

# Kinyarwanda Travelers' Phrase Book



[www.impactrouterwanda.com](http://www.impactrouterwanda.com)  
[frontdesk@impactrouterwanda.com](mailto:frontdesk@impactrouterwanda.com)  
Tel: +250 7888 102 67



# ABOUT IMPACT ROUTE



Impact Route is a social business that provides intercultural training and culture orientation in Rwanda to facilitate cross cultural relations and make life easier for expatriates in Rwanda. We started operations in 2018 and we take pride in being the first program offering intercultural training and culture orientation in Rwanda. Here is a brief description of our services:

- **Rwanda Cultural Awareness Training:** Research shows that up to 50% of expatriate assignments fail in their international assignment and according to INSEAD business school, lack of cultural support and appropriate cultural orientation is one of the 5 reasons expatriates fail abroad. To reduce the amount of culture shock for internationals working or doing business in Rwanda Impact Route has developed the "Rwandan Culture and How It Impacts Business and Communication Training". This one hour and half session seeks to help internationals effectively understand, relate well and manage their Rwandan teams, conduct successful business meetings and build sustainable business relations in Rwanda.
- **Cultural Mentorship Sessions:** These are one on one sessions designed to provide a safe cultural support system to international staff and business people in Rwanda. It is a venue to learn, decode, ask questions and seek cultural guidance to effectively function in Rwandan social and business culture. The end goal of the sessions is to give participants cultural knowledge and confidence to successfully work, relate well and maintain healthy professional relationships in Rwanda.
- **Kinyarwanda Training:** Beyond giving internationals the expression to communicate with the locals, Kinyarwanda lessons will also give them a good foundation to a smooth cultural adaptation process in Rwanda. The 90 hour Kinyarwanda lessons covers five key competencies (Greetings and Introducing Yourself, Talking about Family, Saying Your Daily Activities, Buying and Bargaining at the Market and Asking and Giving Directions) that we believe are critical to navigating life in Rwanda.
- **Settling in Rwanda Assistance:** We help newly arrived internationals and those planning to move to Rwandan have smooth transition to life in Rwanda with less relocation stress. We assist them rent a house (educate them about what is currently happening in Kigali Real Estate market, accompany them in the viewing of the properties and help them with the haggling), furnish their houses, we take them to local markets and show them around Kigali, etc..
- **Home Stays and Cultural Immersion:** We work with organizations, study abroad and gap year programs and provide home stays and cultural immersions program in Rwanda. Our host families are Rwandans that we carefully select who are willing to open their homes to international volunteers, interns and everyone else from around the world interested in immersing in Rwandan culture. Participants can stay for short or long periods of time and it's a great way to interact with local people and learn their culture. The host family provides a bed, food during the participants stay.

*Justin Ngoga*

Founder and Executive Director, Impact Route

[www.impactrouterwanda.com](http://www.impactrouterwanda.com)

[justin.ngoga@impactrouterwanda.com](mailto:justin.ngoga@impactrouterwanda.com)

Tel: +250 788 810 267

# Greeting Phrases



## Kinyarwanda

- 1 Muraho
- 2 Mwaramutse
- 3 Mwiriwe
- 4 Mwiriwe gute?
- 5 Twiriwe neza
- 6 Amakuru
- 7 Ni meza
- 8 Ndakomeye cyane
- 9 Bite
- 10 Ni byiza
- 11 Biragenda?
- 12 Yego biragenda
- 13 Mumeze gute?
- 14 Mumeze gute murugo?
- 15 Tumeze neza murugo
- 16 Meze neza
- 17 Mwiriwe
- 18 Umunsi mwiza
- 19 Mugire umunsi mwiza
- 20 Naho mukanya
- 21 Muramuke
- 22 Ijoro ryiza
- 23 Mugire ijoro ryiza
- 24 Murote Imana
- 25 Murare aharyana



## English

- 1 Hello
- 2 Good morning
- 3 Good afternoon
- 4 How did you spend your day?
- 5 We spent our day well
- 6 How are you
- 7 I am fine
- 8 I am doing very well
- 9 What's up?
- 10 I am good
- 11 Are things going well?
- 12 Yes, things are going well
- 13 How are you doing?
- 14 How are you doing home?
- 15 We are all doing well home
- 16 I am doing well
- 17 Have a good afternoon
- 18 Have a good day
- 19 Have a good day
- 20 See you soon
- 21 Have a good night
- 22 Good night
- 23 Have a good night
- 24 Have sweet dreams (dream about God)
- 25 Have a good night

