RWANDA DEFENCE FORCE

30 YEARS

A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION



Kwibohora
RWANDA'S
JOURNEY
CONTINUES
30

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30

RDF
Mission Statement

The Rwanda Defence Force's mission as provided by the law is:

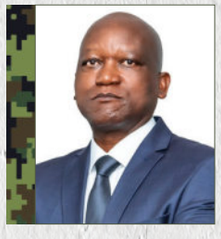
To defend the territorial integrity and the national sovereignty of the Republic; collaborate with other security organs in safeguarding public order and enforcement of law; participate in humanitarian activities in case of disasters; contribute to the development of the country; participate in international peacekeeping missions, humanitarian assistance and training.



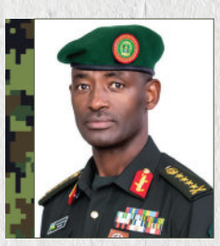
RDF **High Command**



H.E President Paul KAGAME | Commander in Chief (C-in-C)



Hon J MARIZAMUNDA | Minister of Defence



General MK MUBARAKH | Chief of Defence Staff



Maj Gen V NYAKARUNDI
Army Chief of Staff



Lt Gen J J MUPENZI
Air Force Chief of Staff



Maj Gen Dr E RURANGWA
Chief of Staff, Military Health Service



Maj Gen (Rtd) Amb F MUGAMBAGE
Acting Reserve Force Chief of Staff

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Strategic **Guidance**

Jeshi letu hili ndilo litakuwa msingi wa mabadiliko ambayo atakuwepo kwa inchi yetu....

C-In-C addressing RPA soldiers in 1993, Mukarange



The values that characterised our liberation are still important today. We should all strive for our common good and not only individual benefit.

Those in service should understand that they all serve Rwandans and are accountable to them.

H.E President Paul Kagame, Commander-in-Chief,

Message on Kwibohora26

Foreword



As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Liberation of Rwanda, it is both a moment of profound reflection and forward-looking optimism. Liberation is not merely a historical event; it is a testament to the resilience, unity and enduring spirit of our nation. It is a story of triumph over adversity, a beacon of hope for future generations, and a foundation upon which we continue to build a prosperous and inclusive Rwanda.

Thirty years ago, Rwanda emerged from a period of unimaginable turmoil and devastation. The 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi left our nation scarred but not broken. Through the bravery and sacrifices of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) and the collective determination of the people of Rwanda for their beloved country reclaimed its sovereignty, dignity and the promise of a better future.

Our journey since then has been marked by extraordinary progress. Rwanda's transformation is evident in our robust economic growth, improved healthcare, universal education, and significant strides in technology and infrastructure. These achievements stem from hard work and dedication of our citizens, as well as the strong and visionary leadership steered by His Excellency President Paul Kagame, the Commander-in-Chief of Rwanda Defence Force.

We have not walked this path alone. Our progress has been bolstered by the invaluable support and collaboration of our partners: nations, organisations and individuals from around the world who have stood with us, providing expertise and solidarity. Their contributions have been instrumental in our rebuilding efforts and in shaping a Rwanda that is resilient, self-reliant and forward-looking.

As we commemorate this landmark anniversary, we also recognise the importance of continuing our journey with a clear vision for the future. Our goal is to build a nation where every Rwandan can thrive, where opportunities are abundant, and where our children can dream and achieve without limits. We are committed to nurturing peace, security, and development, not only within our borders but also across the region and the continent.

The future we envision is one where innovation drives progress, where sustainable development is prioritised, and where the rights and well-being of every citizen are safeguarded. We aim to strengthen our defence capabilities, ensuring that our hard-won peace and security are maintained. At the same time, we will continue to build partnerships that enhance our capacity to respond to evolving global challenges and seize new opportunities.

In concluding, let us honour the memory of those who sacrificed for our liberation, celebrate the milestones we have achieved, and commit ourselves to the work that lies ahead. Together, we will forge a Rwanda that stands as an inspiration of hope, resilience and progress for all.

