

Workplace Environmental Management

WEEK 6 – Rwanda's Human Environment

University: Rwanda Polytechnic – IPRC Tumba

Lecturer: NSHIMIYIMANA Arcade

Objectives

At the end of this topic students will be able to:

- Understand the Human Environment in Rwanda with economic aspects viewpoint.
 - Understand the Human Environment in Rwanda with Human settlement viewpoint.
-

6.1 The ECONOMICS ASPECTS

- Rwanda, a landlocked nation in East Africa, has emerged as a remarkable economic success story in recent years.
 - Devastated by the 1994 genocide against Tutsi, the country has undergone a remarkable transformation, prioritizing stability, good governance, and economic development.
 - Various aspects of Rwanda's dynamic economy are discussed here.
-

6.1.1 The Economic Growth

- Rwanda's economic growth has been exceptional. Since 2000, the country has witnessed a steady rise in GDP, averaging over 7% annually.
 - This remarkable achievement is a testament to the government's commitment to economic development through strategic investments and a pro-business environment.
 - The growth of the economic aspect is due to lessons learnt where the country faced challenges related to the population who could not have access to safe water, access to basic sanitation as well as several young population who could not have access to basic education. (Rwanda State of Environment, Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA), Republic of Rwanda, 2009).
-

6.1.1 The Economic Growth cont'd

- This is also connected to the fact that most of the people was living by practicing cultivation (agriculture sectors was the only sector where most of the population found every day's economic growth).
 - These challenges were also linked to the environment from the production, consumption and waste disposal which contributed to the loss of the natural environment. The country set some targets to restore the loss of environment by improving the access to the basic needs.
 - The population grown rapidly, equipped all the basic needs. This influenced economic development balanced with environmental management. (Rwanda: Sixth Review Under the Policy Coordination Instrument and Monetary Policy Consultation Clause, International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff, IMF, 2022.)
-

6.1.2 Economic Structure

- The structure of the Rwandan economy is evolving. Agriculture, traditionally dominant, is giving way to a more diversified economy.
 - The service sector, encompassing tourism, finance, and communication, became the leading contributor.
 - Additionally, the industrial sector is growing, fueled by investments in manufacturing and technology.
 - While agriculture remains a significant sector (30%), its contribution to GDP is steadily decreasing. The service sector (40%) is now the largest contributor driven by tourism, financial services, and telecommunications. The industry sector (30%) is also expanding, with a focus on manufacturing and technology.
-

6.1.3 Vision 2050, Challenges and Opportunities

- Vision 2050 is Rwanda's long-term development blueprint. This long-term plan envisions Rwanda as a thriving knowledge-based economy by 2050.
 - To achieve this goal, the strategy prioritizes fostering the service and technology sectors, investing in education and skills development, and ensuring sustainable growth practices.
 - Rwanda's economic journey is not without its hurdles. Reliance on foreign aid, poverty, and external vulnerabilities pose challenges. However, the country is blessed with a young population, a strategic location, and a business-friendly environment.
 - These factors present exciting opportunities to solidify Rwanda's position as a regional economic powerhouse.
-

6.1.4 Investing in Rwanda and Made in Rwanda

- Rwanda welcomes foreign investment as a catalyst for economic growth. Attractive incentives and a supportive regulatory environment make Rwanda a compelling destination for investors.
 - The ICT, tourism, and manufacturing sectors are particularly attractive due to their growth potential.
 - The "Made in Rwanda" initiative promotes domestic production and consumption of Rwandan goods.
 - It aims to foster a culture of self-sufficiency and export-oriented growth. The initiative prioritizes sectors like agribusiness, textiles, and handicrafts, creating jobs and generating foreign currency.
-

