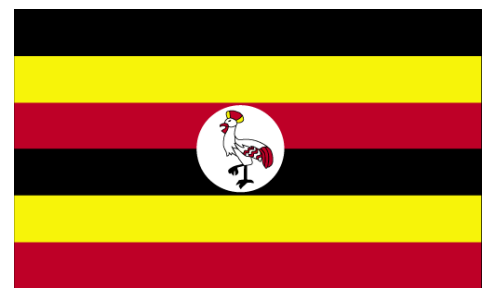


Uganda



Where is Uganda?

Uganda is situated in east Africa and is spanned by the equator. The country is bordered by Kenya to the east, Sudan to the north, Congo to the west and Rwanda and Tanzania sharing the southern border including a large portion of Lake Victoria. Uganda is famously known as the 'Pearl of Africa' due to its many natural wonders.



What is the climate like?

The country is divided into three main areas- swampy lowlands, a fertile plateau with wooded hills and a desert region to the north east. The temperature in Uganda averages between 18 and 25°C compared to a chilly 4- 17°C in the UK. The average annual Ugandan rainfall is 1250mm, only the Rwenzori mountain range in the south-west is wet all year round. The main natural feature of Uganda is lake Victoria, occupying 1/5 of the country.



Education

Education in Uganda is steadily improving. In 1999 there were 6 million pupils receiving primary education, compared to only 2 million in 1986. Numbers received a boost in 1997 when free primary education was made available for four children per family. Only some of primary school graduates go on to take any form of secondary education.

Quick Facts

- Population: 29 Million (11th largest in Africa) (UK 2009: 61.8 million)
- Area: 241,000 square km (UK: 242,900 square km)
- Life expectancy (years): 49.1 (men) and 50.2 (women).
- Major languages: English and Luganda
- Major religions: Christianity and Islam.
- Uganda gained independence from Britain in 1962.
- Poverty is a huge problem in Uganda with 37% of the population living on less than 50p a day.

People and Culture

There are over 20 distinctive ethnic groups in Uganda. Each is represented as follows: Baganda (17%), Banyankole (8%), Basoga (8%), Iteso (8%), Acholi and Langi, as well as small Asian and European communities. English is the official language. Swahili and Luganda are widely spoken.

Christianity is the main religion, with about equal numbers of Roman Catholics and Protestants. Anglicans make up most of the latter group. There is a sizeable Muslim minority of about 12%.



Poverty

Uganda is one of the poorest countries in the world. Most Ugandans have to work 2 or 3 jobs simply to survive, often even to secure a standard of living below the poverty threshold. Approximately 80 percent of Uganda's 31 million inhabitants are involved in agricultural activities. 40 percent of Ugandans still lack access to clean water and 37 percent live below the poverty line. Violence against women continues to be widely tolerated and is also a leading factor of increased infection levels of HIV/AIDS in Ugandan women over men.

Economy

Uganda has good natural resources, including fertile soils, regular rainfall, and mineral deposits of copper, cobalt, gold, and other minerals. Agriculture is the largest sector of the economy, employing over 80% of the work force. Coffee accounts for the bulk of exports. The government 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.

Did you know?

- The official motto of Uganda is 'For God and My Country'.
- Soccer is the most popular sport in Uganda. Cricket is becoming increasingly popular with the national side were runners-up in Division 3 of the World Cricket League 2009.
- There are large reserves of crude oil and natural gas in Uganda that are still mostly untapped.
- Uganda is the country with the most birds in the world.
- Matoke is a national speciality served with every meal. It is made from plantains (large fibrous bananas).



Self Help Africa in Uganda

- Strengthening systems for food and livelihood security
- Improving access to basic social services such as health, education and clean water supply.
- Promoting crop diversification, improving access to improved quality seed, and improving links to agricultural support services
- Programming of natural resource management and environmental rehabilitation
- Distributing, on a revolving fund basis, beans, maize and upland rice
- Implementing a clean water and sanitation programme