

# Burundi Weekly Humanitarian News

17 – 23 Dec. 2007

UNITED NATIONS  
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## ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

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### **Cases of meningitis reported in Rutana Province**

Further to reports of suspected cases of meningitis in the commune of Mpinga-Kayove in Rutana Province, close monitoring was undertaken by the provincial health authorities. All of the 4 samples which were sent to the laboratory for analysis confirmed the disease. Affected persons were admitted in the health facilities for treatment. No vaccination activity has been envisaged so far since the situation is under control.

### **Update 24/12/2007 on cholera in Rumonge/Bururi Province and Nyanza-Lac/Makamba Province**

Health partners (UNICEF, CORDAID, Solidarités, Red Cross) continue to provide medical and sanitation assistance through the management of the cholera treatment center and the disinfection of households and public facilities in affected neighbourhoods. In Rumonge, 136 infected persons have been recorded but no death so far. 11 patients are currently hospitalized. Disinfection has been completed for 1,550 households and 11 public facilities. In Nyanza-Lac, health staff have recorded 260 cholera cases and 14 patients were admitted on 24/12/07. 4 deaths have been reported. 3,699 households and public facilities have been disinfected. Despite reports of new cases, no new affected places have been registered during the reporting period.

### **Second and third rounds of immunization campaign for children and pregnant women**

As part of promotion activities for the Mother-child health week, the Ministry of Health supported by WHO and UNICEF has completed the second and third rounds of immunization campaign. The second round which involved immunization of infants up to 11 months, providing vit A to children under 5 years and deworming for the children between 1 to 14 years old was held nationwide on 17-21 December. The third round immunization covered pregnant women and women of childbearing age who are the most exposed to the tetanus disease and was completed in the 7 provinces identified as high-risk provinces - Bujumbura Rural, Ruyigi, Rutana, Bururi, Gitega, Kirundo and Muramvya. Pregnant women also received iron and folic acid.

### **Repatriation of Burundian refugees**

During the week 17-23 December 2007, 380 Burundian refugees returned voluntarily to Burundi. In December, 1,083 Burundians have repatriated so far. 5,728 returned in November, 6,597 in October, and 8,431 in September. Since the beginning of this year, a total of 39,764 Burundian refugees have returned, most of them from Tanzania. No further voluntary repatriation convoys are planned until the end of the year.

### **Ongoing transfer of Congolese refugees**

146 persons were transferred from Bujumbura to Musasa camp (Ngozi province), 127 of whom passed the screening in Musasa (others were not identified as refugees). To date, the refugee population in Musasa stands at 6,860 persons.

### **Update on food aid distribution**

Last week, WFP assisted 73,318 beneficiaries with 1,217 MT of food, 96% of which was distributed through Food For Work projects.

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## ***Assistance to Burundians expelled from Tanzania***

The Government project for the reintegration of war-affected persons (PARESI) registered 162 Burundians expelled from Tanzania. In 2007, PARESI has recorded a total of 9,705 expelled persons (4,579 families).

In order to improve the support to expelled persons, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), in partnership with UNICEF organized a two-day workshop in Muyinga on the management of transit sites in line with the Camp Management Toolkit project. The workshop was attended by the local authorities and humanitarian partners involved in the assistance to expelled persons in the four transit sites - the Burundian Red Cross, PARESI, NRC, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), HealthNet-Transcultural Psycho-social Organization (HN-TPO), and Solidarités. Topics discussed were: the roles and responsibilities of all actors, standards and indicators in camp management, protection for expelled persons, participation by expelled persons in the management of transit sites and coordination between administration, camp management team and service providers. Participants were given a copy of the Camp Management Toolkit for further reference.

## ***Towards better management of the community seed warehouses***

On 11-21 December, the FAO/Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit (ERCU) organized a series of training sessions for agronomists in the provincial agricultural and livestock departments, heads of units for the production of quality seeds, and the technicians from partner NGOs who assist the local associations in the management of the community seed warehouses. A total of 49 participants were trained in the management of the warehouses, setting up a structure of the management of the warehouses, income generation, the conditioning and the conservation of quality seeds. The newly trained persons will in turn train the members of community associations in the production of quality seeds. FAO/ERCU has already rehabilitated 26 community seed warehouses throughout the country. Under the Project for the rehabilitation of sustainable food security supported by the European Union, 8 additional warehouses will be constructed by October 2008.



Training workshop: group work session, FAO/ERCU, December 2007