



**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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

March 25, 2003

Note: The last situation report was dated November 18, 2002.

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 and legislature, and for democratic elections to take place after three years of transitional government. The three-year transition period began on November 1, 2001. President Pierre Buyoya is serving as president for the first 18 months of the transition period, to be followed in May 2003 by a Hutu president for the final 18 months.

The two main Hutu political opposition groups, the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD) and the National Liberation Front (FNL), are not party to the Arusha Peace Accords. On December 3, 2002, more than one year after the installation of the transitional government, a cease-fire agreement was reached between the main faction of the FDD and the Burundi government. However, definitive implementation of the agreement has been delayed, and the FNL is not party to the cease-fire agreement.

Clashes between opposition groups and government forces continue periodically around the capital, Bujumbura, and across the country, prompting temporary population movements of as many as 100,000 people per month, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). Approximately 840,000 Burundians have fled the country, most of whom are located in Tanzania, with others living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Zambia. On March 28, 2002, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) implemented a voluntary repatriation program for the return of refugees from Tanzania.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE
Internally Displaced	Total: 281,052 UN OCHA (January 31, 2003)
Refugees from Burundi	Total: 840,000 (Estimate) UN OCHA (November 19, 2002)
Refugees in Burundi	Total: 40,533 (39,762 DRC; 1,220 Rwanda; 2 Tanzania; 4 Somalia) UN OCHA (January 31, 2003)
Total 2003 Repatriated Refugees	Total: 9,197 (Facilitated and Spontaneous Returnees) UNHCR (March 4, 2003)

Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance (to date) to Burundi\$1,125,542
Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to Burundi.....\$17,034,842

CURRENT SITUATION

Ongoing Peace Talks. On January 27, 2003, the Government of Burundi (GOB), the FDD, and two minor opposition groups 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 reached on December 3, 2002. On January 30, 2003, members of the U.N. Security Council called for the FNL to cease hostilities and join the peace process, and encouraged cease-fire signatories to refrain from military action, stop forced recruitment of soldiers, and continue negotiations. On February 21, 2003, the main faction of the FDD temporarily suspended cease-fire talks with President

Buyoya, but recommitted to the talks after a March 1-2, 2003 regional summit on Burundi, held in Tanzania.

International Military Presence Increases. On February 12, 2003, a group of eight soldiers from Togo arrived in Bujumbura as part of the AU initiative to monitor the cease-fire agreement. On March 12, the final group of eight soldiers, from Gabon, arrived in Burundi, bringing the total number of military observers to 43. The observers are from Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mali, Togo, and Tunisia.

SECURITY SITUATION

Insecurity Continues to Adversely Affect Vulnerable Populations. Despite the cease-fire agreement, insecurity persists in much of the country. International humanitarian sources report the looting of livestock and other domestic belongings, as well as sporadic fighting between government forces and opposition groups, resulting in civilian deaths and displacement. In Muramvya Province, Human Rights Watch reported that at least 20 people were killed during clashes on November 21, 2002. UN OCHA reported an increase in FDD and government clashes in Gitega Province during late January 2003 that affected nearly all of the communes including Gitega Town. Local authorities estimated that 9,000 families were displaced by the fighting, and several residents were killed during violence in February. According to government officials, an estimated 23,000 people have fled their homes due to fighting in the Gisovu Region of Bujumbura Rural Province since March 1, when the FNL attacked a military position. UN OCHA reported signs of insecurity in the northeastern provinces of Muyinga and Kirundo during early March.

Access Restricted in Ruyigi Province. Humanitarian access to vulnerable populations remains restricted in the eastern province of Ruyigi, due to clashes between the FDD and government forces. Human Rights Watch reported on February 28 that Burundian soldiers attacked opposition forces in eastern Ruyigi's Mwegereza Hill on January 19, causing at least thirty-two deaths. Humanitarian agencies do not have an accurate estimate of the number of people displaced in Ruyigi, and the poor security situation precluded U.N. World Food Program (WFP) distributions and several field assessments by international humanitarian organizations. From January 27-28, a UN OCHA led interagency assessment team visited Ruyigi but was unable to access the displaced population. On February 15, UN OCHA reported that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the U.N. had been denied access to vulnerable populations for more than one month in Ruyigi's Moso Region. On March 7, a UN OCHA led interagency assessment team visited the Moso Region to discuss security and humanitarian access with local military and government representatives.

REFUGEE SITUATION

Congolese Refugee Movements. Following an outbreak of violence in late December 2002 in the DRC, UNHCR reported that an estimated 8,500 Congolese fled into Burundi. By January 6, UNHCR had registered 7,386 people at Rugombo Camp in Cibitoke Province, and another 1,200 at Gatumba Camp in Bujumbura Rural Province. UNHCR began relocating refugees away from the volatile DRC border at the end of January. During February, UNHCR began to close the Rugombo and Gatumba camps by transferring all refugees to Cishemeye Camp, a safer inland location 40 km from the DRC border in Cibitoke Province that houses nearly 5,746 Congolese refugees. UNHCR reported nearly 500 Congolese refugees spontaneously returned to DRC in late January and early February.

Rwandan Refugee Movements. Rwandans who fled to Burundi in 1994 continue to return home. On December 11, 2002, UNHCR assisted 414 Rwandan refugees in voluntarily repatriating to Rwanda.

