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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 31, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated September 14, 2005.

BACKGROUND

After independence in 1962, the Tutsi minority maintained power almost continuously over the Hutu majority. In 1993, members of the Tutsi-dominated army assassinated the first freely elected President, a Hutu, beginning a cycle of violence that claimed 300,000 lives and displaced 1.3 million people. In 2000, most Burundian political parties signed the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement (APRA), initiating a transitional period in which the presidency of the Government of Burundi (GOB) alternated between a Tutsi and a Hutu. Two major armed groups did not sign the APRA, but later initiated separate agreements with the transitional GOB. In 2003, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) joined the GOB. The Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People-Forces for National Liberation (Palipehutu-FNL) began negotiations with the GOB in 2005 but has yet to reach a comprehensive peace agreement. The transition period ended in August 2005 when Pierre Nkurunziza (CNDD-FDD) assumed the presidency and formed a government with members of key opposition parties, as stipulated by APRA. The U.N. Mission in Burundi (ONUB) peacekeeping force, which has assisted in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of opposition forces since 2003, is scheduled to complete its mandate by late 2006.

An estimated 520,000 Burundians remain displaced due to years of conflict. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports 116,799 internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in Burundi, while an additional 404,769 Burundians live as refugees, with the majority residing in neighboring Tanzania, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The pace of voluntary returns has increased steadily during Burundi's political transition; however, ongoing Palipehutu-FNL attacks around the capital of Bujumbura, the residual effects of conflict in the provinces, and regional drought conditions continue to hinder Burundi's recovery.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	116,799	OCHA – June 2005
Refugees in Burundi	20,681—primarily from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	UNHCR – June 2006
Burundian Refugees	404,769—primarily in Tanzania	UNHCR – July 2006
Refugees Repatriated Since 2001 (Facilitated and Spontaneous Returns)	2002-2005: 294,265 2006 to date: 16,446 Total to date: 310,711	UNHCR – August 2006 OCHA – August 2006

Total FY 2006 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burundi.....\$2,490,756
Total FY 2006 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi.....\$51,348,517

CURRENT SITUATION

Emergency programs prepare for transition to development. Although USAID is continuing to monitor humanitarian conditions in Burundi, assessment teams have concluded that development initiatives are now best placed to take advantage of the area's agriculture potential and improved security. Subsistence farmers still need assistance to increase income, and future interventions may include expanding technical assistance, forming farmers associations, introducing improved seed varieties, and linking farmers with markets for the sale of surplus production.

With malnutrition rates below emergency levels, USAID/OFDA partners are transferring responsibilities to provincial hospitals and, pending GOB approval, will transfer treatment of severe acute patients to the

community-based therapeutic care model, in which patients receive treatment at home rather than at a fixed-location. USAID/OFDA partners continue to support sustainable primary health care, as health conditions would deteriorate without sustained intervention.

In June 2006, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) completed all programs in Burundi. USAID/OTI's partners managed eight vocational skills training schools, which belong to the Ministry of National Education and Culture. Development Assistance funding continues to support the program through the finalization stages of a GOB handover. Originally designed as a means for conflict-affected populations to adapt socially and economically to a post-conflict environment, the program now represents a way to increase non-farm economic opportunities in a fragile, land-poor country emerging from conflict. The

program's first cycles yielded approximately 2,400 graduates.

Food insecurity improves following drought. In northeastern Burundi, particularly in Muyinga and Kirundo provinces, the combined effects of persistent drought, erratic rains, and cassava mosaic disease (CMD) resulted in poor harvests in 2005 and early 2006. The hunger period between harvests, typically from September to December, stretched from August 2005 to February 2006. Consecutive droughts, coupled with increasing pressure on local resources from refugee returnees, exhausted traditional coping mechanisms. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), an estimated 2.2 million Burundians required food assistance during the 2005–2006 hunger period. USAID/OFDA responded by supporting emergency seed interventions, emergency nutritional feeding centers, training for health committees to improve health center management, and income-generation activities, including communal farming. USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided emergency food commodities.

From May 21 to 26, 2006, a USAID/OFDA team traveled to Kirundo and Ruyigi provinces to monitor ongoing humanitarian interventions. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), significant rainfall, improved security, and widespread seed availability contributed to an improved June harvest and strengthened food security in Kirundo and Ruyigi provinces. However, CMD continues to affect the local production of cassava, a staple food for the area population, and local awareness of the disease remains low. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, and the Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi are multiplying a drought-resistant cassava variety for future distribution to farmers in the region with USAID/OFDA support.