# Introductions Phrases



## Kinyarwanda

- 26 Witwa nde?.
- 27 Nitwa...
- 28 Utuye he?
- 29 Ntuye ...
- 30 Ukora iki?
- 31 Ndi umukozi wa RDB
- 32 Ndi umunyamerika
- 33 Si nitwa umunzungu
- 34 Ndi umwongereza
- 35 Ndi umudage
- 36 Ndikorera
- 37 Turi abakorerabushake
- 38 Nkorera RDB
- 39 Ndi umucuruzi
- 40 John ni umunyeshuri
- 41 Jane ni umurirmbyi
- 42 Nkorana na Peter.
- 43 Ubana na nde murugo?
- 44 Mbana na Sarah
- 45 Ndi umuturanyi wa....
- 46 Ndi umushomeri
- 47 Ntabwo mfiite akazi
- 48 Mfite akazi keza
- 49 Nishimiye kubamenya
- 50 Nanjye nishimiye kubamenya

## English

- 26 What's your name?
- 27 My name is
- 28 where do you live?
- 29 I live ...
- 30 what do you do?
- 31 I am an employee of RDB
- 32 I am American
- 33 My name is not umuzungu
- 34 I am English
- 35 I am German
- 36 I am self employed/ Entrepreneur
- 37 I am are volunteers
- 38 I work for RDB
- 39 I am a trader/ business person
- 40 John is a student
- 41 Jane is a singer
- 42 I work with Peter
- 43 Who do you live with (at home)
- 44 I live with Sarah (at home)
- 45 I am a neighbor of ....
- 46 I am unemployed
- 47 I do not have a job
- 48 I have a good job
- 49 I am happy to know you
- 50 Me too, I am happy to know you

# Relationships Phrases



## Kinyarwanda

## English

<b>51</b>	Ndi ingaragu	<b>51</b>	I am single/ I not married
<b>52</b>	Ntabwo mfite umugore	<b>52</b>	I do not have a wife
<b>53</b>	Ntabwo mfite umugabo	<b>53</b>	I do not have a husband
<b>54</b>	Ntabwo nubatse	<b>54</b>	I am not married
<b>55</b>	Ndubatse	<b>55</b>	I am married
<b>56</b>	Mfite umuryango munini	<b>56</b>	I have a big family
<b>57</b>	Mfite abavandimwe benshi	<b>57</b>	I have many siblings
<b>58</b>	Ababyeyi banjye batuye.....	<b>58</b>	My parents live in .....
<b>59</b>	Mfite abana	<b>59</b>	I have children
<b>60</b>	Nkunda gukina n'abana	<b>60</b>	I love playing with children
<b>61</b>	Buri muni nkina n'abana banjye	<b>61</b>	I play with my children every day
<b>62</b>	Urashaka kubaka?	<b>62</b>	Do you want to get married
<b>63</b>	Yego, ndashaka kubaka	<b>63</b>	Yes, I want to get married
<b>64</b>	Nzaza gusura umuryango wawe	<b>64</b>	I will come visit your family
<b>65</b>	Urasa na papa wawe	<b>65</b>	You look like your father
<b>66</b>	Umuryango wawe uba he?	<b>66</b>	Where does your family live?
<b>67</b>	Umugore wawe afite akazi?	<b>67</b>	Does your wife have a job?
<b>68</b>	Ubana n'ababyeyi bawe?	<b>68</b>	Do you live with your parents
<b>69</b>	Oya, mbana n'inshuti	<b>69</b>	No, I live with my friend
<b>70</b>	Ndi ikinege	<b>70</b>	I am an only child
<b>71</b>	Ntabwo mfite abavandimwe	<b>71</b>	I do not have siblings
<b>72</b>	Nkumbuye abavandimwe banjye	<b>72</b>	I miss my siblings
<b>73</b>	Paul ni umuhungu mwiza	<b>73</b>	Paul is a good boy
<b>74</b>	Susan ni umukobwa mwiza	<b>74</b>	Susan is a good girl
<b>75</b>	Ndashaka kubyara abana benshi	<b>75</b>	I want to have many children