Hon J Marizamunda
Minister of Defence

CDS's Message



As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of Rwanda's liberation, it is with immense pride and profound gratitude that we reflect on the extraordinary transformation our nation has undergone. The contributions of the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF), formerly known as the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) have been pivotal in steering our country from the brink of despair to a beacon of hope and resilience.

Our nation endured devastation due to an secterian government, resulting in the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi. At that time, many doubted our ability to recover. However, today we are witnessing our resilience, guided by the visionary leadership of President Paul Kagame, and the Commander-In-Chief of the RDF.

The liberation of Rwanda and stopping the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi achieved through the unwavering determination and sacrifice of the RPA, marked the dawn of a new era. It was not just a military victory but a profound reclamation of our dignity, unity, and identity. Over the past three decades, the RDF has not only safeguarded national sovereignty but also played an instrumental role in national reconstruction and community development as well as peacekeeping and bilateral interventions.

This journey of transformation has been achieved by the collaborative efforts of various partners. The synergy between RDF, government institutions, and civil society has been the bedrock of our progress. Together, we have built strong institutions, revitalized our economy, and ensured that every Rwandan has the opportunity to thrive in a peaceful and prosperous nation.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are reminded that liberation is not a destination but an ongoing journey. Our vision for the future is one of continued progress and innovation, where Rwanda remains a peaceful nation and collaborates with other countries to uphold regional, continental, and international security. The RDF remains committed to fostering a society where every citizen can contribute to and benefit from the fruits of our collective liberation.

The story of Rwanda is one of resilience, courage, and unyielding hope. As we look ahead, let us draw inspiration from our past, remain steadfast in our resolve, and work tirelessly towards a future that honors the sacrifices of our liberators and the aspirations of generations to come.

Wishing everyone a joyous Liberation Day!

MK Mubarakh fndu Psc (Z)
Gen
Chief of Defence Staff



Background

The Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) was founded by Rwandans in exile, who desired and sought to end their prolonged refugee status and reclaim their rights as citizens. Forced out beginning in 1959 through the 1960s to the early 1970s and repeatedly denied the opportunity to return by the regimes of Gregoire Kayibanda and Juvenal Habyarimana, they were instead advised to integrate into their host countries. Unwilling to forfeit their right to return home, they formed the RPF in 1987 and went on to organize refugee communities across the world and mobilized support globally.

The RPF subsequently established the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA), composed primarily of descendants of the refugees. Recruitment spanned the Great Lakes region, with the nucleus of the force comprising those who were serving in the National Resistance Army which had liberated Uganda from misrule a few years previously. Having concluded that force was necessary to enable the refugees to return home, the RPA prepared for war. On October 1, 1990, they embarked on an armed campaign to pave way for the return of all refugees who desired to do so, and reclaim their rights of citizenship.

Unwilling to forfeit their right to return home, they formed the RPF in 1987 and went on to organize refugee communities across the world and mobilized support globally.









The **Liberation Struggle**

October 1990 marked the beginning of the struggle to liberate the country from decades of ethnocratic rule which had turned large numbers of Rwandans into refugees and others into second-class citizens. Despite serious initial setbacks, including the death of key leaders like Major-General Fred Rwigema, the RPA, under the leadership of Major Paul Kagame, reorganized and grew into a highly effective force. Throughout the war, however they faced significant challenges, including external intervention from France and Zaire, and logistical difficulties.

Liberation Day marks the end of the genocidal regime and the beginning of a new era in which all Rwandans enjoy equal rights, free from systematic marginalization and exclusion.

The Habyarimana government's response to the RPA's incursion included orchestrating mass killings, targeting mostly the Tutsi community and supporters of opposition groups operating in the country. Recognizing the necessity of intervening to stop the killings, the RPF, assumed responsibility for stopping the genocide against the Tutsi, and liberating the country.

Liberation Day marks the end of the genocidal regime and the beginning of a new era in which all Rwandans enjoy equal rights, free from systematic marginalization and exclusion. Today's Rwanda is the product of this significant turning point which was achieved through the determined efforts of the RPF and the various political parties that became its political partners in the Government of National Unity (GNU) which was established after the war and the genocide.





4th July

Liberation Day therefore marks the freeing of Rwanda and Rwandans from Habyarimana's genocidal government, and the end of the genocide against the Tutsi.



