

SITUATION REPORT

26 Feb – 4 March 2007

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ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

Implementation of season 2007-B : The distribution of seeds and seed protection rations which started two weeks ago is ongoing nationwide. FAO/Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit (FAO/ERCU) has so far achieved 60% of its planning through direct distributions and seed fairs. The dispatching was also completed throughout the remaining provinces and the distribution is under way in collaboration with various partners including national and international NGOs. However, seed shortages and subsequent price increase were noted but will have little impact on the implementation of this season since it was foreseeable and consequently taken into account. This activity will end on 15 March.

Since the beginning of the operation, WFP has already assisted 15,000 households with 378 MT of seed protection rations in Cankuzo, Kirundo and Karuzi provinces. Throughout the country, approximately 1,500 MT will be distributed to 60,000 families (300,000 persons) during agricultural season 2007-B.

Update on food aid distribution: Over the week under review, WFP distributed 796 MT of food aid to a total of 114,717 beneficiaries of supplementary and therapeutic feeding services, seed protection rations (see above), food-for-work, assistance to refugees and returnees, school feeding programmes.

Health: During the bi-monthly health coordination meeting held on 2 March, actors involved in the sector discussed the prevailing health situation following the January-February torrential rains which affected several areas throughout the country particularly lower land areas. In regards to malaria cases, an increase was noted as an immediate consequence of stagnant water. WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health are closely monitoring the situation. Some new cholera cases continue to be reported in northern neighborhoods of the capital Bujumbura. From November 2006 till February 2007, 603 cholera cases including 5 deaths were registered. Supported by WHO, the treatment unit of Buterere (Bujumbura Mairie) provides medical assistance to patients. Following reports of four suspected cases of meningitis in Cibitoke province, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO plans to order additional vaccines covering about 300,000 persons.

Towards improvement of assistance to vulnerable children: Supported by CRS, the national NGO *Family against AIDS* (FVS-AMADE) national NGO conducted one-week training on accurate system for the follow up of activities undertaken within the project for “Social integration of orphans and other vulnerable children in Bujumbura Mairie and Gitega provinces”. 22 persons attended the workshop.

Repatriation: Over the reporting period, the number of returnees continued to drastically decrease. UNHCR reported only 32 (against 109 last week) Burundian refugees returning to their home country through the entry point of Kobero (Muyinga province). Since the beginning of 2007, 2,319 returned to Burundi.

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Update on Burundians Expelled from Tanzania: The Governmental project for reintegration of war-affected persons (PARESI) registered 33 Burundians arriving from Tanzania in the transit sites of Kinazi (26) (Muyinga) and Munzenze (7) (Cankuzo). Expelled registered persons continue to be assisted with food and non food items thanks to WFP and UNICEF. This assistance is distributed by the Burundian Red Cross Society in both sites. Transfer operations also continue. Over the week, 22 persons were transferred from Cankuzo to their areas of origin in Ngozi, Muyinga, Karuzi and Kirundo provinces. A resettlement site for landless persons from Muyinga province has been identified in Karehe in Buhinyuza commune.

Assistance to the victims of torrential rains: In the aftermath of the of the torrential rains in December 2006 and January 2007 Around 4,100 families were assisted so far with non food items provided by the government of Burundi through the Ministry of National Solidarity, UNICEF, the International Federation of the Red Cross and OXFAM NOVIB through partner organizations including the Burundian Red Cross Society, OAP and Solidarités. On 1st and 2nd of March, some additional houses and latrines were destroyed in Gatumba (Bujumbura Rural province) following heavy rains. As for food security issues, special attention was drawn to households affected by these rains during the distribution of seeds and seed protection rations.

Update on nutritional situation: Partners involved in the food security and nutrition thematic group – FAO/Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination unit, WFP, UNICEF, ACF, IMC, MSF-Belgium met on 28 Feb. Although the number of admissions in therapeutic and feeding centres has increased since June 2006, according to UNICEF, ACF and MSF-B, the situation remains similar to 2005 and 2006. Participants agreed on the screening of acute malnutrition cases and organization of supervision missions.

The Contact Group meeting was held on March 1 and chaired by OCHA. WHO presented the results of the survey on the distribution of drugs and medical supplies donated by ECHO in response to increased needs further to the presidential decision on free medical assistance for under-five children and maternity.

Provincial Coordination: On 28 February, the “focal point” meeting was held in Kirundo and was chaired by the governor. According to provincial authorities, there has been an improvement in the food security and the nutritional situation despite persistent issues related to land availability.