Clotilde plans to expand her business to include growing and selling vegetables, to continue improving the status of her family.



HOW DO I SAY?

Dear <Name>	Nshuti yange <Name>
How are you?	Mumeze mute?
How is your family?	Umulyango wawe umeze ute?
Please tell me about yourself	Ushobora ku nyibwira
My name is . . .	Amazina yange ni . . . (OR) Nitwa . . .
I am happy to write you	Nejewe no kukwandikira
I am thinking of you	Mpora ngutekereza
Thank You	Urakoze
Goodbye	Na'hubutaha

