

# UGANDA

## The Country

Uganda is a country many of us in the US are not very familiar with. Winston Churchill described it as the "Pearl of Africa." To learn more about Uganda visit <http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/ugtoc.html>. This is a great site and you can easily search the site for anything of interest to you.

### Introduction

**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 another 100,000 lives. During the 1990s the government promulgated non-party presidential and legislative elections.

### Geography

**Location:** Eastern Africa, west of Kenya

**Geographic coordinates:** 1 00 N, 32 00 E

**Map references:** Africa

**Area:** *total:* 236,040 sq km  
*land:* 199,710 sq km  
*water:* 36,330 sq km

**Area - comparative:** slightly smaller than Oregon

**Land boundaries:** *total:* 2,698 km  
*border countries:* Democratic Republic of the Congo 765 km, Kenya 933 km, Rwanda 169 km, Sudan 435 km, Tanzania 396 km

**Coastline:** 0 km (landlocked)

**Maritime claims:** none (landlocked)

<b>Climate:</b>	tropical; generally rainy with two dry seasons (December to February, June to August); semiarid in northeast
<b>Terrain:</b>	mostly plateau with rim of mountains
<b>Elevation extremes:</b>	<i>lowest point:</i> Lake Albert 621 m <i>highest point:</i> Margherita Peak on Mount Stanley 5,110 m
<b>Natural resources:</b>	copper, cobalt, hydropower, limestone, salt, arable land
<b>Land use:</b>	<i>arable land:</i> 25% <i>permanent crops:</i> 9% <i>permanent pastures:</i> 9% <i>forests and woodland:</i> 28% <i>other:</i> 29% (1993 est.)
<b>Irrigated land:</b>	90 sq km (1993 est.)
<b>Natural hazards:</b>	NA
<b>Environment - current issues:</b>	draining of wetlands for agricultural use; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; water hyacinth infestation in Lake Victoria; poaching is widespread
<b>Environment - international agreements:</b>	<i>party to:</i> Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Life Conservation, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands  <i>signed, but not ratified:</i> Environmental Modification
<b>Geography - note:</b>	landlocked; fertile, well-watered country with many lakes and rivers

## People

**Population:** 23,985,712

*note:* estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2001 est.)

**Age structure:** 0-14 years: 51.08% (male 6,150,038; female 6,100,880)

15-64 years: 46.78% (male 5,613,499; female 5,607,526)

65 years and over: 2.14% (male 244,216; female 269,553) (2001 est.)

**Population growth rate:** 2.93% (2001 est.)

**Birth rate:** 47.52 births/1,000 population (2001 est.)

**Death rate:** 17.97 deaths/1,000 population (2001 est.)

**Net migration rate:** -0.29 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2001 est.)

*note:* according to the UNHCR, by the end of 1999, Uganda was host to 218,000 refugees from a number of neighboring countries, including: Sudan 200,600, Rwanda 8,000, and Democratic Republic of the Congo 8,000

**Sex ratio:** *at birth:* 1.03 male(s)/female  
*under 15 years:* 1.01 male(s)/female  
*15-64 years:* 1 male(s)/female  
*65 years and over:* 0.91 male(s)/female  
*total population:* 1 male(s)/female (2001 est.)

**Infant mortality rate:** 91.3 deaths/1,000 live births (2001 est.)

<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	<i>total population:</i> 43.37 years <i>male:</i> 42.59 years <i>female:</i> 44.17 years (2001 est.)
<b>Total fertility rate:</b>	6.88 children born/woman (2001 est.)
<b>HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:</b>	8.3% (1999 est.)
<b>HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:</b>	820,000 (1999 est.)
<b>HIV/AIDS - deaths:</b>	110,000 (1999 est.)
<b>Nationality:</b>	<i>noun:</i> Ugandan(s) <i>adjective:</i> Ugandan
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Baganda 17%, Karamojong 12%, Basogo 8%, Iteso 8%, Langi 6%, Rwanda 6%, Bagisu 5%, Acholi 4%, Lugbara 4%, Bunyoro 3%, Batoro 3%, non-African (European, Asian, Arab) 1%, other 23%
<b>Religions:</b>	Roman Catholic 33%, Protestant 33%, Muslim 16%, indigenous beliefs 18%
<b>Languages:</b>	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
<b>Literacy:</b>	<i>definition:</i> age 15 and over can read and write <i>total population:</i> 61.8% <i>male:</i> 73.7% <i>female:</i> 50.2% (1995 est.)

