

Burundi Weekly Humanitarian News

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ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

Repatriation of Burundian refugees

During the reporting week, UNHCR facilitated the return of 157 Burundian refugees from Tanzania with 2 convoys arriving through Mabanda/Makamba Province (114 persons) and Kobero/Muyinga Province (43 persons).

Assistance to Burundians expelled from Tanzania

The Government project for the reintegration of war-affected persons (PARESI) registered 184 Burundians (64 families) expelled from Tanzania who arrived through the entry points of Kobero/Muyinga Province 154 persons (46 families), Mishiha/Cankuzo Province 22 persons (10 families) and Gisuru/Ruyigi Province 8 (8 families).

Protection and community reintegration of returnees

The Legal Aid Clinic Project of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) successfully mediated eight (8) disputes in the communes of Mabanda, Rumonge, Gitega and Bukemba. Out of eight (8) disputes, seven (7) were related to land and one (1) related to civil law (contract). In addition, ACCORD conducted three (3) conflict management trainings in the communes of Mabanda, Butaganzwa and Bukemba for 75 community leaders. Finally, seven (7) people received legal advice from ACCORD and were referred to either Avocats sans Frontières (ASF) or to relevant judiciary institutions. These initiatives assisted with the reintegration of returnees into communities, with the promotion of reconciliation, as well as with the protection of returnees.

Monitoring expulsions in Muyinga province

The ICLA (Information, Counselling, Legal Assistance) programme of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has started monitoring living conditions of former expellees in Muyinga province. The main objective of the survey is to identify the main reintegration issues returnees face in their place of origin. So far, 4 collines have been visited: Kigoganya, Gasuru, Kinama (Gasorwe commune) and Munyinya (Butihinda commune). The expelled persons have been identified through a list provided by PARESI. One person per household is interviewed. So far, 78 interviews were carried out.

The most common obstacles during the reintegration are related to

- Housing: 53% have a house in poor state of repair or do not live in their own house, with some of the persons interviewed living in this condition since 2006.
- Education: 34% do not send their children to school mainly because they cannot afford to do so.
- Land: 35% do not have access to land to cultivate, although agriculture is their only source of revenue.
- Administrative documents: 82% do not have a National Identity Card and 84% of children under 5 years do not have birth certificates.

Internally Displaced Persons in the Magara area

According to the communal authorities in Magara town, some five hundred families have returned home further to the signature of the cessation of hostilities agreement between the Burundian government and the Palipehutu-FNL. Only residents of the Burangwa “sous colline” remain in Magara because of the still significant presence of armed groups in their area of origin.

On May 23rd, the Burundian Red Cross distributed non food items to 1,000 displaced households in Magara. There also reports that IDPs returning in Gitwaro after two weeks of displacement found their homes looted, crops in their farms harvested and their domestic animals (goats, poultry, pigs) eaten by the armed groups that had occupied their settlements.



Goats arriving at Gitega

East Africa) between the 19th and 25th of May. The programme aims at contributing to increase the income and food security of households struck by over a decade of conflicts by providing them with livestock with a short breeding cycle such as goats. A kit composed of antibiotics, deworming drugs, and anti-parasites as well as essential veterinary equipment (syringes, needles, thermometers, sprinkling pumps, etc) for basic medical interventions, is also made available to the recipients.

The FAO/CAUR started the goat restocking programme in 2006, it primarily targets provinces with a high rate of returns. Some 8,000 households (including 900 in Gitega

province), mainly vulnerable repatriates and other

groups directly benefitted from this assistance. Other members of the recipient communities received the progeny of the goats re-distributed via the chain of solidarity established within the communities.

FAO/CAUR vulnerable households' recapitalization programme

Through its vulnerable households restocking programme, the FAO/Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (FAO/CAUR), continues to distribute livestock to help improve the living conditions and increase economic opportunities of its beneficiary population.

It is within this framework that 165 households of Gitega commune received 495 goats of local race (Small Goat of the



Some recipients of goats in Gitega commune (zone MUNGWA)