Taking Charge of the state and meeting urgent, competing priorities

The Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) assumed power with no prior experience of running a state. It had to depend on the determination of its members and cadres, which had helped them overcome the larger Forces Armées Rwandaises (FAR) of the Habyarimana regime. They inherited a largely ruined and weak public service, composed of mainly secondary school graduates, and a state which had literally collapsed. To establish a functional government, the RPF collaborated with existing political parties that had not been involved in planning and executing the genocide. In doing so, its primary objective was to stabilize and rebuild the country, a task which was severely constrained by severe financial challenges and system breakdown.

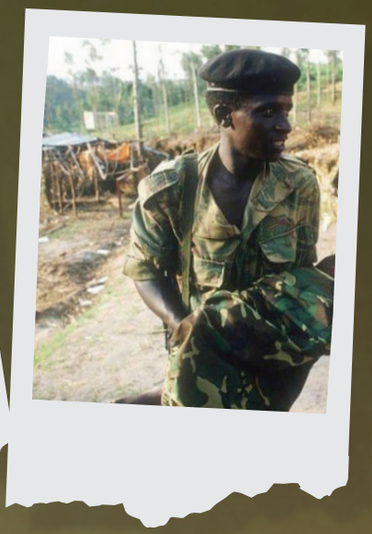
Against this background, the Rwandan Patriotic Army was pivotal in ensuring and maintaining security, enabling recovery efforts, and supporting the government in various essential tasks. Military engineers were pivotal in facilitating basic communication and media functions. Immediate priorities included general cleaning up in the aftermath of the genocide,



ensuring law and order, and curbing widespread criminality. In addition, the RPA played a critical role in rounding up genocide suspects.

To tackle lawlessness, the RPA helped revive the gendarmerie, which incorporated former members of the defeated Forces Armées Rwandaises. Later on, in 2000, the gendarmerie evolved into the Rwanda National Police (RNP). Additionally, RPA officers filled administrative vacancies at local and national levels left by public servants who had been killed or those who had fled. Integration was vital in restoring governance functions and facilitating the country's transition towards stability and development.

















Reintegration

- The RPF took an early decision that it was neccessary to mobilise efforts dedicated to making Rwanda secure and stable after the war. The efforts included reintegration of combatants from the Ex-FAR into the RPA which was destined to become the new national army. After the insurgency broke out and other forces emerged, it became the policy of the government to also integrate into the army fighters who surrendered and those who were captured if they so wished.
- Thousands were integrated, while others who wished to return to civilian life were also assisted to re-settle successfully back into their communities. Integration of fighting forces played important roles.
- The offer to former enemy combatants to serve in the new army ruled out the possibility of returning to insurgent activities or other forms of criminality. For the fighters, serving alongside former adversaries against whom they had fought a bitter war and of whom they were suspicious, opened up avenues for getting to know each other, developing mutual trust and understanding and. Ultimately, common aspirations for their country.
- The most important political benefit of integration is that it has served as a basis for rebuilding the social fabric of Rwanda which had been torn to shreds by the genocide and helped in the shaping and building of a new society in which there is no place for exclusion and marginalisation of any section of the population.



After the insurgency broke out and other forces emerged, it became the policy of the government to also integrate into the army fighters who surrendered and those who were captured if they so wished.

Insurgency: 1996-2001

After fleeing to Zaire, large numbers of ex- combatants launched insurgencies against the new government until 2001. They aimed to overthrow it and continue the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. Supported internally and externally, these insurgents posed a significant threat. The government responded with a dual strategy of direct armed combat and psychological warfare, aiming to gain the support of the population that backed the insurgents by offering them sanctuary and social support.

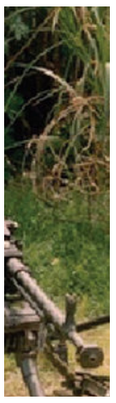
As the conflict raged, the government continued to facilitate the return to Rwanda of insurgents, reintegrate them into society, and to resettle them so that they contribute to nation-building efforts. Over the years, many ex-combatants from groups like the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) have returned and been reintegrated into local communities. This process is managed by the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (RDRC), which provides material and psychological support, vocational training, and other services to help them and their families to lead productive lives.

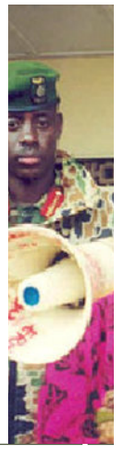
As the conflict raged, the government continued to facilitate the return to Rwanda of insurgents, reintegrate them into society, and to resettle them so that they contribute to nation-building efforts.

The RDRC's efforts extend to civilians returning from exile. It provides them with comprehensive support, including psychosocial assistance, medical rehabilitation, vocational training, and housing. Since its inception, the RDRC has reintegrated thousands of ex-combatants, including 12,969 Ex-FAR members, 11,312 adult members of armed groups, 11,884 dependents, and 987 children. Additionally, it has demobilized and integrated 45,368 RPA/RDF veterans, underscoring the government's commitment to national reconciliation and fostering long-term stability.

















Rwanda Reconciliation

RDRC's Reintegration and Demobilazation efforts in brief

Since inception

The RDRC has successfully reintergrated thousands of excombatants into society.

Ex-FAR Members

12,969 Ex-FAR members have been reintergrated into civilian life.

Adult AG Members

11,312 adult members of armed groups have been reintergtrated and supported in their transition.

Dependents

11,884 dependents have received assistance and support through the RDRC's programs.

Children

987 children have been reintergrated and provided with necessary care and opportunities.

RPA/RDF Vets

45,368 Ex-RPA/RDF veterans have been successfully demobilized back into society.

Foreign **Military Campaigns**

Following the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, the new government faced an existential threat extending beyond the insurgency led by the Ex-FAR and their allies. This threat was bolstered by external support from various actors seeking regime change, with the Mobutu-led Zaire government being a primary source. The international community remained indecisive, inadvertently aiding insurgents by funding NGOs that supported refugees in camps near the Zaire-Rwanda border, where many were armed.

The government recognized the urgency of addressing this threat to peace and stability, prompting the initiation of the First Congo War. Rwandan troops entered Zaire to dismantle refugee camps which harbored genocide perpetrators and insurgents. This war, primarily spearheaded by Rwanda with support from allies, resulted in the overthrow of Mobutu Sese Seko and the rise of Laurent Desire Kabila to power. This action forced many refugees to return, contributing to the weakening the genocidaires. Despite this, some fighters regrouped across Central, East, and West Africa, continuing their agenda and contributing to the Second Congo War.





Persistent terror groups, like the FDLR, though generally weak, continue to propagate genocide ideology, posing a long-term threat to regional stability. Continuous military campaigns by Rwanda aim to neutralize such threats, ensuring both internal and external security.



Operation “Umoja wetu”



Repatriation of refugees

Professionalisation

The RDF journey towards professionalisation stems from its unwavering commitment to training and educating its service men. To this end, the RDF set up professional training schools for recruits, Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs), Junior Officers and Senior Officers.

An important feature of the RPA was that large numbers of fighters had abandoned their secondary school and university studies to join the liberation war. After the insurgency and foreign military campaigns, support was offered to many to resume their studies at various national secondary schools and the then National University of Rwanda (UNR).

The RDF journey towards professionalisation stems from its unwavering commitment to training and educating its service men.



Gabiro Combat Training Centre

Established in 1994, initially as a recruitment training centre, it has grown into a professional training centre for Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs), and Junior Officers in all arms grounded on RDF ethics and values.







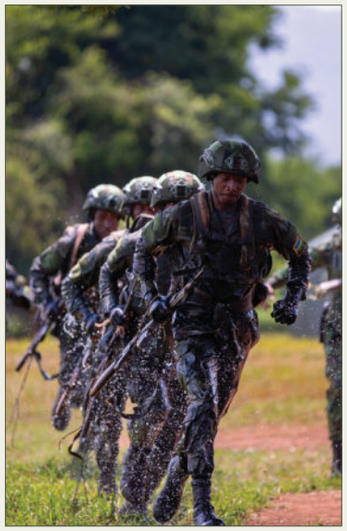




The Basic Military Training Centre, Nasho (BMTC)

Established in 2005 to transform selected civilians into highly skilled soldiers and train soldiers for advanced infantry combat & special operations, with the capacity to operate in diverse environments.



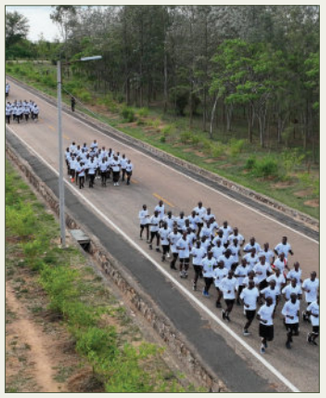






Rwanda Military Academy - Gako

Established in 1999 to train and educate cadets in the values of the military profession and academic excellence in order to meet operational requirements. It now offers university degrees to cadets in medicine, nursing, mechanical engineering, computer science, mathematics, physics, biology, chemistry, social & military sciences and law. Graduates are awarded Bachelors of Science and Arts degrees along with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.












RDF Command and Staff College (RDFCSC)

Established in 2012 to develop officers with the highest intellectual and professional standards in command and control of defence forces, in order to respond effectively to the challenges of contemporary operating environments. Graduates are awarded the Passed Staff College (PSC) symbols. A Masters degree in security studies from the University of Rwanda, is also given to eligible students.

So far 563 Senior Officers have graduated from RDFCSC- Nyakinama and have come from 13 African countries, with one student from the Czech Republic graduating in 2017.











SNAPSHOT

RDFCSC Nyakinama Graduated Overview

Graduate Data Analysis

Analysing graduates' demographics provides insights into RDFCSC Nyakinama's global network and influence across nations enhancing its continental reach.

Diverse Student Body

The diverse student body at RDFCSC Nyakinama, including students from various African countries and beyond, fosters a collaborative learning environment for future defence leaders.

International Impact

The graduation of a student from the Czech Republic in 2017 highlights RDFCSC Nyakinama's recognition and ability to attract talent from diverse backgrounds fostering international cooperation.

Continued Excellence

RDFCSC Nyakinama produces skilled Senior Officers through its rigorous curriculum, ensuring a continuous stream of capable leaders who positively impact their defence sectors.

563
SENIOR OFFICERS GRADUATED



13
AFRICAN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Czech Republic
NON-AFRICAN COUNTRY REPRESENTED

Rwanda Peace Academy

Established in 2012 to provide internationally recognised professional training courses and educational programmes informed by applied research to equip military, police and civilian personnel, predominantly from the eastern Africa region, with the relevant knowledge, competencies and skills needed to participate effectively in peace support operations and peacebuilding initiatives.









The RDF's **role in development**

The RDF is legally mandated to participate in the economic development of our country. The RDF's involvement in socio economic activities not only increases public trust in the army, but also improves standards of living of Rwandans, hence ensuring sustainable peace and security in the country.

Even when we deploy outside Rwanda, it has become common practice for us to engage in various development activities in order to win the trust of the populations that we protect.

As an institution, the RDF believes that this role is very central in silencing the guns in conflict areas.

RDF Citizen Outreach Programme **Highlights of Achievements**











107,563
PERSONS GRANTED ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

32
SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTED/ REHABILITATED

80,536
PERSONS GRANTED ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

651,973
PATIENTS TREATED

88,925
VULNERABLE AND GENOCIDE SURVIVORS RECEIVED HOUSING

1,380
CLASSROOMS CONSTRUCTED/ REHABILITATED

1,173,455
PERSONS WERE SUPPORTED WITH AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

84
IDP MODEL VILLAGES

Overview of Major Activities (2023/2024)

2 ROADS

Maintenance works of Cyamusenyi – Gakoma and Mucucu Kageyo road plus Maintenance of feeder road in Rugabano tee project

3 BRIDGES

RDF constructed the ecole d'art Nyundo and Mahoko bridges in Rubavu district and Mukunguri multicel box culvert bridge between Kamonyi and Ruhango district

3 HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

RDF constructed the Ngeruka maternity ward and Guriro health center as well as supply and installation of medical equipment at Rwanda military hospital

4 EDUCATION FACILITIES

The RDF constructed the TVET of Shonga and Ntoma, TVET of Cyumba, the learning center of IPRC Huye, as well as the demonstration hall for the university of Rwanda's Africa center of excellence for sustainable cooling and chain

>830

HECTARES

RDF developed over 830 hectares of agricultural land across the country

51

HOUSES FOR THE NEEDY

Building homes for 51 families shows how even a few houses can greatly help those in need making a significant impact on communities

688

FAMILIES IN MPAZI IDP MODEL VILLAGE

A project aimed at providing housing for a large number of families in need, the Mpazi IDP model village construction is a significant step towards community development

748

HOUSES FOR SURVIVORS

Building homes for vulnerable genocide survivors across 30 districts is not just about accommodation. It's about providing a safe space and a sense of security for those who have endured unimaginable hardship



H.E Paul Kagame launches Army Week in Muhanga district in 2010



12 classrooms constructed in Kagugu. An activity of the RDF Citizen Outreach Programme 2018



Bye Bye Nyakatsi



Terraces



Agriculture



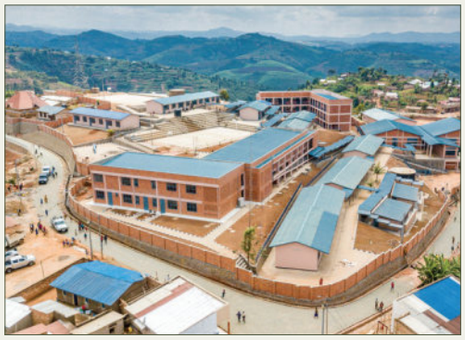
RDF steps up fight against Army Worm in Kicukiro- 2017



Army worm pesticide distribution



Munini IDP Model Village - Nyaruguru district



Groupe Scolaire Munini - Nyaruguru district



Karama IDP Model Village - Nyarugenge district



Kinigi IPD Model Village



Munini district hospital



Nyabikenke district hospital



Kabgayi Maternity ward - Muhanga district



Gatonde district hospital - Gakenke district



RDF medics treat patient at Kibogora Hospital- Nyamasheke



Masaka - Rusororo road



External works (roads, tanks, playing courts and district garden at Ntare School - Bugesera district



Donation of 589 bicycles - Nyaruguru



Gira Inka project



Disaster prevention



Rubagabaga bridge - Ngororero district



Rurangazi Bridge - Nyanza district



Fruits plantation - Kayonza district



Forest rehabilitation - Gicumbi district

Summary of Major Activities (2023/2024)

S/N	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	BENEFICIARY
1.	Construction of Mpazi IDP model village	Nyarugenge district	To accommodate 688 families
2.	Construction of modern cowsheds	Nyagatare district	Akayange, Shimwa Paul and Rwabiharamba
3.	Construction of houses for vulnerable Genocide survivors	30 Districts	To accommodate 748 families
4.	Extension of Genocide memorial sites	Mutete Genocide memorial	Gicumbi
5.	Construction of houses for those in need	Busanza social housing block/ Karama, Kicukiro	To accommodate 51 families
6.	Construction of Agri product market	Musanze	Musanze district
7.	Construction of health facilities	Rwanda military hospital VIP supply and installation of medical equipment	Kicukiro
		Ngeruka maternity ward	Bugesera
		Guriro health center	Nyabihu

S/N	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	BENEFICIARY
8.	Construction of education facilities	TVET of Shonga and Ntoma	Nyagatare
		TVET of Cyumba	Gicumbi
		Construction learning center of IPRC Huye	Huye
		Construction of demonstration hall for the university of Rwanda's Africa center of excellence for sustainable cooling and chain	Kicukiro
9.	Construction of roads	Maintenance works of Cyamusenyi – Gakoma and Mucucu Kageyo road	Kayonza
		Maintenance of feeder road in Rugabano tee project	Karongi
10.	Construction of bridges	Construction of ecole d'art Nyundo and Mahoko bridges	Rubavu
		Construction of Mukunguri multicel box culvert bridge	Between Kamonyi and Ruhango district
11.	Establishment of land husbandry works at Ndego, Kabare and Kanyegenyege watershed	400 Ha	Kayonza
12.	Landscape restoration in Vunga corridor project	295 Ha	Musanze
13.	Establishment of radical terrace	120 Ha	Ngororero
14.	Repair of damaged irrigation structures in Bugarama		Rusizi
15.	Woodlots planting and forest rehabilitation	15,5 Ha	City of Kigali

Health Facilities



Rwanda Military Hospital VIP ward Supply and Installation of Medical Equipment



Rwanda Military Hospital VIP Supply and Installation of Medical Equipment



Guriro Health Centre - Nyabihu district



Ngeruka Maternity Ward - Bugesera district

Housing Facilities



Mpazi IDP Model Village - Nyarugenge district



Mpazi IDP Model Village - Nyarugenge district



Mbazi houses for Genocide survivors- Huye district



Mbazi houses for Genocide survivors- Huye district

Constructed Bridges



Mukunguri Multicel Box Culvert bridge - Between Kamonyi and Ruhango Districts



Ecole d'art Nyundo and Mahoko bridge - Rubavu

Schools



Construction learning Center of IPRC Huye



TVET Cyumba - Gicumbi district

Roads



Maintenance works of Cyamusenyi – Gakoma and Mucucu Kageyo Road - Kayonza district



Maintenance of feeder Road in Rugabano Tee Project - Karongi district

Genocide Memorial Sites



Mutete Genocide Memorial



Mutete Genocide Memorial

Agricultural activities



Repair of damaged irrigation structures in Bugarama



Establishment of Radical Terrace - Ngororero



Establishment of land Husbandry works at Ndego , kabare and Kanyegenyege watershed - Kayonza

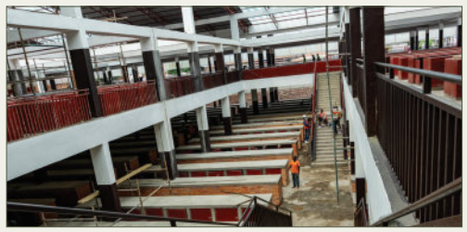


Construction of Modern Cowsheds - Nyagatare

Constructed Market



Construction of agri Product Market - Musanze



Construction of agri Product Market - Musanze

Schools



Demonstration hall for the University of Rwanda's Africa Center of Excellence - Kicukiro

Houses



Busanza social housing Block - Kicukiro

Defence & Security Citizen Outreach Programme 2024

On 1 March 2024, the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) and the Rwanda National Police (RNP) launched the "Defence and Security Citizen Outreach Programme 2024" (CORwanda24) activities in partnership with the Local Government, under the theme: "30 Years of Liberation: Defence & Security Organs with the Community partnering for Rwanda's Development".

31
HOUSES

13
BRIDGES

15
ECD CENTERS

4
BOATS

800
PIGS SUPPLIED

327
SOLAR PANELS

72,202
PATIENTS TREATED

Houses



House for the vulnerables - Gatsibo district



House for the vulnerables - Kamonyi district

Constructed ECDs



ECD Rutunga Sector - Gasabo district



ECD Ruharambuga - Nyamasheke district

Medical Outreach



RDF dentist at Kinazi Hospital - Ruhango district



RDF Medics perfom surgery at Kibogora Hospital - Nyamasheke district

Bridges



Hon MoD at the launch of Defence and Security Citizen Outreach Programme - Muhe Bridge/ Musanze district



Muhe bridge - Musanze district

Water drilling



Jarama - Ngoma district



Jarama - Ngoma district

Solar panel distribution



Installation of solar panel in Karongi District

Boats distribution



Distribution of boats in Musanze District

Livestock distribution





Peace Support Operations (PSO)



Rwanda is unique in that its constitution mandates participation in global peacekeeping and support for affected communities. This directive is deeply integrated into the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) strategy and is emphasised by the Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C). Informed by the tragic history of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and the belief in the principle of the responsibility to protect, Rwanda committed to peacekeeping, deploying the first contingents in Darfur (2004) and the Central African Republic (2014).