Although admissions to emergency feeding programs increased during the hunger gap, malnutrition rates remained well below emergency levels. USAID/OFDA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted a nutritional survey of Kirundo Province in March 2006, which indicated global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates of 6.8 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates of 0.3 percent among children under five. Despite low food production in 2005, new admissions into feeding programs, at an average of 11 percent, were only slightly higher than regular seasonal increases following the dry periods. Admissions peaked in March 2006, and numbers began to decrease in May, most likely as a result of the start of the harvesting period.

GOB announces free medical care. On May 1, 2006, the GOB declared that all children under five and pregnant women would receive free medical care from government health facilities. Local health clinics in Kirundo Province have since observed a fourfold increase in patients, according to USAID/OFDA reports. The medical staff at Kirundo's Rushubije clinic, currently

supported by USAID/OFDA partner Gruppo Volontario Civile (GVC), reported 33 assisted births in May alone, versus the previous caseload of 7 per month. Demand for assistance to children has increased by the same factor, leading to shortages of basic medicines. Many of the new patients had habitually avoided health facilities because of an inability to pay even the minimal fees previously charged.

Population Movements. UNHCR reports more than 68,000 refugees returned to Burundi from Tanzania in 2005. Following the May 2006 harvest in Tanzania, a steady increase in returns has been observed with weekly refugee returns for August 2006 reaching 2,000, bringing the current total of returnees for 2006 to 16,446. UNHCR attributes the increase to a combination of factors including the agricultural calendar and preparation for the 2006–2007 school year.

Between November 2005 and March 2006, more than 6,000 Burundians entered Tanzania. According to an ONUB March 2006 report, the outflow of Burundians is attributed to several factors, including the precarious security situation, food insecurity in the northeast, increased human rights abuses, and inadequate infrastructure and public services.

DDR Progress. DDR of former combatants continues to proceed with support from international partners and ONUB. As of August 21, 2006, 20,298 former combatants and government soldiers, including approximately 3,000 former child soldiers, had completed the demobilization process. With the demobilization of 7,332 members of the National Defence Force, the GOB has achieved the target of a 30,000-member force. The GOB aims to demobilize an additional 5,000 troops by the end of 2006. Burundi's economic conditions and poor employment prospects have created difficulties for many former combatants. Resource limitations, divergent levels of professional training, and difficulties in building trust between former government and opposition forces have hindered Burundi's efforts at security sector integration.

GOB launches emergency appeal. In order to meet ongoing emergency needs in Burundi, the GOB launched an emergency appeal requesting \$168 million in assistance in January 2006. Priority areas include assisting victims of drought and food insecurity, repairing a crippled health care system, fighting HIV/AIDS, repatriating and assisting refugees and IDPs, and reinforcing the rule of law and good governance. In February, the GOB hosted a donors forum to solicit increased aid to meet these needs. Through a combination of a reallocation of current program funding and new contributions, the U.S. Government is providing \$63 million to support the emergency program in the areas of food security; health care; reintegration of refugees, IDPs, and ex-combatants; and good governance.

Rwandan asylum seekers. The number of Rwandan asylum seekers reached a peak of 20,000 in March 2006 following a steady stream of arrivals that began in April 2005. Asylum seekers cite a variety of reasons for moving, including a desire to flee the *gacaca* judicial system established to try perpetrators of the 1994 genocide. UNHCR states that most Rwandans will not be granted refugee status and is working with the GOB to facilitate repatriation to Rwanda through the provision of transport and food aid. Since the beginning of voluntary return initiated in mid-April 2006, approximately 13,000 Rwandan asylum seekers have been repatriated with an estimated 7,000 remaining in Musasa camp in Nogozi Province. Of the 2,971 Rwandans who entered the process of refugee status determination, a total of 88 cases had been accepted as of July 2006, with a remaining 1,300 to be processed.

GOB and Palipehutu-FNL continue negotiations, clashes. Ongoing conflict between the GOB and the Palipehutu-FNL armed opposition group continue to threaten security in the northwestern regions of Bubanza and Bujumbura Rural. Negotiations between the Palipehutu-FNL and the GOB continue with the support of regional mediation, but a ceasefire agreement has yet to be concluded.

Tensions surrounding recent arrests. International media sources report heightened tensions in Burundi following the recent arrests of several prominent political figures in relation to an alleged plot to overthrow the current administration. On August 21, police arrested former president Domitien Ndayizeye, bringing the total number of political figures arrested in connection with these charges to nine.

