

SITUATION REPORT

12 – 18 Nov. 2007

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ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

Health: Update on cholera cases in Rumonge/Bururi Province

Since 02 November when the first suspected cholera cases were reported, a total of 57 cholera patients have been admitted at the cholera treatment centre in the health facility of Rumonge. Despite the steady increase in the number of cases, no death has been recorded so far. The situation is aggravated by the lack of access to clean drinking water by the population since the state-owned water company (REGIDESO) decided to cut water supply to some areas of Rumonge due to unpaid bills. Populations now use untreated water from the Lake Tanganyika. Humanitarian actions already being undertaken to assist in curbing the situation include: sensitization on the necessity to disinfect houses, the provision of aquatabs and jerry cans to treat and preserve potable water.

Assistance to Burundians expelled from Tanzania

During the reporting period, the Government project for the reintegration of war-affected persons (PARESI) registered 96 Burundians expelled from Tanzania who arrived through Kobero/Muyinga Province (84) and Mishiha/Cankuzo province (12). No new expelled persons were recorded at the entry point of Mabanda/Makamba Province. So far in 2007, PARESI has recorded 8,879 expelled persons of 4,320 families.

In response to their inaccessibility to land, the Provincial administration allocated land in Mwiruzi/Mishiha Commune/Cankuzo Province to expelled persons who were temporarily sheltered at Kibungo/Kigamba commune. Supported by UNICEF, PARESI transferred all 312 expelled persons (81 families) and their belongings. However, in order to reinforce their reintegration into the community, their access to basic social services including; healthcare, water and sanitation and education have to be monitored.

Food security in Burundi's Eastern provinces

Following reports of people fleeing alleged food insecurity from Ruyigi towards Tanzania, FAO/Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (ERCU) fielded a five-day evaluation mission (12-16 November) in the Provinces of Muyinga, