

This report was issued by Burundi office. It covers the period from 16 to 28 February 2009. The next report will be issued on or around 20 March 2009.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- ***Training on the identification and the integrated fight against the diseases and the destructives of cassava***
- ***WFP programmes and distributions***
- ***Reintegration***
- ***Repatriation***
- ***The province of Kirundo struck by a nutritional crisis***
- ***Human rights violations***
- ***Assistance to Burundians expelled from Tanzania***
- ***Protection and community reintegration of returnees***

II. Situation Overview

The reporting period was characterized by a stable situation despite banditry related killings reported in almost all provinces. The delay of agreement implementation between the Government and the FNL movement is the alleged cause of ongoing ambushes mostly assimilated to FNL presence especially in Bujumbura rural where a total of 5 civilian vehicles were targeted by armed people. This situation increases tension among populations who now demand a rapid relocation of FNL combatants in the assembly areas identified. Humanitarian activities go on unhampered.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Food Security



For three years, FAO and its partners have distributed cassava varieties which resist the severe mosaic. The distribution in rural areas started since 2008. The main constraint to containing the severe cassava mosaic is the limited knowledge of the disease by the agricultural monitors at the community level. In response to this constraint, within the framework of the regional cassava project in the countries of the Great-Lakes supported by ECHO, the FAO/ERCU organized in Bujumbura, a four-day training on the identification and the integrated fight against the diseases and the destructives of the cassava.

Sixty staff from various departments of the Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock benefitted from this training. The training was supplemented by practical lessons.

WFP and IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) carried out a joint mission in the province of Karusi between February 13 and 26. The objective of the mission was to assess local capacity to improve access to food via WFP food security programmes. WFP will contribute in the framework of the rehabilitation of the marshes and the protection of the water basins. Workshops at commune level are planned between 2 to 8 March 2009, for the choice/validation of the sites of the pilot micro-projects establishment.

WFP also assisted the repatriates, the children through the schools with school canteens, the people living with the HIV/AIDS and the various nutritional centres. In all, 506 tons of food aid was distributed to 159,130 beneficiaries.

Reintegration

UNHCR supports land survey field missions for rural integrated villages. The land survey for some of the planned and existing "rural integrated villages" has not yet been finalized. To solve this issue, UNHCR will support joint field missions between the responsible Ministry and the National Land Commission, starting 09 March. A list with proposed locations for the 11 villages to be set up in 2009 has been drawn up, based on proposals from technical working groups at the provincial levels. The villages will host landless returnees and other vulnerable groups. While UNHCR will supply the returnees with shelter materials for self-construction, other agencies will support other sectors.

Visits by Belgian Development Minister and French Secretary of State The Belgian Cooperation and Development Belgian Minister, Charles Michel and French Secretary of State for Human Rights and

Cooperation, Ms. Rama Yade respectively visited the Congolese refugee camp in Musasa (province of Ngozi) and the peace village in Muriza (province of Ruyigi). Both expressed their satisfaction with UNHCR's operations.

Repatriation

No repatriation convoys were organized. The repatriation of Burundian refugees from the settlements in Tanzania's Rukwa and Tabora regions (1972 refugees) is scheduled to resume at the beginning of April 2009.

The province of Kirundo struck by a nutritional crisis

Doctors Without Borders (Médécins Sans Frontières- Belgique) reports a nutritional crisis in Kirundo. MSF-B reported that it rained only once during February (this is usually a time of abundant rains). Thus, people are facing nutritional crisis in the province; they lost a part of their expected harvest due to insufficient rain. Inhabitants have already fled towards Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania in the search of food.

Severely malnourished children who suffer from medical complications are admitted in Kirundo hospital for intensive medical care by MSF-B teams: Among 103 children admitted, 65 are under treatment and 7 children died. The severely malnourished children who do not have medical complications are monitored in one of the 21 Out Patient Treatment (OPT) organized in the health centre of the province where they receive therapeutic food ration. Their families receive in addition cornstarch and soya rations. According to local health centres, children suffering from severe and moderate malnutrition recorded in OPT represents an increase of 25% since December 2008. The most serious cases are referred to the 'stabilization centre' of Kirundo.

MSF with 'BPS' (Bureau Provincial de la Santé) and International Medical Corps (IMC), will increase assistance through the OPT programmes within the province. The objective is twofold: to offer improved care, and in so doing, to prevent children who leave the Kirundo stabilization centre from relapsing.

Protection and Human rights

Human Rights and Justice Officers (HR&JOs) followed up on the examination of the revised criminal code by the Senate. On [16 Feb.], Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a press release urging the upper chamber of the Burundian Parliament to reject provisions of the revised criminal code that would criminalise homosexual conduct and hamper prosecution against domestic violence perpetrators. After amendments on these contentious provisions, the Senate adopted the draft on [17 Feb.]. The Human Rights and Justice Division (HR&JD) had prepared and share a note on this issue with numerous stakeholders including representatives of the diplomatic corps and civil society.

On [13 Feb.], the HR&JD participated in a meeting held in Bujumbura with representatives of UNICEF, UNHCR, civil society organisations as well as the Spokesperson of Public Safety Ministry. The meeting focused on the preparation of a consolidated report on the recent expulsions of illegal aliens and the holding of a radio broadcast to raise awareness and advocate for the respect of international standards such as the principle of family unity. HR&JOs were also informed by local authorities in Giteranyi Commune, Muyinga Province that on the same day a 40-year-old albino woman was murdered and dismembered by a group of unidentified men. Eighteen albinos have been subsequently placed under PNB or FDN protection.

On [19 Feb.], HR&JOs attended the trial of Alexis Sinduhije, the leader of the unregistered political group Mouvement pour la solidarité et la démocratie (MSD), who was arrested in [Nov. 2008] on charges of slandering the Head of State. The defence lawyers underlined procedural errors committed by the police during the prejudicial phase as well as a violation of due process. A search warrant was carried out at MSD's headquarters while it was delivered for Mr. Sinduhije's residence. Meanwhile, the Public Prosecutor requested a two year and a half prison sentence and a 20.000 FBu fine against the defendant. The case is under deliberation.

HR&JD launched a five-day training workshop on human rights, professional practice and law enforcement for 28 police officers from the Eastern Regional Commissariat (Cankuzo, Muyinga and Karuzi provinces). HR&JOs also held in partnership with judicial authorities, three awareness raising session on judicial proceedings in Bugenyuzi, Gashoho and Bugabira communes, respectively in Karuzi, Muyinga and Kirundo provinces.

HR&JOs followed up on the situation of the albinos in several provinces. On [23 Feb.], they were informed that the recent murder of a 40-year-albino woman in Giteranyi Commune, Muyinga Province, had sparked a new wave of fear among the albinos gathered at the *chef-lieu* Kirundo Province. On [24 Feb.], PNB sources confirmed that another six-year-old albino boy was killed and dismembered by a group of unidentified armed men in Kayanza Province. In Mugina and Rugombo communes of Cibitoke Province, despite the satisfactory security situation, albinos still require assistance. Meanwhile, on [24 Feb.], 76 persons, including 12 women, attended a session on human rights and peaceful coexistence organized by the HR&JD to raise awareness on violence against albinos.

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

On [25 Feb.], HR&JOs attended the appeal trial of union representative Juvenal Rududura, arrested in [Sep 2008] for slander, after he publicly accused the Minister of Justice of corruption. The defence lawyers pointed out that the anti-corruption court's decision to maintain Mr. Rududura in detention in [Oct. 2008] violated article 71 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which provides for pre-trial detention of a defendant under limited conditions. The lawyers further highlighted violations of other provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, including article 85 which stipulates that the appeal judge should rule within 48 hours. The case is under deliberation.

