



RWANDA

**1994**

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A concert in Kigali. Many musicians play in the capital, attempting to make a breakthrough in their musical career.

- ▶ 1994: 29 years ago Rwanda was the setting for one of history's most brutal genocides. Over a million moderate Tutsi and Hutu were massacred in just a few months
- ▶ An entire generation of orphans was created. In 1994 alone over 400,000 children whose fathers had been killed were born in the refugee camps
- ▶ During the reconstruction years president Paul Kagame launched a massive reform plan that generated a level of economic growth previously unprecedented on the continent. The country was renamed the Switzerland of Africa
- ▶ Despite the figures, the psychological wounds inflicted by the genocide have not yet healed, and tensions and mistrust are still rife in Rwandan society
- ▶ The economic development has benefited only a small section of the population. There is a huge discrepancy between the cities and rural areas, and for the generation of 1994 their destiny remains unforeseeable



A community of widowed or single mothers rejected by society and left without help or home. The Jardin De Los Ninos society has enabled them to set up a cooperative, so they can join forces to cultivate the fields.



Father and grandfather of a girl in prison for 15 years. They have had no news of her for a long time now.



View from the Presidential Palace in Kigali.



One of the new roads built by Chinese companies in the Gatsibo district.

For Rwanda, 1994 was a year of genocide, destruction, Tutsis slaughtered by machete, Western indifference, refugees fleeing to the Congo, Uganda and Tanzania and thousands of orphans. It was Year Zero, a watershed between what was and what came after.

The aftermath is an economy to breathe new life into, a country to reconstruct, trust to re-establish. It's the year when a new generation was born, the post-genocide generation, now celebrating its 29th birthday – hundreds of thousands of young people, many of whom have lost at least one parent, rootless and with no family to turn to.

For twenty-nine years president Paul Kagame, leader of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a rebel movement that freed the country from the madness of genocide, has implemented a series of intense development policies. Foreign investment has reached a level of 1.5 billion dollars and GDP rose by an average of 8.3% between 2002 and 2009, peaking at 11.5% in successive years, leading Rwanda to be described as the Switzerland of Africa.

However, behind the facade of apparent stability, the tensions of community life are still palpable. The government is striving to keep them under control through a comprehensive policing system and imposing re-education programmes to kurb the violence and encourage mutual assistance.

While the country's economic development seems miraculous on paper, in reality only a small part of the population benefits. There is a yawning gap between the lifestyle in the urban centres and in the hills. Over half a million graduates are unemployed or forced to do manual work. For many of the young people in the post-genocide generation escaping a life of hard labour remains an impossible dream.