At the 2015 Kigali International Peace Conference, President Paul Kagame emphasized that peace operations should prioritise civilian protection over political agendas. At the 2019 International Day of Reflection on the Genocide, Kagame reiterated Rwanda's commitment to peacekeeping, driven by its historical experiences. RDF's involvement in peacekeeping embodies a deep-seated commitment, cultivated over years of education and professional training, emphasising excellence and selflessness.

The RDF's dedication to global peace is evident through its significant contributions to UN missions, advocating for a focus on civilian protection and improvements in peacekeeping mechanisms.

Commitment to peacekeeping stems from long-term nurturing, reflecting the RDF's consistent performance in peace missions. The RDF's dedication to global peace is evident through its significant contributions to UN missions, advocating for a focus on civilian protection and improvements in peacekeeping mechanisms. Rwanda is the fourth-largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping, maintaining various units and supporting missions like AMISOM, MINUSCA, UNAMID, UNISFA, and UNMISS.

The RDF's involvement extends to the Eastern African Standby Force (EASF), a regional mechanism for rapid deployment in peace operations, established in 2004. EASF includes military, police, and civilian components from ten East African countries, with RDF pledging 1,243 troops.

1,243

RDF'S PLEDGED TROOPS TO THE EASF INCLUDING MILITARY, POLICE, AND CIVILIAN COMPONENTS FROM TEN EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES.





RDF female peacekeeper plays with pupils at KAPURI BASIC SCHOOL in South Sudan



Peace Keeping Operations (PKO)

Rwanda's constitutional mandate for peacekeeping reflects a profound national commitment, shaped by historical experiences and a drive for excellence, with significant contributions to global and regional peace and security efforts.



















Civil Military Co-operation (CIMIC) Activities in PKO

RDF peacekeepers not only fulfill military tasks but also initiate projects addressing human security, such as constructing schools and health centres.













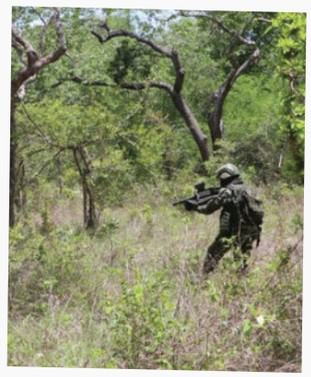






Bilateral Interventions

Rwanda has engaged in bilateral interventions in Mozambique and the Central African Republic to enhance regional stability. In Mozambique, Rwandan troops assist in combating insurgents in Cabo Delgado. In the Central African Republic, they support peacekeeping and security efforts, demonstrating Rwanda's commitment to regional peace and cooperation.





















CIMIC activities in bilateral deployments





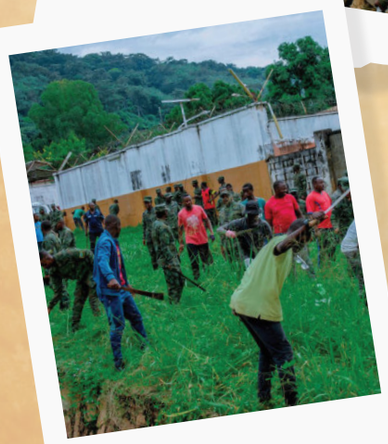
















International Military Cooperation

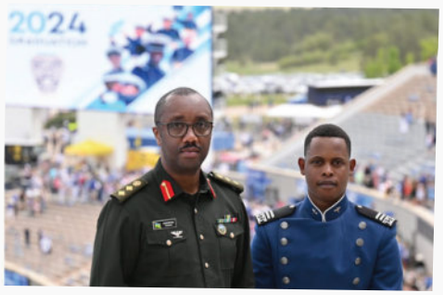
Rwanda's diplomatic relations include cooperation in defence and security matters with different countries on the continent and beyond in different sectors and activities, including bilateral relations, education & training arrangements, defence technology & equipment acquisition, etc.



















Key Stakeholders/Partners

MINALOC	MINEDUC	MOE	MINECOFIN
MOH	MINICT	MINAGRI	MININFRA



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