

RWANDA & BURUNDI

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ABOUT THE HABITAT COMMITMENT INDEX

The Habitat Commitment Index is a composite score of the performance of 15 indicators at the country level that are essential to urban well-being, weighted by per capita GDP. It seeks to measure the fulfillment of commitments made by countries in the Habitat Agenda adopted at the Habitat II conference in 1996.

METHODOLOGY

The HCI takes into account all available historical data over the past 25 years to predict, at any income level, the maximum level of achievement a country may be expected to meet using a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 indicating not necessarily 100% fulfillment of an indicator, but 100% of the predicted maximum potential for a given per capita GDP.

The Habitat Commitment Index is based on the SERF methodology as described in *Fulfilling Social and Economic Rights* by Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Terra Lawson-Remer, and Susan Randolph, published by Oxford University Press in 2015.

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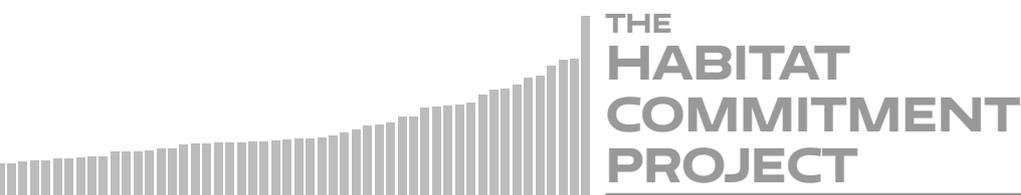
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I. BACKGROUND

Rwanda and Burundi have similar land areas and population sizes with 11.6 million and 11.2 million residents respectively,¹ and are the second and third most densely populated countries in Africa. Rwanda has seen the highest rate of urbanization in the world at 400 percent since 1994, twice the rate of Burundi over the same time period. Additionally, both countries have been subject to civil war, genocide, and political malpractice that have greatly affected their political, economic, and social progress. Both countries have traditionally been dependent on agriculture; however, Rwanda’s growing services sector has reduced this reliance, allowing it to better handle uncertain international agricultural prices resulting to greater economic development.²

II. MAIN FINDINGS

Burundi has an HCI of 61.4 percent, an increase of 16.58 percent since 1996, and Rwanda has an HCI of 71.24 percent, an increase of 4.19 percent. Despite Rwanda having a higher composite score, the country has not progressed in line with its capacity in some key areas, and so has not shown as much of an improvement in the HCI. This difference is attributed to the different scales and rates of urbanization and GDP growth. In 1996, both countries had similar per capita income levels; however, since that time Rwanda has seen substantial growth, and its per capita income level is now roughly twice that of Burundi. Adjusted for inflation, Burundi’s per capita income is currently slightly lower than in 1996.

Figure 1: HCI Indicators and Dimensions

TOTAL INDICATORS TRIED FOR HCI 116			TOTAL INDICATORS USED FOR HCI 15 (12.93%)		
INDICATORS TRIED: 7 USED: 2 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY	INDICATORS TRIED: 46 USED: 3 GENDER	INDICATORS TRIED: 24 USED: 4 RESIDENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE	INDICATORS TRIED: 15 USED: 2 POVERTY	INDICATORS TRIED: 10 USED: 2 EMPLOYMENT	INDICATORS TRIED: 14 USED: 2 SUSTAINABILITY
Quality of Government International Country Risk Guide Government Effectiveness World Bank	Female Tertiary Enrollment World Bank Maternal Mortality World Bank Female Employment in Non-Agricultural Sector World Bank	Urban Piped Water on Premises World Bank Urban Access to Electricity World Bank Urban Access to Improved Sanitation World Bank Water Safety Yale University	Infant Mortality World Bank Urban Poverty Headcount World Bank	Vulnerable Employment World Bank Formal Employment ILO / OECD	Exposure to Environmental Risk Yale University Electricity Production from Renewable Resources World Bank

III. HCI FINDING BY INDICATOR

Residential Infrastructure

Burundi has improved by 8.86 points while Rwanda has declined by 15.17 points. Burundi's main improvements were in *Access to safe water* (+12.42), followed by *Water piped on the premises* (+11.29); in sharp contrast, Rwanda performed at its worst in *Access to safe water* (-29.33) followed by *Water piped on the premises* (-16.74).

Poverty

Burundi and Rwanda both made gains, with Burundi's score increasing by 9.97 points and Rwanda's by 16.93 points.

Employment

Both countries made progress with Rwanda showing an improvement of 34.88 points while Burundi showed an improvement of 3.54 points.

Sustainability

Burundi improved by 5.98 points while Rwanda's performance greatly declined by 43.37 points.

Institutional Capacity

Rwanda and Burundi both made progress with Burundi's score increasing by 53.50 points and Rwanda performing at its capacity (HCI of 100 percent) with an increase 12.04 points.

Gender

Rwanda and Burundi both made gains, with Rwanda's score increasing by 20.41 points and Burundi's by 17.62 points.

IV. ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

Burundi has improved across all the six dimensions, while Rwanda has experienced major declines in the *Residential Infrastructure* and *Sustainability* dimensions. Even though the *Residential Infrastructure* score has declined in Rwanda, the country has created policies and strategies that aim to improve sanitation of households from 65 percent in 2012 to 100 percent in 2020,³ and it has also implemented the Electricity Access Rollout Program that intends to provide electricity to 70 percent of households by 2017.⁴ Burundi's government also acknowledges the need to improve its safe water and sanitation access and has committed to increase access to an additional population of 1.3 million and 2.1 million respectively.⁵

Both countries made improvements in the *Poverty*, *Employment*, *Institutional Capacity*, and *Gender* dimensions. In large part, this is due to poverty strategies implemented by the two countries. Burundi's strategy is focused in reducing its population growth to 2 percent by 2025, consolidating good governance, improving productivity in the agricultural sector, strengthening its partnerships with the private sectors, and increasing access to basic services and sanitation to improve quality of life.⁶ Rwanda, through Vision 2020, is focused on reducing poverty from 44.9 percent to below 30 percent by 2018, creating 200,000 jobs yearly, improving customer satisfaction to 80 percent, promoting accountability in the government, accelerating economic growth to 11.5 percent, and strengthening its monitoring and evaluation systems.

V. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Burundi exhibited progress across all dimensions; however, it had the least progress in *Employment*, *Sustainability*, and *Gender* dimensions. While the country is already taking measures to address several issues, the country needs to appropriate more resources towards strengthening non-vulnerable employment, and reducing gender inequality and exposure to environmental risks.
- Rwanda displayed sharp declining scores in *Residential Infrastructure* and *Sustainability* dimensions. Despite the economic growth, residents still lack access to basic needs. Similar to Burundi, Rwanda is already making efforts towards improving these dimensions, but it needs to further prioritize access to sanitation and safe water as well as reduce exposure to environmental risks.

VI. REFERENCES

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