On [23 Feb.], the HR&JD participated alongside UNICEF and UNHCR in a meeting organized by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) jointly with the PNB Director General. The meeting aimed at exchanging views on the methods to prevent violations reported during recent expulsions of illegal aliens. The HR&JD also held its weekly forum with journalists and trade unionists on the preparation of the forthcoming celebration of International Women's Day.

HR&JOs also met with the presidents of the local tribunals in Bukemba commune, Rutana Province, and Gashikanwa Commune, Ngozi Province. The presidents raised the issues of lack of transportation, staff shortages and heavy caseloads. In Gashikanwa Commune, the Tribunal President commended the construction of courtrooms and offices by the PBF project *construction de tribunaux de residence*. He further requested that the PBF project *execution des arrêt et jugements* be extended to his jurisdiction.

Assistance to Burundians expelled from Tanzania

The Government project for the reintegration of war-affected persons (PARESI) registered 144 Burundians (58 families) expelled from Tanzania who arrived through the entry points of:

- **Kobero / Muyinga province**, 21 persons (9 families) transferred in their colline of origin: 5 persons (2 families) in Giteranyi commune, 5 persons in Kayanza commune / Kayanza province, 1 person in Gatara commune / Kayanza province, 8 persons (5 families) in Mwumba commune / Ngozi province and 3 persons in Bwambarangwe commune / Kirundo province;
- **Mishiha / Cankuzo province**, 16 persons (9 families) transferred in their colline of origin: 11 persons (5 families) in Mishiha commune, 4 persons (3 families) in Kigamba commune and 1 person in Mutaho commune / Gitega province;
- **Gisuru / Ruyigi province**, 7 persons (5 families) transferred in their colline of origin: 1 person in Butaganzwa commune, 1 person in Gishubi commune / Gitega province, 3 persons (1 family) in Ntega commune / Kirundo province and 2 persons (2 families) in Giteranyi commune / Muyinga province.
- **Mabanda / Makamba province**, 99 persons (34 families) transferred as following: 41 persons (12 families) in Nyanza-Lac, 1 person in Makamba commune, 3 persons (2 families) in Kanyosha commune / Bujumbura Rural province, 11 persons (3 families) in Mabanda commune, 3 persons (1 family) in Kayogoro commune, 3 persons in Kabezi commune (1 family), 6 persons (2 families) in Kibago commune; 1 person (1 family) in Mpinga-Kayove commune / Rutana province and 30 persons (11 families) in Rumonge commune / Bururi province.

Since January, PARESI assisted 597 Burundians (224 families) expelled from Tanzania.

Protection and community reintegration of returnees

The Legal Aid Clinic Project of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) successfully mediated 7 disputes in Nyanza-Lac, Bukemba and Itaba communes (respectively in Makamba, Rutana and Gitega provinces); these disputes were related to land. ACCORD conducted 6 conflict management trainings in Rumonge, Butaganzwa, Makamba, Giharo and Itaba communes for 150 local community leaders. Twenty two people received legal advice from ACCORD and were after referred to either Avocats sans Frontières (ASF) or to relevant judiciary institutions. These initiatives assisted towards the reintegration of returnees into communities, the promotion of reconciliation and the protection of returnees.

IV. Coordination

Work is ongoing for the preparation of the CERF application. A series of meeting were held with cluster leads to determine priority sectors. Cluster leads are currently consulting their partners to develop projects.

V. Funding

Donor	Appealing Agency	USD committed / contributed / pledged	Description	Contribution status
Total:		\$22,372,703		
Central Emergency Response Fund	UN Agencies (details not yet provided)	\$4,000,000	CERF underfunded apportionment to be allocated to specific agencies and projects.	Pledge
European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office	UN Agencies, NGOs and Red Cross (details not yet provided)	\$18,372,703	Aide Humanitaire et Alimentaire aux Populations vulnérables de la République du Burundi [ECHO/-CF/BUD/2009/01000]	Pledge

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int.

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