Heavy rains in Bubanza and Cibitoke provinces. On May 14, 2006, heavy rains in western Burundi's Bubanza and Cibitoke provinces damaged an estimated 900 homes and displaced an estimated 4,500 people. On May 19, USAID/OFDA conducted a field visit to Gihanga Commune, Bubanza Province, to assess the magnitude of the damage and determine humanitarian needs. USAID/OFDA partners the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) and CRS supplemented local response efforts by assisting affected families through increased local health surveillance and the distribution of emergency relief supplies. ONUB rehabilitated damaged roads and facilitated drainage of the area.

Burundians expelled from Tanzania. Since late May 2006, the Government of Tanzania has expelled 1,752 Burundians identified as illegal immigrants, including 600 residing in refugee camps during the second week of August. The majority of those expelled left Burundi after

1993 and are from the provinces of Muyinga, Kirundo, and Ngozi. GOB authorities, in collaboration with humanitarian partners, are providing emergency assistance in the form of transport, shelter, and food aid.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 20, 2005, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Ann K. Breiter redeclared a disaster in Burundi due to ongoing humanitarian needs. USAID/OFDA FY 2006 programs focused on emergency response in the sectors of nutrition, food security and agriculture, emergency health, and water and sanitation, while strengthening the local capacity of early warning and crisis management structures to respond rapidly to and mitigate new crises. In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$2.5 million for relief assistance to Burundi through seven implementing partners, including both U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations. As a result of the transition to development activities, as of April 2006, USAID/OFDA no longer maintains an Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator in Burundi. USAID/OFDA continues to monitor the transition to development by maintaining a Program Assistant in Bujumbura, supported by regular visits from USAID/OFDA Nairobi-based regional advisors.

In FY 2006, USAID/FFP continued to support the WFP Great Lakes Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which targeted approximately 1.5 million vulnerable Burundians. WFP aims to maintain and improve the nutritional status of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable populations while promoting the rehabilitation of livelihoods at the community and household level. USAID/FFP provided an estimated 24,820 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$14.7 million.

In support of the peace process, USAID/OTI provided \$6.3 million in FY 2006. USAID/OTI programs, implemented through partner organization PADCO, Inc., included vocational skills training, community initiatives, and media programming. In FY 2006, USAID/OTI phased out program activities, transferring ongoing initiatives to the USAID Regional Development Office in Kenya.

In FY 2006, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided more than \$15 million to UNHCR, and more than \$2.8 million to multiple relief agencies supporting the return and reintegration of Burundian refugees. In addition, State/PRM provided approximately \$9.2 million in FY 2006 to support organizations assisting Burundian refugees in Tanzania.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE ¹			
CRS	Food security, and agriculture	Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Gitega, Kirundo, Muyinga, Ruygi	\$701,860
International Agricultural Research Center	Food security, and agriculture	Countrywide	\$300,000
IMC	Health, nutrition, food security and agriculture	Countrywide	\$622,478
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Coordination	Countrywide	\$100,000
FAO	Coordination	Countrywide	\$150,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$100,000
U.N. World Health Organization	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$150,000
	Administrative Support		\$366,418
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,490,756
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	24,820 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,700,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$14,700,600
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
PADCO	Community-based reintegration	Countrywide	\$6,318,937
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$6,318,937
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
Action Contre la Faim	Water and sanitation	Ruyigi	\$375,000
CARE	Gender-based violence	Muyinga	\$295,390
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Water and sanitation	Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Ruyigi	\$332,510
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Gender-based violence, water and sanitation	Makamba, Muyinga, Ruyigi	\$1,048,230
UNHCR	Refugee repatriation and reintegration	Countrywide	\$15,800,000
Voice of America	Education and radio	Countrywide	\$187,180
World Relief	Infrastructure	Makamba	\$573,492
SUBTOTAL FY 2006 STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE INSIDE BURUNDI			\$18,611,802
American Red Cross	Health, water and sanitation for Burundian and Congolese refugees	Camps in Tanzania	\$598,982
CARE	Environmental protection for Burundian refugees	Camps in Tanzania	\$20,000
IRC	Multi-sectoral assistance for Burundian refugees	Camps in Tanzania	\$1,603,772
Norwegian People's Aid	Gender-based violence	Camps in Tanzania	\$103,668
UNHCR	Protection and assistance for Burundian and Congolese refugees	Camps in Tanzania	\$4,200,000

UNICEF	HIV/AIDS, education for Burundian and Congolese refugees	Camps in Tanzania	\$700,000
WFP	Feeding programs for Burundian and Congolese refugees	Camps in Tanzania	\$2,000,000
SUBTOTAL FY 2006 STATE/PRM SUPPORT FOR BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN TANZANIA			\$9,226,422
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$27,838,224
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2006			\$23,510,293
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2006			\$51,348,517

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 31, 2006.



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