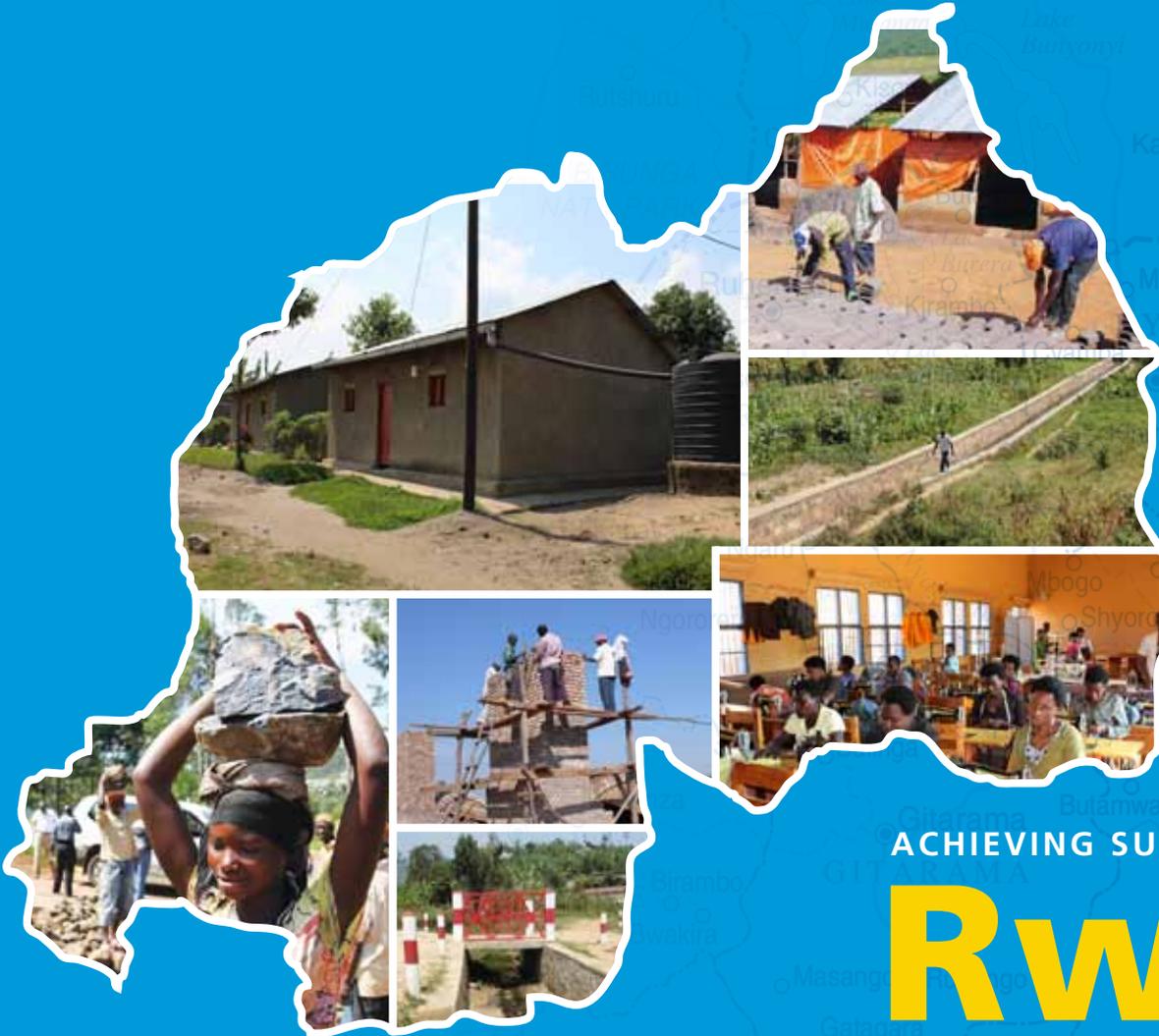


UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN

Rwanda

FROM EMERGENCY RESPONSE TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

Acknowledgments

Achieving Sustainable Development in Rwanda From emergency response towards sustainable urbanization

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Foreword by Rwanda

Rwanda is urbanizing rapidly. The government of Rwanda sees urban growth as an opportunity to support socio-economic development, improving the lives of all Rwandans. To pursue this agenda the government is working in collaboration with the local community, national institutions and international partners.

