



**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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

September 12, 2003

Note: The last situation report was dated August 7, 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 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 the 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: 281,628 UN OCHA – August 2003
Refugees from Burundi	Total: 840,000 (Estimate) UN OCHA – July 2003
Refugees in Burundi	Total: 40,195 (38,895 DRC; 1,300 Rwanda*) UN OCHA – August 2003 *US Committee for Refugees - 2003
Total 2003 Repatriated Refugees	Total: 55,600 (Facilitated and Spontaneous Returnees) UNOCHA – September 2003

Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance (to date) to Burundi\$10,324,996
Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to Burundi.....\$38,945,996

CURRENT SITUATION

Ongoing Peace Negotiations. On August 22, President Ndayizeye reported that considerable progress had been made during peace talks between the GOB and CNDD-FDD in South Africa. However, the talks ended without an agreement on transitional power sharing.

A regional summit on peace in Burundi is scheduled to begin on September 15 in Dar es Salaam. The summit was originally planned for August 31 but has been delayed several times. President Ndayizeye traveled to Uganda on September 9 to participate in a meeting with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni prior to attending the summit. President Museveni is chairing the regional peace initiative for Burundi.

South African troops will continue to participate in the Burundi peacekeeping mission despite funding shortfalls, according to the South African National Defense Force chief. However, only 1,600 of the 3,099 South African peacekeepers have been deployed to Burundi since June 2003. Despite pledges by Mozambique to provide 202 troops and Ethiopia to provide 1,297 troops, deployment has been delayed due to a lack of funding.

Recent Fighting Prompts Displacement. Temporary displacement continues to be an ongoing problem in Burundi. Fighting between PALIPEHUTU-FNL and CNDD-FDD forces on September 6 displaced an estimated 3,500 residents of Mubimbi Commune in Bujumbura Rural Province. The commune office registered the displaced. According to the Home Affairs and Public Security Minister, the GOB has sent a mission to assess the situation and determine the number and locations of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The GOB asked Bujumbura Rural provincial authorities to assist IDPs who were waiting for assistance from humanitarian organizations.

A total of 21,860 IDPs in Mpanda Commune, Bubanza Province, were in urgent need of humanitarian aid, according to the Commune's administrator on August 25. Fighting during the first week of September displaced an additional 15,000 people. Although the provision of humanitarian assistance has been delayed by the absence of security in the area, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has continued to distribute food in Mpanda Commune over the past several weeks.

International Response. Effective August 11, the U.S. Department of State terminated the ordered departure status for non-emergency employees, allowing for the immediate return of evacuated U.S. personnel. On July 14, U.S. Ambassador to Burundi James H. Yellin ordered the departure of non-essential personnel following increased violence between GOB and PALIPEHUTU-FNL forces in and around Bujumbura.

On August 11, Action Against Hunger (ACF) temporarily evacuated expatriate staff from Kayanza Province in northern Burundi following an attack on one of their compounds in the region. ACF is currently the only international non-governmental organization working in Kayanza Province. ACF reported that approximately 20 armed robbers entered the compound early in the morning on August 10, stealing communication equipment and vehicles. ACF planned to continue to implement emergency nutrition and food security programs in the region through national staff.

REFUGEE SITUATION

Repatriation of Burundian Refugees. On August 20, representatives of the Burundian and Tanzanian governments met with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bujumbura and signed an agreement to open three additional border crossing points between the two countries. With the new crossing points, there will be a total of eight official exit/entry points for

Burundian refugees returning from Tanzania. The new crossing points will provide more direct routes for refugees returning to eastern and southern Burundi.

Since January, 55,600 people have been voluntarily repatriated to Burundi either spontaneously or through the facilitation of UNHCR. To date, UNHCR has limited repatriation operations to secure areas in northern Burundi. On August 20 UNHCR announced that a lasting cease-fire should be established before the wide-scale return of Burundian refugees from Tanzania. According to a UNHCR representative, the current situation is not suitable for accelerated repatriation efforts. The USG believes that a durable peace needs to be established in Burundi before facilitated refugee repatriation is supported. There are approximately 500,000 Burundian refugees in camps in Tanzania, including 200,000 who fled Burundi in 1972 and 300,000 who fled the current civil war. In addition, the Government of Tanzania estimates that approximately 270,000 Burundian refugees are integrated into local Tanzanian villages.

FOOD SITUATION

Food Distribution to Vulnerable Populations. In June 2003, a team comprised of representatives of the GOB, WFP, and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) evaluated the most recent harvest. The assessment team found that 965,000 people (13 percent of the population) are vulnerable to food insecurity due to decreased production, less land under cultivation, and a rise in food prices, which have increased by 50 percent since January.

