

# WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

9 – 15 Oct 2006

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

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**Update on seed distributions:** The distribution of seeds and tools was concluded over the reporting week which means that the deadlines for the preparation of the agricultural season 2007A were fully met. FAO Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit, in collaboration with national and international NGOs (35) and the provincial agricultural department (DPAE) assisted a total of 238,311 vulnerable families nationwide. It should be noted that 8,408 vulnerable families were assisted through seed voucher campaigns which were organized in Gishubi (Gitega), Vugizo and Mabanda (Makamba), Nyabihanga (Mwaro), Kinyinya and Butezi (Ruyigi).



Distribution of vegetable seeds and tools; Seeds voucher campaign in Mabanda (Makamba) © FAO/ERCU 2006

**Update on assistance to Burundians expelled from Tanzania:** A significant increase in the number of Burundians expelled from Tanzania was noted over the reporting week. Between 9 and 15 October, the Government's project for repatriation and reintegration (PARESI) reported 233 new arrivals at the Kinazi transit centre (Muyinga province). All of them were assisted with food aid from stocks provided by WFP and transferred to their *colline* of origin. Additionally another 1,221 arrived over the weekend (14 and 15 October) and PARESI initiated verification procedures to avoid cases of fraud. In order to meet increasing assistance needs, WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR are currently processing requests for additional food rations and non-food items respectively. The Burundian Red Cross, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and CRS also continued to provide assistance on the ground.

**Cholera outbreak:** Reports of suspected cholera cases in commune of Bujumbura-Mairie were received and followed up on by the Ministry of Public Health and WHO. At the end of the reporting period conclusive statistics were not available. However, localized cholera outbreaks must be expected and prepared for as part of seasonal problems regarding potable water.

**Congolese Repatriation:** Congolese refugees from Gasorwe camp (Muyinga) continued to return home. Over the reporting period, UNHCR registered another 309 candidates for repatriation through a second convoy.

**Refugee returns:** Over the reporting period, UNHCR reported the return of 2,082 Burundian refugees mainly from Tanzania (1,763) and DRC (165). Some 15 spontaneous returnees arrived through the entry point of Mabanda (Makamba). Since the beginning of 2006, a total of 30,232 refugees have returned to Burundi.

**Rwandan Asylum Seekers:** During the week under review, UNHCR organized a convoy for 100 persons. Since the beginning of the repatriation operation in April, 14,058 Rwandans have returned home. As of 15 October, 4,810 remain in Musasa site in Ngozi province.

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**Child journalists training:** On 8 October, a group of 14 youngsters newly trained in journalism were granted a one hour-interview by the Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza. President Nkurunziza, who promised to support the training of young journalists nationwide, praised Search for Common Ground, UNICEF and ONUB for training the youngsters. He further noted that the first policies announced by his government were in favour of children. He said shortcomings in the free health care for children under five and free primary education were being addressed.

**UNICEF health promotion:** With the objective to support health promotion, hygiene education and water and sanitation in the provinces of Ruyigi, Cankuzo and Rutana, UNICEF handed over 30 motorcycles and 200 bicycles to the Government of Burundi on 4 October 2006.

**Protection of vulnerable children:** Supported by Trocaire, the national NGO *Famille pour Vaincre le SIDA* (FVS) held training sessions on children's rights targeting local community representatives in Makebuko (Gitega province). The training aimed at capacity building with regard to the protection of orphans and other vulnerable children. In order to ensure psycho-social rehabilitation of traumatized children, FVS conducted follow-up activities in Gishubi, Buraza, Nyarusange and Itaba, which are among the most war-affected communes. This activity is carried out in collaboration with primary school teachers in said communes.

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## COORDINATION, PROTECTION

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**UNDAF:** United Nations agencies in Burundi and ONUB attended a two-day workshop (11-12 Oct) to revise the current UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) document in order to align its priorities to the objectives of the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). This UNDAF will now cover the period from 2007 to 2009.

**Contact Group:** On 10 October, OCHA held an exceptional Contact Group meeting to introduce and brief the new Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Youssef Mahmoud.

**Provincial coordination:** On 11 and 12 October, provincial coordination meetings were held in Ruyigi and Gitega respectively. Participants in both meetings essentially exchanged on issues in food security, education and health sector.

On 12 October, OCHA conducted a humanitarian mission to Cibitoke province in the communes of Buganda and Rugombo. The mission assessed humanitarian access and the progress made in the construction of houses for returnees in Kamakara and Buganda. Regarding the latter, activities were completed under a WFP Food-for-Work project in collaboration with the governmental reintegration project (PARESI).

**Security:** Cases of banditry and theft were reported in Ciya colline, Muramba zone in Bubanza which caused night displacements. The activities are blamed on rebels from the FNL splinter group of Jean-Bosco Sindayigaya who were not party to the ceasefire agreement signed in September.

At the same time, around 600 former combatants of the FNL of Agathon Rwasa attempted to escape from the assembly site in Randa on 14 October where they had been cantoned as part of the ceasefire agreement. The reason given for the escape attempt was the delay in the implementation of the ceasefire agreement in terms of reintegration into the national defense force (FDN) and police.