

Country Background Notes

UGANDA:



FLAG OF UGANDA: Six equal horizontal bands of black (top), yellow, red, black, yellow, and red; a white disk is superimposed at the center and depicts a red-crested crane (the national symbol) facing the hoist side.

BACKGROUND: Uganda achieved independence from the UK in 1962. The dictatorial regime of Idi Amin (1971-79) was responsible for the deaths of some 300,000 opponents; guerrilla war and human rights abuses under Milton OBOTE (1980-85) claimed at least another 100,000 lives. During the 1990s, the government promulgated non-party presidential and legislative elections.

GEOGRAPHY: Area: 236,040 sq km

Capital: Kampala

Terrain: Mostly plateau with rim of mountains.

Climate: tropical; generally rainy with two dry seasons (December to February, June to August); semiarid in northeast.

PEOPLE: Nationality: *noun:* Ugandan(s), *adjective:* Ugandan.

Population: 26,404,543.

Religions: Roman Catholic 33%, Protestant 33%, Muslim 16%, indigenous beliefs 18%.

Literacy: *Total population:* 69.9%.

Health: Infant mortality rate 86.15 deaths/1,000 live births, Life expectancy 45.28 years.

Work force: Agriculture 82%, industry 5%, services 13% (1999 est.).

Ethnic groups: Baganda 17%, Ankole 8%, Basoga 8%, Iteso 8%, Bakiga 7%, Langi 6%, Rwanda 6%, Bagisu 5%, Acholi 4%, Lugbara 4%, Batoro 3%, Bunyoro 3%, Alur 2%, Bagwere 2%, Bakonjo 2%, Jopodhola 2%, Karamojong 2%, Rundi 2%, non-African (European, Asian, Arab) 1%, other 8%

GOVERNMENT: Type: Republic.

Independence: 9 October 1962 (from UK).

Constitution: 8 October 1995; adopted by the interim, 284-member Constituent Assembly, charged with debating the draft constitution that had been proposed in May 1993; the Constituent Assembly was dissolved upon the promulgation of the constitution in October 1995

ECONOMY: Currency: Ugandan shilling (UGX).

Per capita income: \$1,400 (2003 est.)

Trade: Exports: Coffee, fish and fish products, tea; gold, cotton, flowers, horticultural products.

AGRICULTURE: Coffee, tea, cotton, tobacco, cassava (tapioca), potatoes, corn, millet, pulses; beef, goat meat, milk, poultry, cut flowers.

LANGUAGE: English (official national language, taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts), Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages, preferred for native language publications in the capital and may be taught in school), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic.