

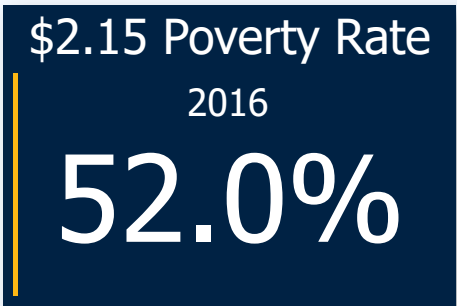
# Poverty & Equity Brief

October 2024

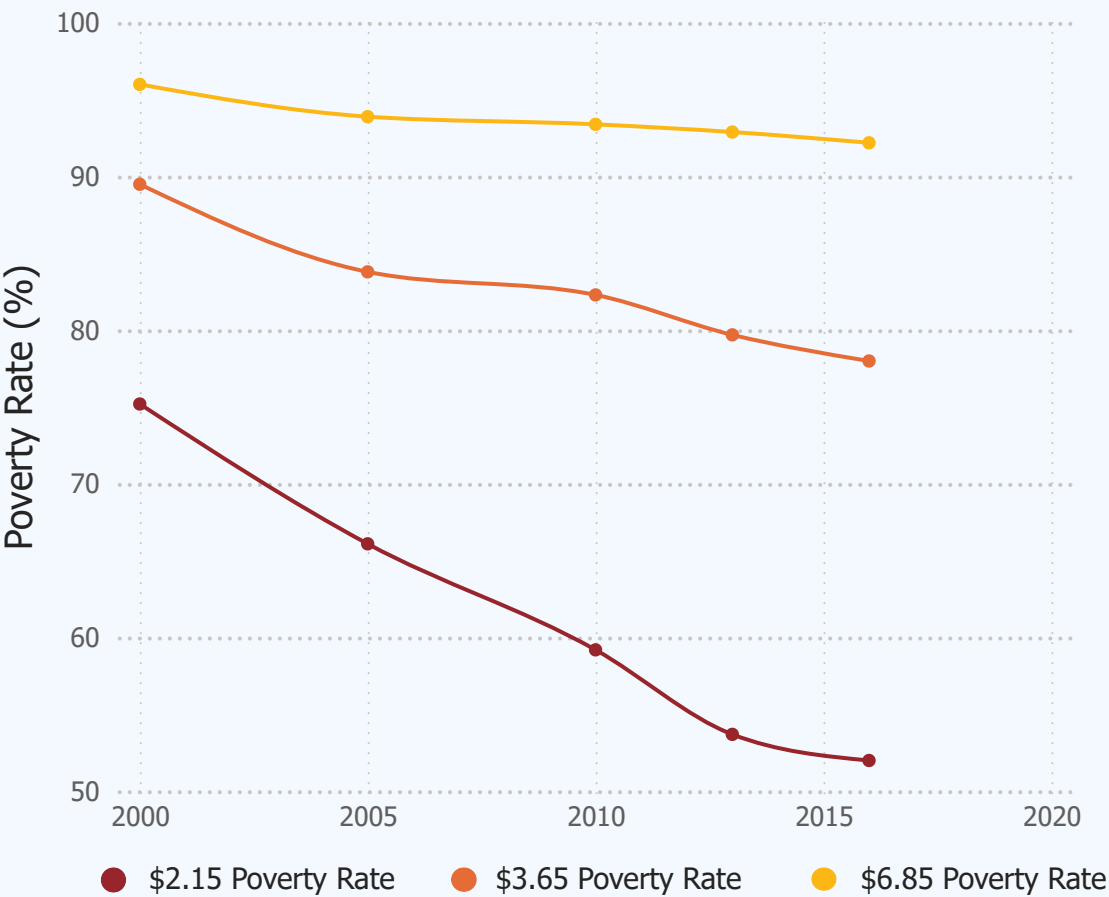
## RWANDA

Despite making considerable progress in reducing poverty, Rwanda has relatively higher poverty rates than African peers with similar income per capita, and poverty reduction has become less responsive to growth in recent years. Using the international poverty line of \$2.15 per person per day (2017 PPP), the incidence of poverty fell from 66 percent in 2005-06 to 52 percent in 2016/17. A higher reduction in poverty is observed based on the nation's official poverty line: from 56.7 in 2005-06 to 38.2 percent in 2016-17. However, the association between growth and poverty reduction has weakened over time. Whereas each percentage point increase in GDP per capita corresponded to a 0.36 percentage point decline in poverty between 2005/06 and 2010/11, this was only 0.24 between 2010/11 and 2016/17. Poverty reduction has been slower in urban areas. Using the national poverty line, between 2010/11 and 2016/17, poverty fell from 16.7 to 15.8 percent and from 50.9 to 43.1 percent in urban and rural areas, respectively. Driven by high growth in private consumption, poverty, using the international poverty line of \$2.15 per person per day (2017 PPP), is projected to decline to 48.4 percent in 2024. Eighteen months of the highest monthly food inflation in the last 15 years starting in May 2022, averaging 42.4 percent in the period, could reduce or even revert most of the poverty gains of the last decade.

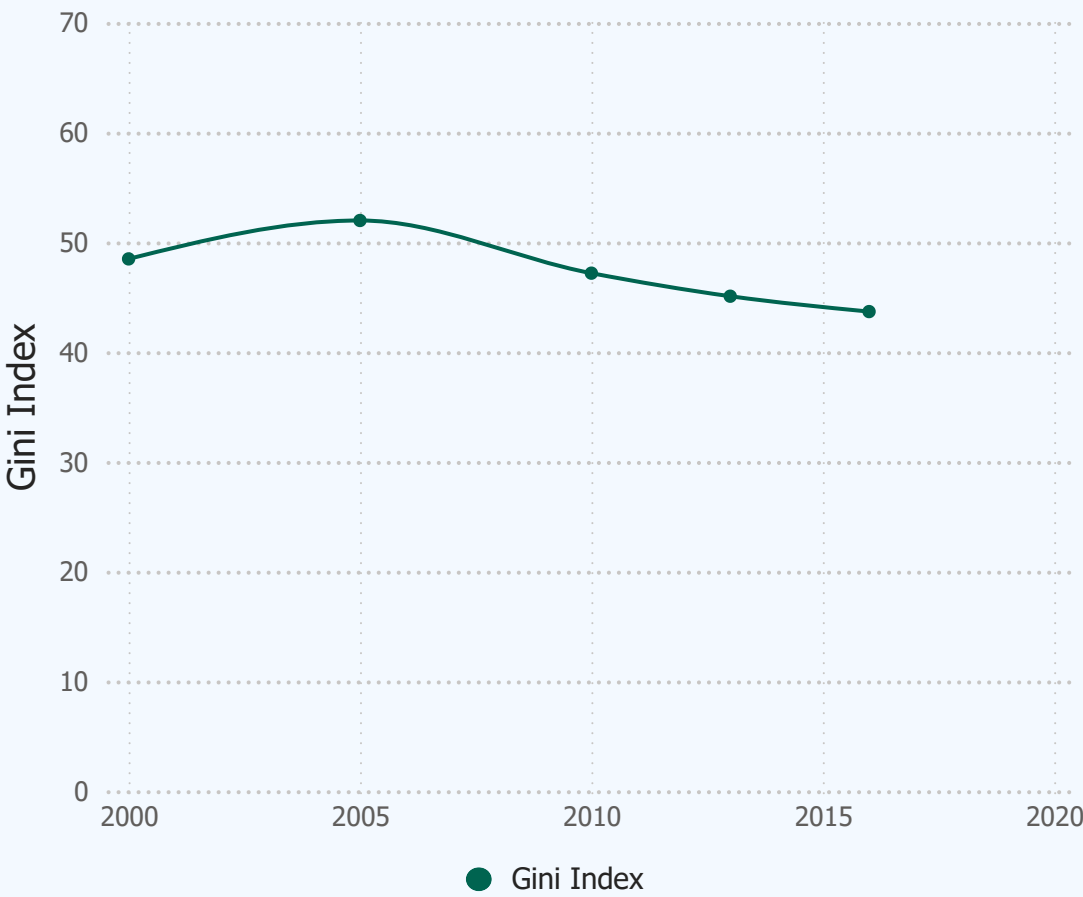
Inequality in Rwanda measured by the Gini index is the second highest among low-income countries at 43.7 in 2016/17, despite a significant reduction from 52.0 in 2005/06. Consumption (per adult equivalent) grew between 2010/11 and 2016/17 by 12 percent for the bottom 40, while falling by 10 percent for the top quintile. Over this timeframe, median consumption levels rose in all regions (while means fell in all but the Southern Province), and inequality fell in all regions. The country has experienced improvements in the ownership of some household assets (particularly mobile phones), in access to electricity and irrigation, and in the population's education and health status. Currently only 4.3 percent of households have a school-age child not in primary school. At 24.5 percent, the percentage of people without access to an improved drinking water source is essentially equal to the average for Sub-Saharan Africa (25.8 percent).



Poverty Rate



Inequality



# Poverty at Different Lines

Poverty Line	Number of Poor (Thousands)	Rate (%)	Year
National Poverty Line	4,552.5	38.2	2016
International Poverty Line (\$2.15/day)	6,204.7	52.0	2016
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$3.65/day)	9,310.9	78.0	2016
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$6.85/day)	10,998.8	92.2	2016
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		57.4	2016

## Group and Multidimensional Poverty

Poverty by Group	Poverty Rate (%)	Multidimensional Poverty Components	(% of Pop.)
Urban population	23.5	Daily income less than US\$2.15 per person	52.0
Rural population	58.2	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	4.3
Males	50.9	No adult has completed primary education	36.9
Females	53.1	No access to limited-standard drinking water	24.5
0 to 14 years old	59.7	No access to limited-standard sanitation	28.1
15 to 64 years old	47.0	No access to electricity	64.0
65 and older	40.4		
Without education (16+)	58.9		
Primary education (16+)	52.0		
Secondary education (16+)	24.5		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	1.9		

**Note:**  
Data for the "Poverty by Group" table is derived from a 2016 survey and data for the "Multidimensional Poverty Components" table is derived from a 2016 survey. The rates in the "Poverty by Group" table above are shown at the \$2.15 international line.  
"N/A" denotes a missing/removed value, while "N/A\*" refers to a value which was removed due to having fewer than 30 observations.

### Poverty Data & Methodology

The National Institute for Statistics in Rwanda (NISR) has undertaken periodic household surveys since 2000 (2000-01, 2005-06, 2010-11, 2013-14, 2016-17, and 2019-20). The year 2010-11 was the first time a panel component was included. The 2019-20 survey was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic after 40 percent of the observations were collected. Due to the lower number of observations, NISR decided not to publish poverty estimates for this round and results were published only at the national level for a limited set of indicators. Data collection for the 2023-24 round is currently ongoing (Oct. 2023 to Oct. 2024). The consumption aggregate has been broadly comparable across survey rounds, although changes to the poverty line in 2013-14 imply that comparability in the poverty line over time cannot be guaranteed. The national poverty measure uses household expenditures per adult equivalent after controlling for spatial price differences, and is estimated following a cost-of-basic-needs approach to afford the provision of 2,500 Kcals. The quantities in the food basket are adjusted using a normative approach to lower the value of the line. For the international poverty measurement, spatial price adjustments have been applied as of 2010-11.

### Harmonization

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The three countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.