



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

BURUNDI – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

August 7, 2003

Note: The last situation report was dated March 25, 2003.

BACKGROUND

The Tutsi minority, which represents 14 percent of Burundi's 6.85 million people, has dominated the country politically, militarily, and economically since national independence in 1962. Approximately 85 percent of Burundi's population is Hutu, and approximately one percent is Twa (Batwa). The current cycle of violence began in October 1993 when members within the Tutsi-dominated army assassinated the first freely elected President, Melchoir Ndadaye (Hutu), sparking Hutu-Tutsi fighting. Ndadaye's successor, Cyprien Ntariyama (Hutu), was killed in a plane crash on April 6, 1994, alongside Rwandan President Habyarimana. Sylvestre Ntibantunganya (Hutu) took power and served as President until July 1996, when a military *coup d'etat* brought current President Pierre Buyoya (Tutsi) to power. Since 1993, an estimated 300,000 Burundians have been killed.

In August 2000, nineteen Burundian political parties signed the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Arusha, Tanzania, overseen by peace process facilitator, former South African President Nelson Mandela. The Arusha Peace Accords include provisions for an ethnically balanced army, legislature, and democratic elections to take place after three years of transitional government. The transition period began on November 1, 2001. President Pierre Buyoya served as president for the first 18 months of the transition period. On April 30, 2003, President Buyoya relinquished his presidency to Vice President Domitien Ndayizeye (Hutu) in compliance with the Arusha Peace Accords.

On December 3, 2002, the Government of Burundi (GOB) and the largest combatant opposition group, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), under the leadership of Pierre Nkurunziza, signed a cease-fire agreement. However, implementation of the agreement has faltered, as the other opposition faction, the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People – Forces for National Liberation (PALIPEHUTU-FNL), led by Agathon Rwaswa is not a signatory to the agreement and has refused to negotiate with the government.

On January 27, 2003, the GOB, the CNDD-FDD, and the smaller factions of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL signed a memorandum of understanding that established a Joint Cease-fire Commission, and called for the immediate deployment of an African Union (AU) Military Observer Mission to monitor the cease-fire agreement. On January 30, 2003, members of the U.N. Security Council called for the PALIPEHUTU-FNL to cease hostilities and join the peace process, as well as encourage cease-fire signatories to refrain from military action, stop forced recruitment of soldiers, and continue negotiations.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE
Internally Displaced	Total: 281,052 UN OCHA – July 2003
Refugees from Burundi	Total: 840,000 (Estimate) UN OCHA – July 2003
Refugees in Burundi	Total: 45,333 (44,562 DRC; 1,220 Rwanda; 2 Tanzania; 4 Somalia) UN OCHA – July 2003
Total 2003 Repatriated Refugees	Total: 41,657 (Facilitated and Spontaneous Returnees) UNHCR – July 2003

Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance (to date) to Burundi\$5,779,657
Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to Burundi.....\$33,579,657

CURRENT SITUATION

Ongoing Peace Negotiations. On July 17, South Africa's Deputy President Jacob Zuma visited Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. In Bujumbura, Mr. Zuma held talks with President Ndayizeye and other senior government to discuss ways of reinvigorating the

Regional Initiative on Burundi, which finalized the cease-fire agreements. Heads of state party to the Regional Initiative met on July 20 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania with representatives of the GOB and Nkurunziza's CNDD-FDD to discuss possible measures for peace in Burundi.

Recent Fighting Prompts Displacement. On July 7, intense fighting erupted between the PALIPEHUTU-FNL and government forces in and around the capital city of Bujumbura. The violence followed nearly three months of relative calm in the capital, and resulted in numerous casualties and mass population displacement. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), approximately 300 people were killed and upwards of 15,000 citizens fled their homes. Widespread looting of homes and cattle also ensued.

During the early hours of July 13, heavy fighting broke out in Gatoko, a neighborhood in southern Bujumbura where many international NGO staff reside. UN OCHA reported that approximately 20 children between the ages of 9 and 17 comprised the majority of the opposition soldiers killed in the incident.

International Response. Following government and PALIPEHUTU-FNL clashes on July 13, the U.S. Ambassador decided to limit travel of official U.S. Government (USG) personnel to Burundi. On July 13, several NGOs decided to reduce staff, temporarily close non-emergency programs, and curtail the movement of NGO personnel between Bujumbura and surrounding areas. A large number of U.N. staff departed the country on July 16, but returned on July 25 following an improvement in the U.N. security threat level from Phase 4 to Phase 3.

SECURITY SITUATION

Humanitarian Kidnappings. The German Technical Cooperation, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) suspended operations in southern Makamba Province following the abductions of three expatriate staff workers by the PALIPEHUTU-FNL in two separate incidents on July 9 and 10. The three kidnapping victims were released unharmed on July 18.

IDP and REFUGEE SITUATION

Internally Displaced Persons. UN OCHA reported more than 15,000 IDPs displaced by the recent round of fighting in Bujumbura have returned home. Humanitarian data on specific numbers of IDPs in the capital reflect numbers ranging from 15,000 to 40,000. The wide range of reported numbers is most likely due to the constant ebb and flow of residents who temporarily fled their homes and neighborhoods as violence intensified. As of late July, few people remain at the primary relief distribution points established by UNICEF during the crisis, such as Musée Vivant (Outdoor Life Museum) and Petit Séminaire (Secondary School). Most IDPs who sought refuge at these sites have returned home, only to find them looted.