## Government

**Country name:** *conventional long form:* Republic of Uganda  
*conventional short form:* Uganda

**Government type:** republic

**Capital:** Kampala

**Administrative divisions:** 45 districts; Adjumani, Apac, Arua, Bugiri, Bundibugyo, Bushenyi, Busia, Gulu, Hoima, Iganga, Jinja, Kabale, Kabarole, Kalangala, Kampala, Kamuli, Kapchorwa, Kasese, Katakwi, Kibale, Kiboga, Kisoro, Kitgum, Kotido, Kumi, Lira, Luwero, Masaka, Masindi, Mbale, Mbarara, Moroto, Moyo, Mpigi, Mubende, Mukono, Nakasongola, Nebbi, Ntungamo, Pallisa, Rakai, Rukungiri, Sembabule, Soroti, Tororo

**Independence:** 9 October 1962 (from UK)

**National holiday:** Independence Day, 9 October (1962)

**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

**Legal system:** in 1995, the government restored the legal system to one based on English common law and customary law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

**Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal

**Diplomatic representation in the US:** *chief of mission:* Ambassador Edith Grace SSEMPALA  
*chancery:* 5911 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011  
*telephone:* [1] (202) 726-7100 through 7102, 0416  
*FAX:* [1] (202) 726-1727

<b>Diplomatic representation from the US:</b>	<i>chief of mission:</i> Ambassador Martin G. BRENNAN <i>embassy:</i> Parliament Avenue, Kampala <i>mailing address:</i> P. O. Box 7007, Kampala <i>telephone:</i> [256] (41) 259792, 259793, 259795 <i>FAX:</i> [256] (41) 259794
---	--

<b>Flag description:</b>	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
--------------------------	--

## Economy

<b>Economy - overview:</b>	Uganda has substantial natural resources, including fertile soils, regular rainfall, and sizable mineral deposits of copper and cobalt. Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy, employing over 80% of the work force. Coffee is the major export crop and accounts for the bulk of export revenues. Since 1986, the government - with the support of foreign countries and international agencies - 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. The policy changes are especially aimed at dampening inflation and boosting production and export earnings. In 1990-2000, the economy turned in a solid performance based on continued investment in the rehabilitation of infrastructure, improved incentives for production and exports, reduced inflation, gradually improved domestic security, and the return of exiled Indian-Ugandan entrepreneurs. Ongoing Ugandan involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, corruption within the government, and slippage in the government's determination to press reforms raise doubts about the continuation of strong growth. In 2000, Uganda qualified for enhanced HIPC debt relief worth \$1.3 billion and Paris Club debt relief worth \$145 million. These amounts combined with the original Highly Indebted Poor Countries HIPC debt relief add up to about \$2 billion. Growth for 2001 should be somewhat lower than in 2000, because of a decline in the price of coffee, Uganda's principal export.
----------------------------	---

<b>GDP - per capita:</b>	purchasing power parity - \$1,100 (2000 est.)
<b>GDP - composition by sector:</b>	<i>agriculture:</i> 43% <i>industry:</i> 17% <i>services:</i> 40% (1998 est.)
<b>Labor force:</b>	8.361 million (1993 est.)
<b>Labor force - by occupation:</b>	agriculture 82%, industry 5%, services 13% (1999 est.)
<b>Industries:</b>	sugar, brewing, tobacco, cotton textiles, cement
<b>Agriculture - products:</b>	coffee, tea, cotton, tobacco, cassava (tapioca), potatoes, corn, millet, pulses; beef, goat meat, milk, poultry
<b>Exports - commodities:</b>	coffee, fish and fish products, tea; electrical products, iron and steel
<b>Imports - commodities:</b>	vehicles, petroleum, medical supplies; cereals
<b>Currency:</b>	Ugandan shilling (UGX)
<b>Exchange rates:</b>	Ugandan shillings per US dollar - 1,700 (February 2001), 1,830.4 (January 2001), 1,644.5 (2000), 1,454.8 (1999), 1,240.2 (1998), 1,083.0 (1997), 1,046.1 (1996)