

WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

14 – 20 August 2006

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

- **Training of Parents and Guardians of HIV Positive Children:** The majority of HIV/AIDS infected children take medication without ample explanation. Certain parents find it difficult to give the correct answers to all the questions asked. That is why FMS-AMADE Burundi organised a training for parents and guardians from their partner organizations. 37 out of the 40 invited attended the four days training which took place in the main office of FVS-AMADE Burundi.

The objective of the training consisted of helping the parents and guardians of HIV positive children to better cater for specific needs of the children. The main needs for such children include communication between parent/guardian and child, proper diet, daily intake of required medication, informing the child regarding HIV/AIDS test results, follow-up and monitoring of the child, etc. Finally it emerged that there is a lack of information regarding counselling of HIV positive children. Parents are hesitant or are afraid of revealing to their children the reason for the daily intake of medication.

- **Update on Burundians expelled from Tanzania:** There has not been any new arrival of expelled Burundians since 12-August. In Muyinga, the Red Cross in Burundi with assistance from ICRC was preparing a site in Kinazi to provide temporary shelter for Burundians expelled from Tanzania. During a visit by OCHA representatives on 16th August, there were approximately 250 persons out of the 598 that arrived on 12-August at the site, majority originally from Kirundo and Ngozi. The rest were transferred to their communes of origin by PARESI (Ministry of Solidarity Project). The proportion of women to men was normal as opposed to those expelled in June/July where women were 3-4 times more than the men.



Note that IMC identified and transferred 7 severely malnourished children from the group that arrived on 12-August. This could be as a result of difficult conditions experienced by the families before they were expelled from Tanzania. IMC is providing additional support to Kinazi medical centre which is near the site.

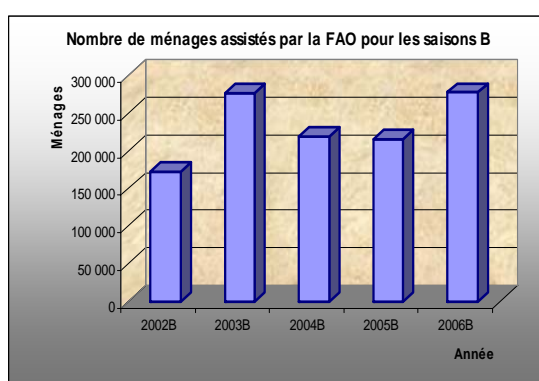
- **Update on Rwandan Asylum Seekers:** During the reporting week, UNHCR supported the return of 220 Rwandan Asylum Seekers to their home country in one convoy that departed on 18-Aug. Note that there were 313 confirmed for repatriation but only 220 embarked on the convoy.
- **Repatriation:** During the reporting week UNHCR facilitated the return of 1,847 individuals. So far in 2006, UNHCR has assisted a total of 14,674 facilitated and spontaneous Burundian refugees. The

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number of returning refugees continues to be relatively high but lower than during the same period in 2005. This may be due to a combination of factors, including the agricultural calendar and preparations for the school-year 2006-2007.

- **Ongoing Efforts to Support Agricultural Activities:** Since 2005, FAO has been consolidating a data bank with regard to Food Security in Burundi. The data comes essentially from the Early Warning System and Food Security Surveillance network. This has become a significant tool for reflecting the food security situation and evolution. After data processing and analysis, there is an archival process that constitutes the memory of all the undertaken activities. Available data includes: agricultural prices, some macroeconomic data, rainfall information, seed sources, food reserve situation, household budget allocations, follow-up mechanism and number of meals per day for reference households. In addition, the database contains photos and thematic maps which help to review operations and corresponding processes. The main software application used in developing the application is Access.



Number of Households Assisted by FAO in Season B

- **Food Aid Distribution Update:** During the period under review, WFP distributed a total of 769 Mt to 82,401 beneficiaries in different programmes - Refugees and Returnees Feeding, Mother Child Health, Social Centres, HIV/AIDS, Food for Work and Supplementary Therapeutic Centres. Note that distribution to returnees includes both Burundian and Rwandan asylum seekers returning home as well as those staying in the transit camp.
- **Food Security and Nutrition:** During a meeting for partners working in the food security and nutrition area on 16 August, IMC indicated that there are still signs of food insecurity in Kirundo and Muyinga provinces. This could be as a result of internal/external migration of the population without decrease in the number of poorly nourished. In spite of the efforts of IMC with financing from either OFDA or UNICEF and assistance from its partners (Care, World Vision and LMTC) a lot of work remains to be done, to stabilize the nutritional situation in these provinces.

In FAO's presentation on the agricultural situation in Burundi, it was noted that in season 2006C there is a net increase in vegetable farming as the weather conditions are favourable with rains in July and August.

- **Shelter:** 'Agro Action Allemande' (AAA) plans to construct approximately 150 houses in Kirundo commune (Kirundo Province) and in Gashoho and Gasorwe communes (Muyinga province). 32 houses are complete while 100 are in progress. In its criteria, AAA considers returnees and other vulnerable persons in the community. To replace the trees used in the construction, 50 seedlings are distributed to the beneficiary to plant on their compound.

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- **Construction of Classrooms in Bujumbura Rural:** UNICEF released a list of 146 classrooms to be constructed in different communes in Bujumbura Rural. If the population comes together to put up the walls, UNICEF will provide roofing, cement, nails and other materials. Sensitization of the Authorities has already begun.

PROTECTION, SECURITY, ACCESS AND COORDINATION

- **Security Incidents:** Several security incidents were reported during the week. On 14/08 in Mutimbuzi commune, Mubone zone, 4 persons were removed from Kinama police station irregularly in the night and were shot dead two KM from Mubone. An inquiry has been launched. Another incident was reported on 15/08 in Mutimbuzi commune, Gatumba zone where a group of about 50 alleged FNL individuals from Rukoko forest near the border with DRC committed a robbery in a bar on the main route of Gatumba. The clients were told to lie down and were robbed of their belongings, mainly money and mobile phones. Still in Mitimbuzi commune, Gatumba zone on 20/08 a policeman shot his colleague dead and tried to kill himself but failed. He seriously injured himself and is being treated. At the same time a murder case has been launched against him. In Bugarama commune, a farmer working on his farm was killed when an unexploded grenade exploded when he lit a fire to clear a bush.
- **Protection/Human Rights:** Recruitment of young combatants by FNL was highlighted in Bubanza province. On the other hand, arrests of persons suspected to be FNL combatants or collaborators went on in Bubanza and Bujumbura Rural provinces. Human rights organizations are closely monitoring the situation. In Isale commune, it was noted that households were being forced to donate 500 Frs every three weeks. The situation is similar in Muhuta commune where the residents give voluntarily or are forced to give money to FNL combatants.
- **Coordination:** The thematic group dealing with the fight against sexual violence met on 17 August. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss activities to fight against gender based violence and also the assistance offered to victims by the Swiss Corporation in Burundi. Information was also provided on UNIFEM's project to be launched in September based on the fight against gender violence. The project is financed via CAP 2006.