Congolese Refugee Movements. UNHCR reported that during May 10-11, 4,800 Congolese refugees arrived in the northwest province of Cibitoke following intense fighting between militia groups in Uvira, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The refugees sought shelter in schools, churches and with host families in the

Buganda commune that borders the DRC. Relief organizations, including UNICEF and WFP immediately distributed water and high-energy biscuits. More than 1,400 people within this group were transported to the UNHCR Transit Center in Cibitoke Province.

Repatriation of Burundian Refugees. UNHCR recorded over 15,000 spontaneous repatriations from Tanzania since the beginning of May, with more than 50 percent of the refugees resettling in the Ruyigi Province. According to UNHCR representatives, many of the refugees left the IDP camps in Tanzania because of restrictions on economic activity and diminishing food rations. UNHCR does not consider this movement as an attempt by the Government of Tanzania (GOT) to forcibly repatriate refugees, although GOT pressure to restrict refugee economic activities outside the camps has become a major motivator for refugees choosing to return spontaneously.

UNHCR facilitated approximately 5,400 returns to relatively secure parts of Burundi during May and June. UNHCR and WFP provided returnees with limited emergency assistance, including three months of food and some household items.

FOOD SITUATION

Food Distribution to Vulnerable Populations. From July 21 to July 27, WFP distributed 207 metric tons (MT) of food to 56,740 IDPs in Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural displaced by the fighting. In addition, WFP distributed 596 MT of food including 272 MT of targeted rations to 24,695 persons in Kirundo Province. During this timeframe, 83 MT of food was distributed to social centers, including those assisting HIV/AIDS victims.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH SITUATION

Cholera Contained. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported a cholera outbreak in the Rumonge Commune of Bururi Province. The first case was recorded February 10, 2003 and by March, there were 157 reported cases including five deaths. WHO reported that the case fatality rate for the outbreak was 3.8 percent. In July 2003, the Ministry of Health (MOH) reported that cholera was no longer of concern in the Rumonge Province.

Decrease in Malaria Rates. Malaria constitutes the leading cause of death in Burundi, according to MOH officials. The disease, which traditionally affects populations in the low-lying areas of the country, has become increasingly prevalent in the highland provinces of Gitega, Ngozi, Kayanza, and Muramvya. On July 30, WHO organized a meeting with health partners to discuss the implementation of a new malaria protocol in Burundi. Over the next few weeks, WHO will be conducting training sessions with local health officials on the introduction of two new malarial medicines.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 17, 2002, U.S. Ambassador James H. Yellin redeclared a disaster in Burundi due to the continuing conflict and unstable humanitarian situation.

USAID/OFDA's program in Burundi focuses on emergency response in the sectors of nutrition, emergency health, food security, water and sanitation, and non-food items, while strengthening the capacity of early warning and crisis management structures to respond rapidly to and mitigate new crises. In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$12.1 million in humanitarian assistance. USAID/OFDA's Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC) in Bujumbura continues to monitor programs and assess the overall humanitarian situation.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) is supporting a Legislative Strengthening Program to enhance the Burundian legislature's role in promoting peace and reconciliation. The Burundi Initiative for Peace (BIP), implemented through the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), provides a series of small grants to encourage popular support for the Arusha Peace Accords. USAID/OTI's Country Representative in Bujumbura continues to monitor the programs.

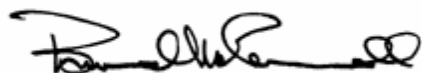
USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) supports WFP's Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in the Great Lakes during FY 2003, which is currently targeting more than 1.1 million vulnerable Burundians. WFP's activities contribute to maintaining and improving the nutritional status of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable people, and promote the recovery and rehabilitation of livelihoods at the community and household level.

In addition to Africa-wide unearmarked contributions to UNHCR and ICRC, the Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has contributed \$900,000 to UNHCR in FY 2003 to support UNHCR's refugee programs inside Burundi.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2003

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA				\$5,779,657
	Administrative	Administrative Support	Bujumbura	\$175,542
	IMC	Health, Nutrition	Kirundo, Muyinga, Rutana, Muramvya	\$200,000
	IMC	Health	Kirundo, Muramvya, Muyinga, Rutana	\$300,000
	IRC	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$200,000
	IRC	Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$499,995
	IRC	Health, Water and Sanitation	Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Makamba	\$300,000
	Solidarities	Nutrition, Food Security	Gitega	\$300,000
	Solidarities	Food Security	Muramvya & Mwaro Provinces	\$260,000
	Solidarities	Nutrition	Gitega	\$414,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$150,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$500,000
	UNICEF	Nutrition, Health, Coordination	Countrywide	\$785,500
	UNICEF	Nutrition, Health, Coordination	Countrywide	\$514,500
	UNICEF	Shelter, Training, Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$275,638
	UNFAO	Food Security, Coordination	Countrywide	\$704,482
	UNWHO	Health	Countrywide	\$200,000
USAID/FFP				\$23,200,000
	WFP	41,660 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities to improve the food security and protect livelihoods of vulnerable groups	Countrywide	\$23,200,000
USAID/OTI				\$3,700,000
	Implementing Partners	Transition Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,700,000
STATE/PRM¹				\$900,000
	UNHCR	Assistance to Refugees inside Burundi	Countrywide	\$900,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to Burundi in FY 2003				\$32,679,657
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to Burundi in FY 2003				\$33,579,657

¹ State/PRM figures include only Burundi-specific funding, and do not include unearmarked funding for UNHCR and IFRC Africa-wide programs.



Bernd McConnell
Director
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

*USAID/OFDA Fact Sheets and Situation Reports can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html