Burundi's high population density of 421 persons per square kilometer of arable land has reduced the average size of household land holding to less than half a hectare, insufficient to produce enough food for a household using current technology. FAO and WFP estimate that food aid needs for the coming year will be 254,000 metric tons (MT). FAO is planning seed distributions to 193,000 families for immediate planting.

Despite indications of increasing food insecurity, the number of admissions into supplementary and therapeutic feeding programs remains stable or continues to decline. In July approximately 6,000 beneficiaries entered supplementary feeding programs bringing the total caseload to approximately 24,000. Also in July, 800 people entered therapeutic feeding programs bringing that total caseload to approximately 900.

According to FAO and WFP, targeting emergency rations is mitigating the worst effects of malnutrition. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) suggests that lack of access both by relief workers to the malnourished and the malnourished to feeding programs is in part responsible for keeping the numbers stable in light of ongoing displacements.

Between August 18 and August 24, WFP distributed 1,328 MT of food to 104,215 beneficiaries in Gitega, Bujumbura Rural, Karuzi, and Ruyigi Provinces. A total

of 32,822 persons were not assisted due to insecurity or logistical and pipeline constraints. In Bujumbura Rural Province, WFP Household Food Economy Assessment (HFEA) teams conducted a rapid assessment in Isale Commune. The HFEA teams reported that as a result of fighting and subsequent looting in July and August, 5,461 households in the area would be dependant on food aid.

As part of an ongoing weekly distribution, between September 1 and September 7, WFP provided 78 MT of emergency food aid to approximately 20,800 beneficiaries displaced by fighting at Mpanda Commune, Bubanza Province. In an attack on the commune the night following the distribution, approximately 15,000 people were displaced. WFP plans to return to Mpanda to assist these new IDPs.

Continuing insecurity in Burundi has significantly impacted the delivery of food aid. As a result of insecure conditions in the country, since January 2003, WFP has cancelled 287 out of 747 planned food distributions and assessment missions, a number higher than for all of 2002. The cancelled food distributions totaled 12,379 MT of commodities.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH SITUATION

New Malaria Treatment Protocol. Malaria remains a leading cause of death in Burundi with 2.7 million cases reported per year. Displaced populations are particularly vulnerable due to sleeping in the open air. In addition, the disease is spreading to areas where it was not previously a problem, notably the higher elevations. Malaria in Burundi is now showing an estimated 70 percent resistance to Fansidar, the most common current treatment. In response, under the new Malaria Treatment Protocol, adopted by the GOB in 2002, UNICEF will provide a new treatment starting in September that combines two drugs: Artesunate and Amodiaquine. Due to the increased cost of the new treatment, UNICEF is supplying malaria-testing kits to ensure that these expensive drug treatments are only used for confirmed cases.

Meningitis. The meningitis vaccination campaign continued during the week of August 18. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 300,783 people in Bubanza Province and 6,800 people in Bujumbura Province were vaccinated. Between July 26 and August 20, 40 cases were recorded with no deaths. No new cases have been reported since August 19, and the situation is reportedly under control, according to UN OCHA. Epidemiological surveillance has been reinforced in the affected areas and an Action Plan to strengthen the preparation and the response to the meningitis epidemic is being finalized with the Ministry of Health.

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 \$10.3 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.

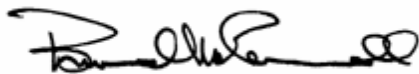
USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) supports WFP's Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in the Great Lakes during FY 2003, which is currently targeting more than 1.1 million vulnerable Burundians. WFP's activities contribute to maintaining and improving the nutritional status 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 and \$21,000 to implementing partners for food and water programs nationwide.

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				\$10,324,996
	Administrative	Administrative Support	Bujumbura	\$632,499
	AFRICARE	Training/Capacity Building	Gitega & Karuzi	\$705,736
	CRS	Food Security/Agriculture	Kirundo	\$505,292
	GVC	Health, Nutrition	Bujumbura (Rural)	\$1,008,614
	IMC	Health, Nutrition	Kirundo, Muyinga, Rutana, Muramvya	\$1,160,000
	IMC	Health	Kirundo, Muyinga, Rutana, Muramvya	\$941,655
	IRC	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,267,080
	Solidarities	Nutrition, Food Security	Gitega	\$260,000
	Solidarities	Nutrition, Food Security	Gitega	\$714,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$650,000
	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.....				\$24,000,000
	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	\$24,000,000
USAID/OTI				\$3,700,000
	Implementing Partners	Transition Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,700,000
STATE/PRM¹				\$921,000
	African Humanitarian Action	Grain Milling Equipment	Countrywide	\$10,000
	GTZ	Water Rehabilitation	Countrywide	\$11,000
	UNHCR	Assistance to Refugees inside Burundi	Countrywide	\$900,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to Burundi in FY 2003.....				\$38,024,996
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to Burundi in FY 2003				\$38,945,996

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



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*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