6.1.5 Rwanda and EAC, Financial Inclusion and The Future of Rwanda's Economy

- Rwanda's membership in the EAC opens doors to a wider market. Free movement of goods and services within the block allows Rwandan businesses to expand their reach and benefit from economies of scale.
 - Financial inclusion is crucial for broad-based economic development. Rwanda is expanding access to mobile banking, fostering microfinance, and promoting financial literacy. By empowering individuals and small businesses to participate in the formal financial system, Rwanda can further fuel its economic engine.
 - Economic future is positive due to committing to innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity positions it for success in coming years. Good governance, skilled workforce, and strategic investments show the promising future of economy.
-

6.2 Human Settlement

- Human settlement development in Rwanda faces significant challenges but also presents opportunities for sustainable growth and development.
 - By implementing comprehensive planning frameworks and policies, Rwanda can address the current challenges and ensure a more sustainable future for its urban centers and rural communities.
-

6.2.1 The current state of human settlement

- Rwanda, a country with a tragic past marked by the 1994 genocide, has faced significant challenges in human settlement development.
 - The lack of a comprehensive framework for human settlement has led to the proliferation of unplanned residential areas in urban centers.
 - This unplanned growth has resulted in poor land management, environmental degradation, and the impoverishment of rural populations who lack basic infrastructure and income-generating activities beyond agriculture.
-

6.2.1.1 The current state of human settlement

- The aftershock of the 1994 genocide left many Rwandans homeless.
 - Additionally, those who had previously been deprived of their inheritance to Rwandan soils began to return from exile, further straining the country's human settlement resources. (The Economic Effects of Genocide: Evidence from Rwanda, Journal of African Economies, 2019.)
 - These factors necessitated urgent interventions in human settlement. Ad hoc measures were implemented, including Construction of settlements and makeshift camps, Designs for 'Tent Temporary and Permanent' housing schemes, Provision of service land for development in urban areas.
 - The government also intensified efforts in housing finance, public infrastructure, services, facilities. (Statistics on Rwanda, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Republic of Rwanda, 2021.)
-

6.2.1.2 Coping with Urban Environmental Challenges

- The challenges of emerging urban environmental problems, exacerbated by rapid population growth and inadequate infrastructure, are significant. There is a pressing need to address these challenges to ensure the well-being of urban residents and the sustainability of urban centers.
 - Efforts to improve infrastructure and urban utilities are underway, but there is a need for comprehensive planning and development strategies to cope with the present and future needs of human settlements in Rwanda.
-

6.2.2 The Future of Human Settlement in Rwanda

Vision 2020 and Human Settlement Development

- Vision 2020, Rwanda's development blueprint, emphasizes the need for planned human settlement development. It advocates for the concentration of infrastructure and urban utilities to ensure sustainable development.
 - The Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) flagship 'Vision 2020 Umurenge' provides a framework for sectors to follow during infrastructure planning and deployment. Many districts are incorporating this framework into local planning to guide sustainable human settlement development.
-

6.2.2 The Future of Human Settlement in Rwanda cont'd

Addressing Infrastructure Challenges

- Many urban neighborhoods in Rwanda currently face inadequate provision of basic infrastructure, posing significant environmental and health challenges.
 - The current human settlement policy aims to address these challenges by promoting the grouping of development to facilitate infrastructure provision and encouraging the role of the private sector in sustainable urban development. Efforts include opening new areas for urbanization, implementing housing supply programs, and defining a decentralization framework to ensure proper urban management by local administrative structures.
-

PRSP 1 (2002 – 2006)

- Recovery from post conflict situation;
- Major gains in social sectors e.g. health and education;
- Poverty reduced by 3% points (60% to 57%).

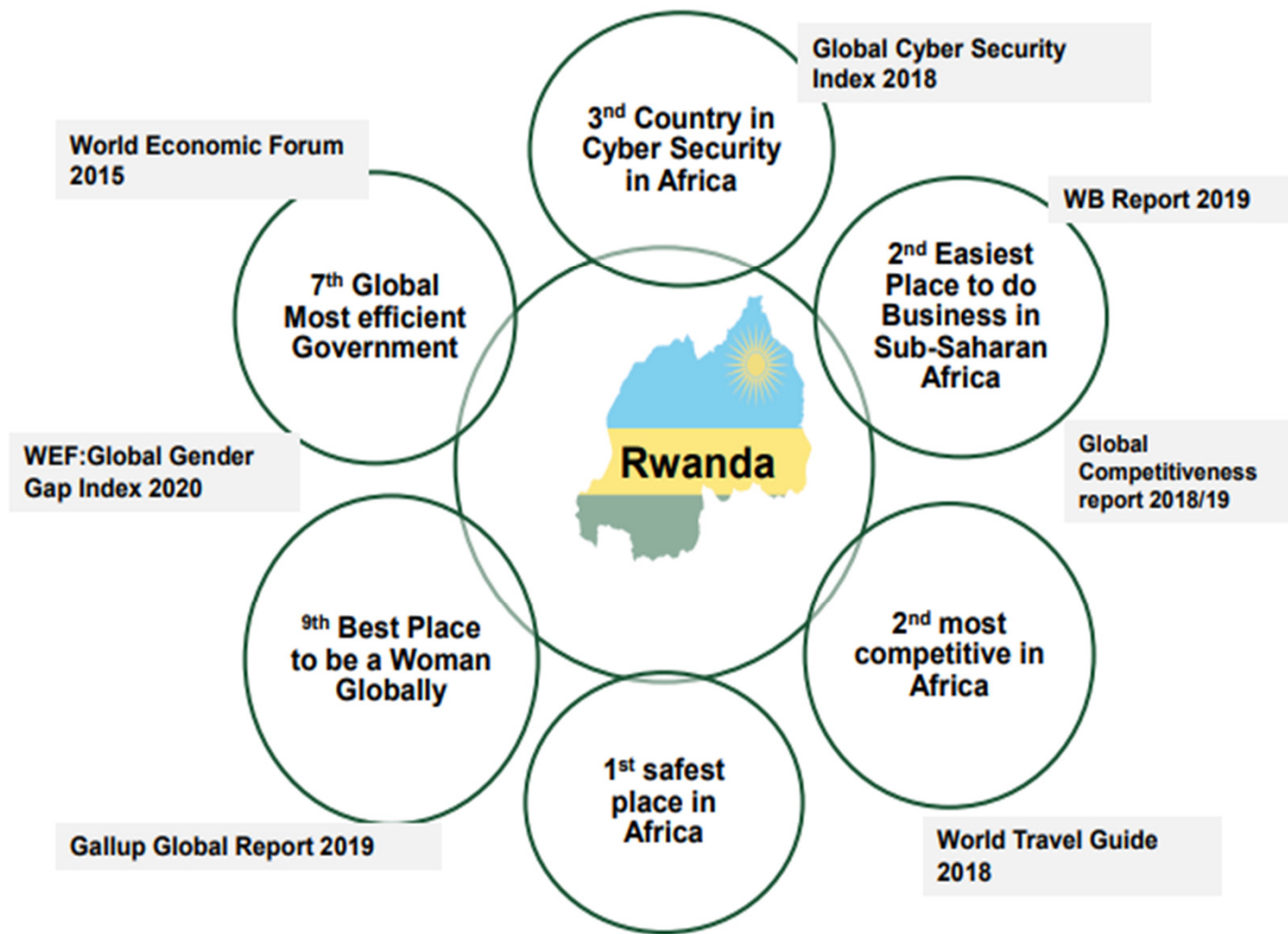
EDPRS 1 (2008 – 2012)

