

Teacher's Notes: Country Profile – Rwanda

Purpose

Students develop their knowledge of Rwanda and living conditions in the country in comparison with Australia. Some of the challenges to food production and impacts of food insecurity in Rwanda are introduced. Skills in understanding development statistics and photo analysis are used.

Resources

- 1 x Student Handout: Country Profile – Rwanda, per student
- 1 x set of Student Handout: Rwanda Case Study Photos, printed in colour on single-sided pages
- Option A: 1 x Student Handout: Photo Analysis, per work group
- Option B: blu-tack, pins or sticky tape to hang photos
- Option B: 1 x Student Handout: Photo Discussion Questions, per work group

Activity

Ask students to read the information in the handout Country Profile – Rwanda, in particular reviewing the development statistics provided. Students then complete the three questions on the handout.

Option A: Divide students into small groups. Give each group a Photo Analysis handout, and one or two photo(s) from the Rwanda Case Study Photos set. In their groups, students should analyse the photo(s) they have received and answer the questions in the Photo Analysis handout.

Ask each group to report back to the class, showing their photo(s) and pointing out the key features they have identified.

Option B: Hang the photos from the Rwanda Case Study Photos set around the classroom. Ask students to walk around the room and look closely at each photo. In small groups, students should discuss the questions in the Photo Discussion Questions handout.

Ask each group to report back to the class the outcome of one of the questions they discussed.

Notes

Suggested answers for Student Handout: Country Profile – Rwanda

- Q1. The population is 11.3 million.
The percentage of people living on less than US\$1.25 per day is 63.2 percent.
The percentage of the workforce in the agriculture sector is 90 percent.
The life expectancy at birth is 55.7 years.
- Q2. From the information provided possible explanations about why malnutrition is a problem in Rwanda could include:
- Limited range of food eaten in diet. For example, meat is eaten rarely creating protein deficiency problems.
 - Limited ability to produce sufficient quantity of food – most farms are small plots of land, on steep slopes with poor soil fertility.
 - Limited ability to purchase additional quantity/variety of food due to wide-spread poverty. This is made worse by seasonal variations in the price of food crops, making food more expensive to purchase at certain times of year.

Q3. Explanations about why there is no data on stunting for Australia could include:

- Stunting is unlikely to be a health issue in Australia, given the quantity and variety of food available in Australia. Australians are more likely than Rwandans to be able to purchase sufficient food. Australia also has more trained health professionals and greater access to health services, so any signs of malnutrition in young children may be easier to treat before it becomes a chronic problem. For these reasons information on stunting may not be collected and reported for the purpose of development statistics, or may be statistically so rare that it is not included in development statistics.

Rwanda Case Study Photos

The photos were taken in 2013 and 2014 in rural villages in Rwanda. Photo credit: Lucy Aulich/World Vision Australia.

Photo 1 – View of a village in the distance, with farming occurring on terraced hillsides and on the valley floor.

Photo 2 – Women carrying young children on their backs walk through the valley past a terraced hillside.

Photo 3 – Farmers tend crops in front of their houses.

Photo 4 – Farmers tending crops on a terraced hillside plot.

Photo 5 – A family in front of their house.

Photo 6 – A girl tends the fire and boils water for cooking in her family's kitchen.

Photo 7 – A woman washes clothes using a bucket of water.

Photo 8 – A man makes mud bricks.

Photo 9 – A child, in school uniform, feeds her family's cow in its pen.

Photo 10 – Women carrying bundles of crops on their heads.

Photo 11 – People buying grain at a local market.

Photo 12 – Shops and people in a village main street.

Photo 13 – Men push a heavily laden bicycle through the village.

Photo 14 – Men and women building a new building for a school.

Photo 15 – Medical staff immunise a young child, and check for malnutrition by measuring the circumference of the mid upper arm. (Note: this photo is not as suitable for use in Option A as the other photos).