# Buying & Bargaining Phrases



## Kinyarwanda

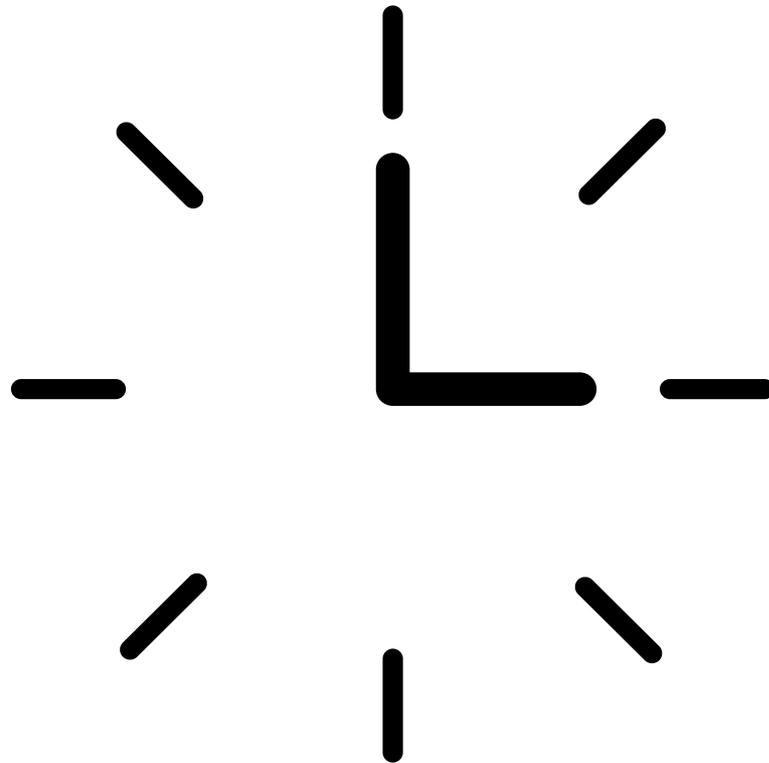
- 76** Ndashaka kujya ku isoko
- 77** Hari supamaketi hano hafi?
- 78** Uri umucuruzi?
- 79** Yego ndi umucuruzi
- 80** Mufite amazi akonje?
- 81** Ndashaka amazi akonje
- 82** Amazi ni angahe?
- 83** Ndashaka guhaha
- 84** Mufite umugati?
- 85** Umugati ni angahei?
- 86** Mugurisha imbuto?
- 87** Ndashaka simukadi
- 88** Mushobora kumpa simukadi?
- 89** Ndashaka kugura simukadi
- 90** Ndashaka kugura enterinete
- 91** Birahenze cyane
- 92** Ibiciro biri hejuru cyane
- 93** Birahendutse cyane
- 94** Ibiciro biri hasi cyane
- 95** Ni (amafaranga) menshi cyane
- 96** Ni (amafaranga) make cyane
- 97** Gabanyaho gake
- 98** Ongeraho make
- 99** Nzagaruka kukugurira
- 100** Ntabwo mfite amafaranga ahagije

## English

- 76** I want to go to the market
- 77** Is there a supermarket close to here?
- 78** Are you a trader/ vendor?
- 79** Yes, I am a trader/ vendor
- 80** Do you have a cold water?
- 81** I want cold water
- 82** How much is water?
- 83** I want to shop
- 84** Do you have bread?
- 85** How much is bread?
- 86** Do you sell fruits?
- 87** I want a sim-card
- 88** Can you give me a sim-card?
- 89** I want to buy a sim-card
- 90** I want to buy internet
- 91** It is very expensive
- 92** Prices are very high
- 93** It's cheap/ affordable
- 94** Prices are very low
- 95** It's too much (money)
- 96** It's very little (money)
- 97** Lower the prices a bit
- 98** Increase (money) a bit
- 99** I will come back and buy from you
- 100** I donot have enough money



# Daily Activities Phrases



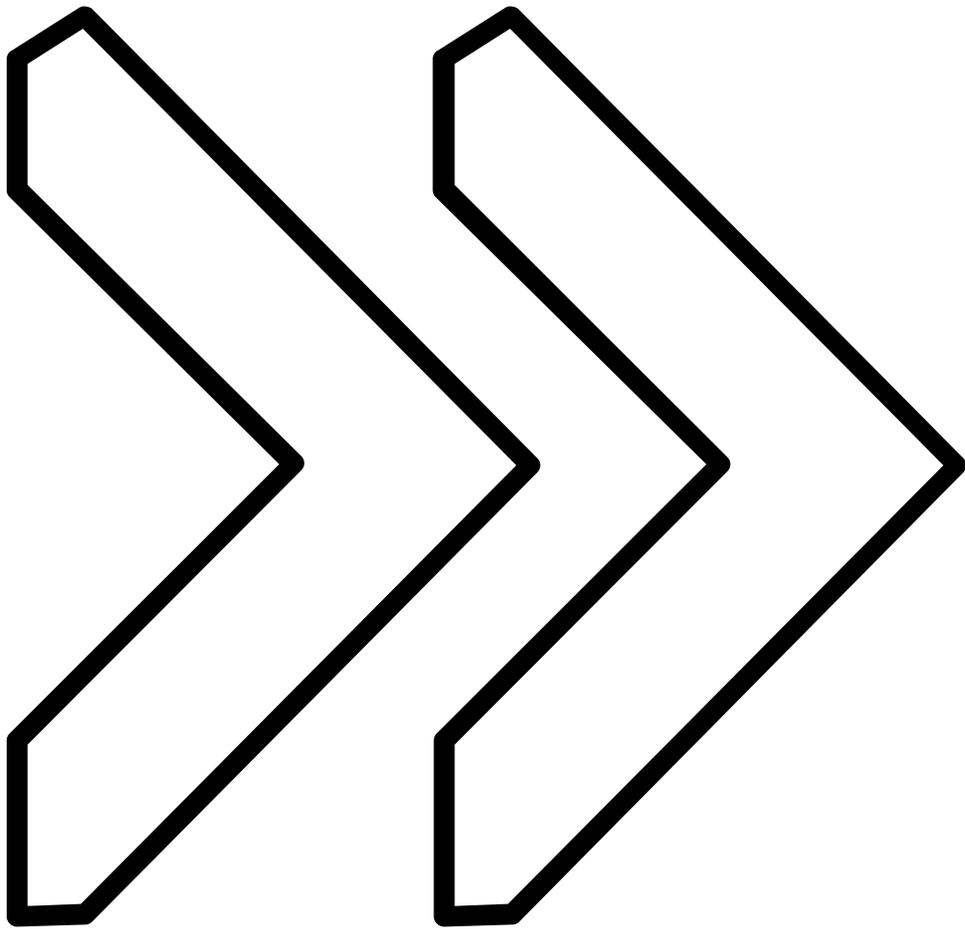
## Kinyarwanda

- 101 Mbyuka saa kumi n'ebiri n'igice  
 102 Njya muri dushe saa moya zuzuye  
 103 Nywa icyayi saa moya n'igice  
 104 Njya ku kazi saa mbiri  
 105 Ntangira akazi saa mbiri n'igice  
 106 Mva ku kazi saa kumi n'imwe  
 107 Ntangira akazi saa kumi n'imwe  
 108 Nyuma y'akazi nkora siporo  
 109 Ntaha saa moya  
 110 Muri wikendi nkorana siporo n'abana  
 111 Njya gusenga ku cyumweru mugitondo  
 112 Buri muni mvugana n'ababyeyi banjye  
 113 Njya ku isoko rimwe mu cyumweru  
 114 Buri gihe mva ku kazi bwije cyane  
 115 Buri gitondo ntware abana ku ishuri  
 116 Buri muni njya gufata umwana ku ishuri  
 117 Nywa ikawa buri gitondo mbyutse  
 118 Ndakora buri muni uretse wikendi  
 119 Nduhuka muri wikendi  
 120 Mfata ikiruhuko rimwe mu mwaka  
 121 Njya mukiruhuko mu kwa karindwi  
 122 Nirirwa murugo kuwa gatandatu  
 123 Njya muri salo kuwa gatanu nimugoroba  
 124 Ndeba filimi buri joro  
 125 Ndyama bwije cyane

## English

- 101 I woke up at six thirty  
 102 I take shower at seven  
 103 I take breakfast at seven thirty  
 104 I go to work at eight  
 105 I start work at eight thirty  
 106 I leave work at five  
 107 I finish work at five  
 108 After work I do sport  
 109 I go home at seven  
 110 On weekend I do sport with the children  
 111 I go to pray on Sunday morning  
 112 Every day I speak with my parents  
 113 I go to the market once a week  
 114 I always leave work very late  
 115 Every morning I drive the children to school  
 116 Every day I pick the child from school  
 117 I drink coffee every morning when I wake up  
 118 I work every day except on the weekends  
 119 I rest on the weekend  
 120 I take leave once a year  
 121 I go for vacation in July  
 122 I stay home all day on Saturday  
 123 I go to the hair salon on Friday evening  
 124 I watch movies every night  
 125 I go to bed very late

# Directions Phrases



## Kinyarwanda

- 126 Utuye he?
- 127 Ntuye kimihurura hafi ya Mamba
- 128 Ntuye hafi ya kaburimbo
- 129 Ukorera he?
- 130 Nkorera kacyiru munsu ya RBA
- 131 Ushobora kundangira kuri RDB?
- 132 Uzi kuri RBA?
- 133 Urabona umuhanda ujya Kacyiru?
- 134 Nayobye, ushobora kunyobora?
- 135 Ntabwo nzi aho ndi
- 136 Uri kujya hehe?
- 137 Ndashaka kujya murugo
- 138 Ni hehe nagurira simukadi ya MTN?
- 139 Ni hehe nabona frigo nziza?
- 140 Ni hehe hari resitora nziza?
- 141 Murigare ni hehe ?
- 142 Umuhanda ujya mumujyi ni uwuhe?
- 143 Bisi ijya Kimironko ni iyihe?
- 144 Ni hehe bishyurira amazi?
- 145 Ni hehe nagurira inzitiramibu?
- 146 Ni hehe nagurira imbuto?
- 147 Ni he bishyurira tike ya parikingi?
- 148 Ku isoko ni hehe?
- 149 Ni he nabona farumasi?
- 150 Kuri twalete ni hehe?

## English

- 126 Where do you live?
- 127 I live at Kimihurura near Mamba
- 128 I live close to the tarmac road
- 129 Where do you work from?
- 130 I work at Kacyiru below RBA
- 131 Can you direct me to RDB?
- 132 Do you where RBA is?
- 133 Do you see the road going to Kacyiru?
- 134 I am lost, can you direct me?
- 135 I am lost, can you direct me?
- 136 Where are you going?
- 137 I want to go home
- 138 Where can I buy an MTN sim-card?
- 139 Where can I get a good fridge?
- 140 Where is a good restaurant?
- 141 Where is the taxi/bus park?
- 142 What is the road going to the city center?
- 143 What bus goes to Kimironko?
- 144 Where do they pay water bills?
- 145 Where can I buy mosquito nets?
- 146 Where can I buy fruits?
- 147 Where do they pay parking fees?
- 148 Where is the market?
- 149 Where can I find a pharmacy?
- 150 Where is the toilet?

# Emergency Phrases



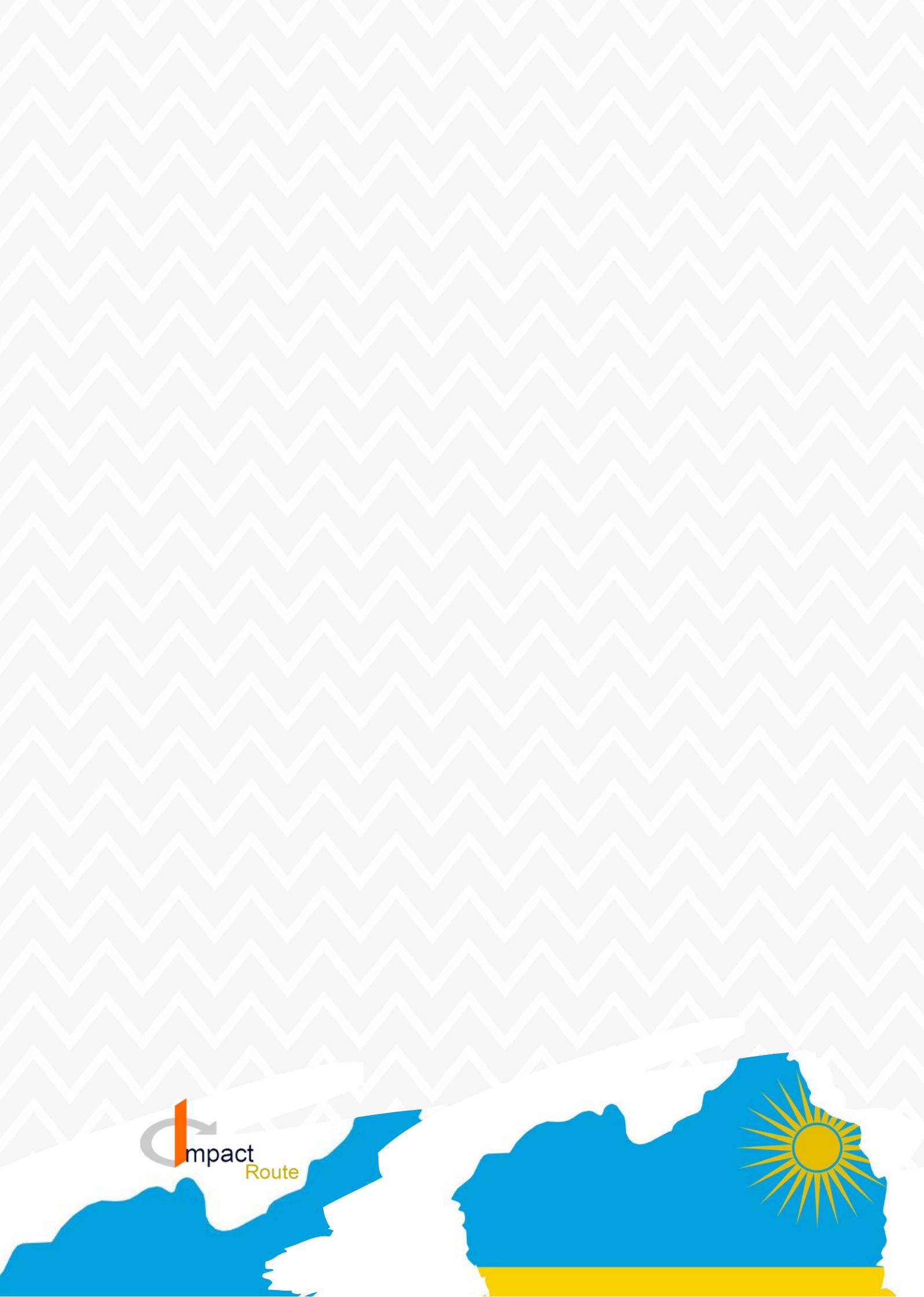
## Kinyarwanda

- 151** Muntabare, muntabare!!  
**152** Umujura, umujura!!!  
**153** Uri nde? Ntabwo nkuzi  
**154** Muramenye  
**155** Ihute, aha hantu ni habi  
**156** Nimumfashe nyamuneka  
**157** Hamagara ambulanse  
**158** Bwira police  
**159** Ndarwaye  
**160** Umeze neza? / Mumeze  
**161** Simeze neza  
**162** Banyibye igikapu  
**163** Nayobye, mushobora kunyobora?  
**164** Nabuze telephone yanjye  
**165** Nataye amafaranga  
**166** Nafungiranye infunguzo mumodoka  
**167** Ntabwo mfite umutekano murugo  
**168** Habaye iki?  
**169** Hari urusaku rwinshi  
**170** Ndeka, genda!!

## English

- 151** Help, Help!!  
**152** Burglar, burglar!!!  
**153** Who are you? I don't know you  
**154** Be careful  
**155** Go fast, this is a bad place  
**156** Please help me!  
**157** Call the ambulance  
**158** Tell the police  
**159** I am sick  
**160** Are you okay?  
**161** I am not feeling well  
**162** They stole my bag  
**163** I am lost, can you direct me?  
**164** I lost my mobile phone  
**165** I lost money  
**166** I locked my keys in the car  
**167** I am safe at home  
**168** What happened  
**169** There is too much noise  
**170** Leave alone, go!!





 **Impact**  
Route