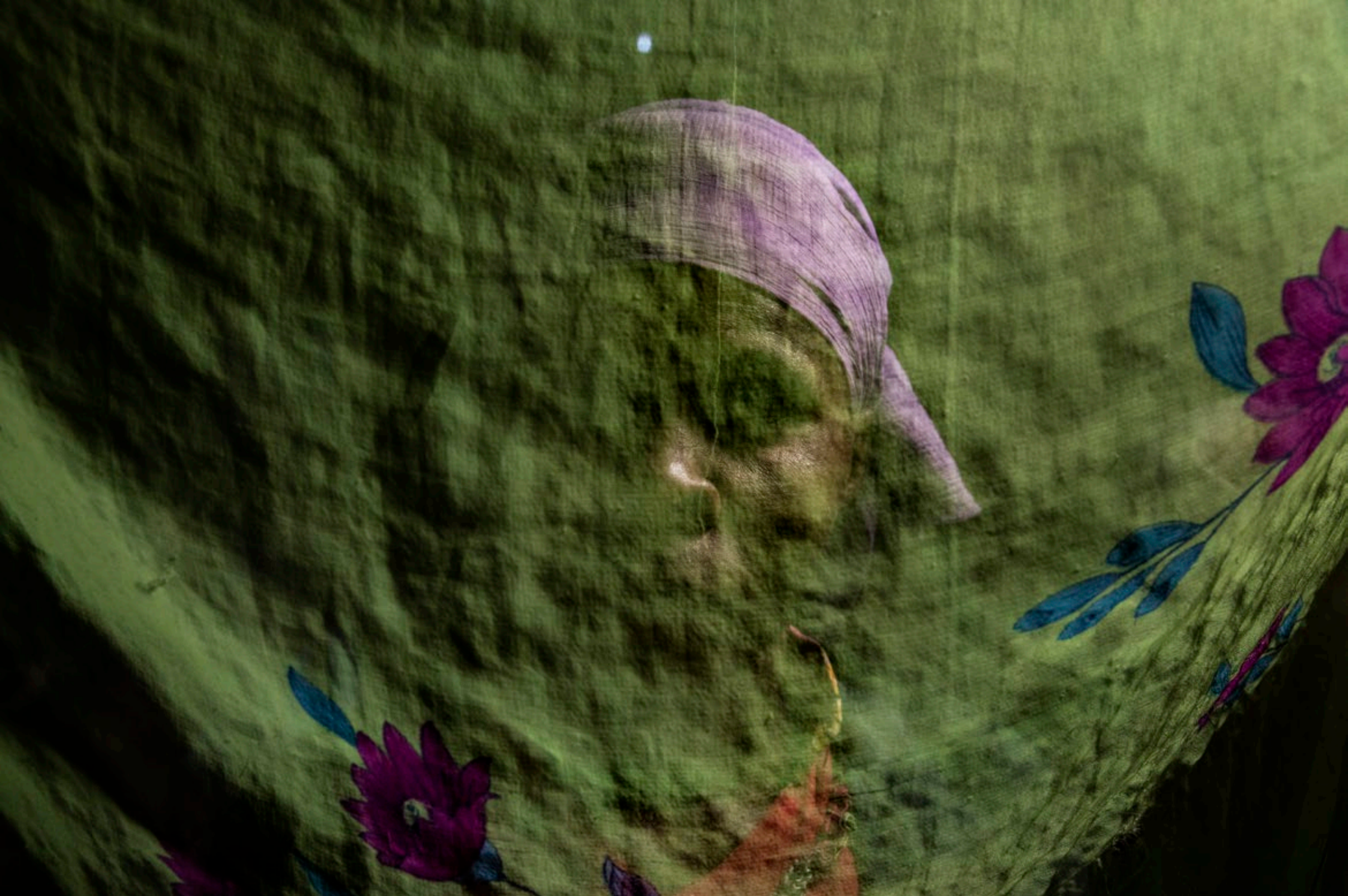
Young people celebrate a goal scored by France during the match against Argentina in the 2018 World Cup.



Students at school.



Women and men gathered for the visit of the Bishop of Ruhengeri.



Portrait of a widow.



A girl dances in the city of Ruhengeri.



The Rwandan countryside, where most of the criminal acts of the genocide were committed.



Emmanuel's sister, a 26-year-old aspiring journalist. She lost her father in the genocide.



A rooftop swimming pool in one of Kigali's luxury hotels.





Youngsters play in the suburbs of Musanze.



A radio, the iconic communications device of the genocide rendered infamous by the radio station Des Milles Collines.



A young man lost in thought in the hills of the Kivumu area. He has just finished extracting the stones by hand from the quarry below.



A widow, mother of two, in the living room of her house.



Wi-Fi access is now available throughout the city of Gitarama, and Kigali has almost total coverage. The government's technological initiatives have led many foreign companies to invest in the country.



The Volcanoes National Park of Ruhengeri. Dian Fossey lived here, now the park is a tourist destination for viewing the gorillas.



Viollett, who fled the genocide with her family and returned a few years later, has opened a small banana business that enables her to support her family and help the community.



Running water is still unavailable in many parts of Rwanda. Here, some people wait their turn for water.





Poster on the wall of a boy's room. Music and cinema inspire many of the new generation's ambitions.



Trade is becoming an important part of the Rwandan economy. Many vans travel around the country.



Viollett's mother in the Gicumbi district. She fled during the genocide and returned a few years later, and thanks to her daughter's enterprising spirit they found an opportunity to start again. Viollett has opened a small banana business that enables her to support her family and help the community.



Bricklayer at work extending a cheese shop in Ruhengeri.



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