Repatriation of Burundian Refugees. During 2002, 52,853 people repatriated to Burundi. UNHCR reported nearly 2,400 Burundians returned home from Tanzania through the Kobero border crossing in Muyinga Province between January 1 and January 24. As of March 4, UNHCR has facilitated the return of 5,511 Burundian refugees in 2003, while 3,686 refugees returned spontaneously during the same period. On February 26, a joint UNHCR, GOB, and Government of Tanzania (GOT) commission agreed to activate three more exit and entry points in southeastern Burundi to help facilitate repatriation. According to UN OCHA, an estimated 371,000 Burundian refugees remain in camps in Tanzania, some facing food insecurity due to food shortages. UNHCR reports that approximately 470,000 Burundian refugees are integrated with the local Tanzanian population, and do not receive UNHCR assistance.

Burundian Refugee Flows into Tanzania. WFP reports a recent downward trend of Burundian refugees crossing into Tanzania. According to WFP, 2,738 Burundians crossed the border into Tanzania from January 27 to February 9. However, from February 10 to 23, the number dropped to 792, and from February 24 to March 9, the number was 832.

FOOD SITUATION

Food Assistance Shortages and Delays. On December 2, 2002, WFP appealed for 40,000 MT of emergency food, valued at \$19 million, to help feed approximately one million Burundians until the main harvest in April. Due to inaccessibility to insecure areas, WFP reported that an estimated 54,000 people did not receive emergency food assistance during the first half of February. On March 11, WFP reported that an estimated 1.2 million Burundians will remain food insecure until the end of June, due to a poor harvest from the previous

growing season, a recent two-month delay in rain, and continued insecurity.

Food Distribution to Vulnerable Populations. WFP continues to provide emergency food to more than 8,400 Congolese refugees hosted in Cibitoke and Bujumbura Mairie Provinces. WFP also continues to provide emergency food to returnees from Tanzania. During the week of February 14, WFP assisted more than 700 repatriates who were temporarily hosted in Ngozi and Muyinga Provinces. WFP, in partnership with WVI, began a school feeding program on January 20 in the northern province of Karuzi. The program targets 14,746 children in 21 primary schools. On February 23, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) commenced a seeds and tools distribution program for 266,500 vulnerable households nationwide. WFP is supporting the program by distributing 9,366 MT of emergency Seeds Protection Rations (SPR) to 851,520 priority beneficiaries located in eight provinces—Bujumbura Rural, Gitega, Muramvya, Kayanza, Ruyigi, Bubanza, Kirundo and Ngozi. FAO reported that vulnerable households receiving the SPR represent 18.5 percent of the entire population. During late 2002, WFP distributed an estimated 5,800 MT of SPR to 535,000 vulnerable beneficiaries.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH SITUATION

Increase in Feeding Center Admissions. The number of nationwide admissions to therapeutic feeding centers (TFCs) dropped from January 2001 peak emergency levels of 3,782 admissions to 877 admissions in July 2002. From February 24-28, a USAID/OFDA field assessment team visited several health and nutrition projects in Burundi, and met with implementing partners, the Burundi Ministry of Health (MOH), and other donors. Field assessment team members visited supplemental feeding centers (SFCs) in Muyinga and Karuzi Provinces during February 24-28, and found that admissions to SFCs and TFCs have been increasing since September 2002. UN OCHA reported 2,562 countrywide TFC admissions during December 2002, and two NGOs reported a rise in the number of feeding center beneficiaries in Karuzi and Muyinga Provinces during recent months.

Cholera Outbreak. Cholera continues to affect an increased number of Burundians. As of March 7, 159 cholera cases and five deaths were reported in Rumonge District, Bururi Province. UN OCHA reported that the epidemic peaked on February 18, with 57 people hospitalized. The MOH declared an official cholera epidemic on February 13 and continues to collaborate with international NGOs to provide clean water, soap, and water purification tablets.

Increase in Malaria Rates. Malaria constitutes the leading cause of death in Burundi, according to Ministry of Health 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 and Ngozi. Médecins Sans Frontières/Belgium (MSF/B) reported that the number of malaria cases in Ngozi Province rose from 16,000 in September to 34,000 in November and nearly 48,000 by December 2002. Solidarites reported October and November malaria rates in Gitega Province of more than double the number of cases from the previous year. USAID/OFDA currently supports an MSF/B malaria control pilot program that includes vector spraying and impregnated bed net distribution in the lowland and highland areas of Karuzi Province.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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. On October 17, 2002, U.S. Ambassador James H. Yellin redeclared a disaster in Burundi due to the continuing conflict and unstable humanitarian situation. In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.1 million in humanitarian assistance. USAID/OFDA's Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator in Bujumbura continues to monitor the OFDA/OFDA programs and assess the overall humanitarian situation.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) continues to support a Legislative Strengthening Program to enhance the Burundian legislature's role in promoting peace and reconciliation. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI) are working closely with the National Assembly and the Senate to increase dialogue and cooperation among legislators from different political parties. 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/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 people in Burundi. 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. To date in FY 2003, USAID/FFP has provided 25,660 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities to WFP for the Burundi portion of the Great Lakes program, valued at more than \$15 million.

The State Department'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				\$16,134,842
USAID/OFDA				\$1,125,542
	IMC	Health and nutrition	Kirundo, Muyinga, Rutana, Muramvya	\$200,000
	IRC	Health and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$200,000
	UNFAO	Food security and coordination	Countrywide	\$400,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$150,000
	Administrative	Administrative, staff, and mission support	Bujumbura	\$175,542
USAID/FFP				\$15,009,300
	WFP	25,660 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities to improve the food security and protect livelihoods of vulnerable groups	All	\$15,009,300
STATE/PRM¹				\$900,000
	UNHCR	Assistance to Refugees inside Burundi	All	\$900,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to Burundi in FY 2003				\$17,034,842

¹ State/PRM figures include only Burundi-specific funding, and do not include unarmarked 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*