Over the last two decades, the Government of Rwanda has maintained a strong partnership with UN-Habitat in the areas of sustainable development and youth empowerment.

This partnership is currently in the effort to develop an inclusive National Urbanisation Policy and support planning in secondary cities, which responds to the country's urban management

strategies and economic growth targets. Through this policy and concrete development strategies the urban planning and management capacities of local governments will be improved in order to support the socio-economic growth.

Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, with its population continuously balancing life with nature. Fast economic and demographic growth puts pressure on the limited land resources, ultimately rendering citizens to live in urban areas. Bearing in mind the topographic nature of the country coupled with the significant demographic shifts towards urban areas, Rwanda needs to develop its own, unique urban model while balancing both rural and urban development.

Since 20 years UN-Habitat has been working in close collaboration with the government to address Human Settlement challenges. This brochure illustrates the work done by the Government of Rwanda with the support of UN-Habitat so far. It shows how improvements in human settlements and capacity building may impact on lives of many to make a difference while striving to achieve shared international, national and local goals. Our joint efforts involving the United Nations Country Office contribute a lot to building the foundations for Rwanda to become a middle-income country by 2020.

James Musoni
Minister of Infrastructure

Foreword by UN-Habitat



Rwanda has made impressive development progress since the 1994 genocide and civil war, including high economic growth, rapid poverty reduction and reduced inequality. The country's *Vision 2020* is to transform Rwanda from a low-income agriculture-based economy to a knowledge-based, service-oriented economy with a middle-income country status by 2020. In view of this long-term development goal, the Government of Rwanda has formulated a medium-term strategy - the second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS II) - that aims to achieve, by 2018, increased gross domestic product per capita to \$1,000, a reduced poverty rate to below 30% and a reduced extreme poverty rate to below 9%.

UN-Habitat and the Government of Rwanda are working together towards the common goal of accelerating economic transformation through sustainable urbanization. This is very timely indeed, as Rwanda is

still among the least urbanized countries in the world. Transforming the economic geography by facilitating and managing urbanization, and promoting secondary cities as poles of economic growth is identified as one of the priority drivers to achieve economic transformation.

It gives me great pleasure to present this brochure which outlines UN-Habitat's past and current support to the Government of Rwanda in achieving its self-defined goals, from emergency response and reconstruction activities in the years of post-conflict recovery and reconciliation, through a wide range of pilot interventions across the country under the UNDAF 2008-2012, to the contemporary focus on Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Clos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joan Clos
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Introduction

UN-Habitat commenced its activities in Rwanda after the 1994 tragic events, during which urban infrastructure was destroyed and loss of lives of qualified personnel heavily affected institutional capacity. In an effort to support the government UN-Habitat initiated projects and programmes to promote the resettlement and reintegration of returnees through facilitating land allocation, reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing and infrastructure.

By the end of the post-conflict recovery and capacity building reflected the governments' priorities in support of a firm development process. In response, from 2004, UN-Habitat shifted its activities towards provision of technical advisory services to key government institutions, socio-environmental assessment as well the development of key urban policies.

In 2008 the Government of Rwanda embarked on the Delivering as One United Nations pilot programme involving common planning, implementation and monitoring aligned with Rwanda's national priorities outlined in the Vision 2020 and the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS 1).

The One Programme streamlines UN agencies' efforts in Rwanda with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. UN-Habitat contributed to four of the



On-the-job training on tiles manufacturing in Bugesera District © UN-Habitat Office in Rwanda

six key results areas of the One Programme by building capacity for key actors in urban planning and land management; introducing pro-poor access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities; strengthening urban environmental protection strategies; and introducing practical approaches for pro-poor access to decent shelter.