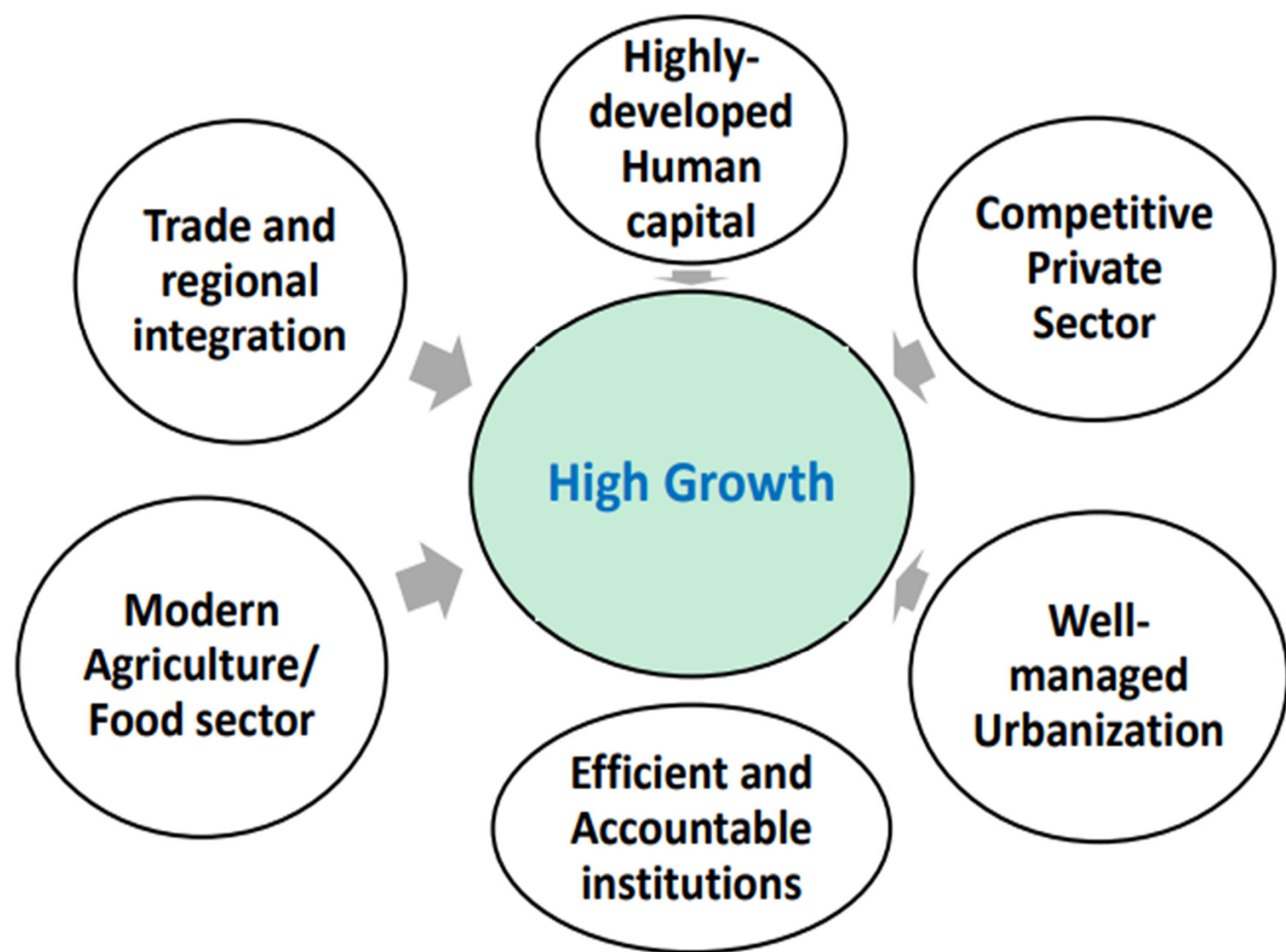
- Preparation for take off;
- High poverty reduction (12% points);
- Reduced inequality;
- High growth (average 8.2%);
- Strong contribution to achievement of MDGs.

