

WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

7 – 13 August 2006

UNITED NATIONS
Office for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs in Burundi
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ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

- **Training of Teachers and more classrooms:** The Ministry of Education supported by UNICEF has intensified efforts to ensure quality education by training 935 teachers ahead of school resumption scheduled for next September. A two month training is under way in Mwaro for 224 teachers (from Bujumbura Rural, Cibitoke, Bubanza Makamba and Mwaro), Gitega for 223 teachers (from Gitega, Cankuzo, Karuzi, Ruyigi, Rutana and Muramvya), Ngozi for 245 (from Ngozi, Kirundo and Muyinga), and in Kayanza for 223 for the provinces of Kayanza and Muramvya.
- **Health, upsurge of malaria cases in Bubanza:** Medical sources reported an increase in malaria cases throughout Bubanza province in July 2006 – 6,708 malaria cases against 3,742 in May. According to the provincial health officer quoted by the Burundi News agency (ABP), the most affected communes include Musigati, Rugazi and Gihanga. This is a result of insecurity prevailing in Musigati and Rugazi communes bordering the Kibira forest - families fleeing insecurity spend nights in the bush and is therefore exposed to mosquito bites. 2 of the 18 health centres in the province registered the highest number of cases: Ruce health centre (Rugazi Commune) registered 609 cases in July against 67 in May, and Kivyuka (Musigati) with 313 cases in July against 167 in May. According to the provincial doctor, drugs are available; however, the situation requires close follow-up as night displacements might continue due to increased attacks blamed on FNL rebel movement and other unidentified armed groups in the said communes.
- **Update on Burundians expelled from Tanzania:** During the reporting week, the Governmental repatriation and reintegration body, PARESI, reported arrival of 599 Burundians expelled from Tanzania through the Kobero (Muyinga province) crossing point. The majority of these persons left Burundi after 1993 and are from the provinces of Muyinga, Kirundo and Ngozi. Since Burundians started being forced in late May 2006 back from Tanzania, PARESI has registered a total of 1752 of whom 1724 arrived through Kobero (Muyinga) and 28 through Mabanda (Makamba). Emergency assistance provided so far consists of transport (PARESI), Protection (Burundi Red Cross, NRC), shelter (Burundi Red Cross and CRS), Food aid (Ministry of National Solidarity through PARESI), non food items (CRS and Burundi Red Cross).
- **Update on Rwandan Asylum Seekers:** During the week starting 8 August, UNHCR supported the return of 604 Rwandan Asylum Seekers to their home country in one convoy (8 August). With regard to the determination of refugee status, 1300 files are being processed. As for Burundians who were reported present at Musasa site, around 600 were regrouped and PARESI has started their identification.
- **Repatriation:** During the reporting week UNHCR facilitated the return of 2,167 refugees and assisted another 19 spontaneous. In 2006, UNHCR has facilitated the return of 12,757 Burundian refugees. Although too early to reflect a double trend, this week's figure of return represents a significant increase. This is likely to be due to a combination of factors, including agricultural calendar and preparation of school-year 2006-2007.

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- **Ongoing efforts to support agricultural activities:** In preparation of the agricultural season 2006-C, FAO/Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit (ERCU) has been focusing its activities on assistance and supervision of the exploitation of marshlands. Season C which is the smallest agricultural season in Burundi contributes approximately 15% of the yearly food production against 35% and 50% for agricultural seasons A and B respectively. It should be noted that over 75% families have no access to marshland properties. Marshland exploitation expanded over the last years, since 1990 due to a combination of several factors including steady population growth and erratic rains. The torrential rains which took place in April/May 2006 resulted in delayed starting of activities for the said season. Over the reporting week, supervision activities revealed that beans and sweet potato crop fields have reached a remarkable growth stage in the Northern and Central regions, whilst farmers are still ploughing in the Southern and Eastern regions.
- **Nutrition:** Analysis of admission statistics in supplementary feeding services (SFS) in June 2006 (10,650) revealed a relative improvement of the nutritional situation compared to that of May (12,460). In therapeutic feeding services, figures dropped from 1238 to 963 for the same period. This improvement was noted nationwide except in Kayanza and Makamba provinces.

On 4 August 2006, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the national Statistics Institute, WFP and UNICEF held a one-day workshop aimed at the dissemination of results of the nationwide nutritional survey which was conducted in 2005. Two categories were surveyed: children under five years and women aged between 15 and 49 years. The survey concluded that malnutrition as such was a public health problem. As part of efforts to combat malnutrition, in early August, UNICEF supplied 19 Therapeutic Nutritional Centres with 6 MT of therapeutic milk to cater for 2,000 beneficiaries including 1,935 children.

- **UNICEF supports Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) through a rapid assessment and Action Planning:** UNICEF provided technical and financial support for a workshop to draw up a 5-year Action Plan (2007 – 2011) on *Advocacy and Resource Mobilisation for Orphans and Vulnerable Children*. The workshop was jointly held by the Ministry against HIV/AIDS and the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender. Twenty-five stakeholders including government, civil society organisations and donors participated in the workshop which took place from 31 July to 11 August 2006.
- **Food aid distribution update:** During the period under review, WFP distributed a total of 546 Mt to 48,771 beneficiaries in the different programmes - Refugees and returnees feeding, Mother Child Health, Social Centers, HIV/AIDS and Supplementary and Therapeutic centres. It should be noted that distributions to returnees include both Burundians and Rwandan asylum seekers returning home.

PROTECTION, SECURITY, ACCESS AND COORDINATION

- **Security incidents:** The security situation remains unstable due to continued FNL rebel attacks in areas bordering the Kibira forest. On 7 August, a group of armed persons suspected of being FNL rebels looted several households in Musigati. Food stuff was stolen and the attackers returned back to their rear base in Kibira forest. On 10 August, FNL combatants perpetrated an attack with the objective of looting households at Kirengane in Rugazi commune. One FNL rebel was killed and another one captured in subsequent clashes with soldiers. On 8 August, in Kanyosha commune (Bujumbura Rural), clashes were reported between FDN (National Defense Force) soldiers and FNL rebels.

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- **Protection/Human rights:** In Musenyi zone of Mpanda commune (Bubanza province), a person suspected of being an FNL rebel was killed. Meanwhile, arrests of young people suspected of working with FNL movement continued. Over the reporting period, around 40 young people including new recruits and people suspected of collaborating with FNL movement were arrested in Mpanda commune (Bubanza) and Nyambuye area (Isale commune in Bujumbura Rural).

- **Coordination:**
 - OCHA conducted a mission to the communes of Matongo (Kayanza) and Bukeye (Muramvya) to assess the humanitarian situation after recent clashes between National Defence Forces (FDN) and FNL rebels in Musigati (Bubanza) and household looting allegedly perpetrated by FNL rebels. Further to information of continued FNL attacks, the population in the said communes decided to seek refuge at night at the communal town centre where they have relocated with their remaining few belongings, including seed stocks and household property.
 - As per the joint mission plan, OCHA and the National Commission for Aid Coordination fielded missions to Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces on 8-9 August to review the level of coordination. In Cibitoke, meetings were held with the provincial authorities. Issues over targeting of the vulnerable were discussed. In Bubanza, OCHA met with the Governor and NGOs working in the province. Because of the unstable security situation in areas near the Kibira forest, OCHA encouraged authorities to support humanitarian response activities in order to improve access to basic services. For Cibitoke province, such activities would include installation of water systems to address cholera cases and medical supply to functional health centres in order to diminish pressure on the main hospital in the province. In both provinces, authorities highlighted the necessity of keeping the system of provincial coordination “focal point” in place.