The United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) is aligned to Rwanda's national priorities, including the second Economic

Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS 2) with its key areas of Inclusive Economic Transformation; Accountable Governance; and Human Development including Humanitarian Response and Disaster Management. With regard to Inclusive Economic transformation UN-Habitat is carrying out the "Achieving Sustainable Urban Development" (ASUD) initiative, thereby supporting the preparation of a National Urbanization Policy and the development of secondary cities.

CHAPTER 01

Rwanda: Factsheet

Geography and Demographics¹

Surface area: **25,340 km²**

Population in 2012: **10,997(NISR)**

Population density in 2012: **415 inhabitants per km²**

Capital city and population in 2012: **Kigali (1,132,686)**

Average annual population growth rate 2002-2012: **2.6%**

Average annual growth rate of urban households 2002-2012: **4.1%**²

Average annual growth rate of rural households 2002-2012: **3%**²

Urban population 2012: **1,737,684 (16.52%)**

Poverty and human development¹

Income Level: **Low Income**

Poverty headcount ration at national poverty line (2011): **44.9%**

GDP per capita 2013: **644 US-\$**

Water and Sanitation¹

Access to improved drinking water (2011): **74.2%**

Access to improved sanitation (2011): **74.5%**

Displacement, Returnees and Refugees (at mid-2013)⁴:

Residing in Rwanda

Refugees: **72,856**

Asylum Seekers: **248**

Returned Refugees: **4,126**

Various: **112**

Total Population of Concern: **77,342**

Originating from Rwanda

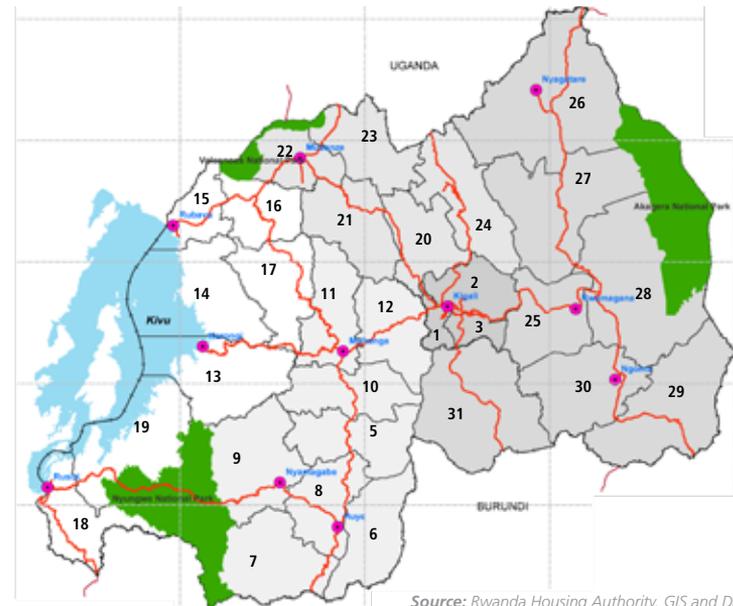
Refugees: **172,450**

Asylum Seekers: **8,578**

Returned Refugees: **4,126**

Various: **25**

Total Population of Concern: **185,179**



Source: Rwanda Housing Authority, GIS and Database Unit

Kigali City

1. Nyanzige
2. Gasabo
3. Kicukiro
4. Kigali City

Southern Province

5. Nyanza
6. Gisagara
7. Nyanzuru
8. Huje
9. Nyamagabe
10. Ruhango
11. Muhanga
12. Kamonyi

Western Province

13. Karongi
14. Rutsiro
15. Rubavu
16. Nyabihu
17. Ngororero
18. Rusizi
19. Nyamasheke

Northern Province

20. Rulindo
21. Gakenke
22. Musanze
23. Burea
24. Gicumbi

Eastern Province

25. Rwanamagana
26. Nyagatare
27. Gatsibo
28. Kayanza
29. Kirehe
30. Ngoma
31. Bugesera

Map Source: Nations Online Projects

¹ National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, Fourth Population and Housing Census, November 2012

² Average urban household size 4.02; Average rural household size 4.3

³ World Bank Indicators 2014. Available at: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/>, accessed on 14 October, 2014.

⁴ UNHCR Mid-year trends 2013 (<http://www.unhcr.org/52af08d26.html>)



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