EDPRS 2 (2013 – 2018)

- Rapid growth 11.5%;
- Fast poverty reduction (15% points) to less than 30%;
- Closing trade balance with rapid growth of exports (28%);
- Increased private sector investment.

(Statistics on Rwanda, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Republic of Rwanda, 2021.)





6.2.3 Rural-Urban Dynamics and Transformation

- Rwanda's development strategy recognizes the crucial link between rural and urban development. While promoting urbanization, the government also acknowledges the importance of revitalizing rural areas to prevent excessive strain on urban centers.

Imidugudu: The Cornerstone of Rural Development

- The concept of Imidugudu refers to planned rural settlements designed to improve living standards and economic opportunities in Rwandan villages.
 - These settlements promote consolidated infrastructure where Imidugudu group housing units cluster together, facilitating provision of essential infrastructure like clean water, sanitation, and electricity.
-

6.2.3 Rural-Urban Dynamics and Transformation cont'd

- They also promote improved service access where residents gain easier access to social services like healthcare, education, and markets within the Imidugudu.
 - They continuously promote agricultural intensification where imidugudu can act as hubs for agricultural activities, with residents having access to extension services, storage facilities, and market linkages.
-

6.2.3 Rural-Urban Dynamics and Transformation cont'd

Challenges and Opportunities of Imidugudu

While Imidugudu offers a promising approach, challenges remain:

- Land tenure issues: Sensitizing communities and ensuring fair land allocation processes are crucial for successful Imidugudu implementation.
 - Livelihood diversification: Creating non-agricultural income opportunities within Imidugudu is essential to prevent overreliance on agriculture.
 - Sustainability and environmental considerations: Construction methods and resource management practices within Imidugudu should sustain the environmental conservation and management.
-

6.2.4 Governance and Stakeholder Engagement

- Effective human settlement development requires strong governance and collaboration between various stakeholders.

The Role of Government

- Policy formulation and implementation: Developing clear policies for land use, infrastructure development, and housing finance to guide human settlement development.
 - Investment in infrastructure: Investing in essential infrastructure like roads, water supply, and sanitation, particularly in underserved rural areas.
 - Capacity building: Providing training and resources to local authorities to effectively manage human settlements.
-

6.2.4 Governance and Stakeholder Engagement cont'd

Public-Private Partnerships

- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can leverage private sector investment and expertise to accelerate human settlement development. PPPs can be instrumental in:
 - ✓ Housing development: Encouraging private developers to invest in affordable housing projects, particularly in urban areas.
 - ✓ Infrastructure provision: Partnering with private companies to develop and manage essential infrastructure like waste management systems.
-

6.2.4 Governance and Stakeholder Engagement cont'd

Community Participation

- Active community participation is essential for the success of human settlement initiatives. Strategies include:
 - ✓ Community consultations: Involving residents in planning processes to ensure their needs and aspirations are reflected in settlement development.
 - ✓ Community-driven development: Empowering communities to manage their own resources and participate actively in improving their living conditions.
 - Human settlement development in Rwanda is a complex but crucial endeavor. By addressing existing challenges, implementing innovative approaches like Imidugudu, and fostering collaboration between stakeholders, sustainable and thriving settlements for all its citizens is possible.
-

Pictures taken by NSHIMIYIMANA Arcade



Thank you for your good attention
Q&A

References

- Rwanda State of Environment, Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA), Republic of Rwanda, 2009.
 - The Economic Effects of Genocide: Evidence from Rwanda, Journal of African Economies, 2019.
 - Rwanda: Sixth Review Under the Policy Coordination Instrument and Monetary Policy Consultation Clause, International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff, IMF, 2022.
 - Statistics on Rwanda, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Republic of Rwanda, 2021.
 - Rwanda Economic Outlook, African Development Bank Group, African Development Bank Group
 - Rwanda's Economic Performance Strengthened in 2023 Despite Continued Challenges, World bank, World bank 2024.
-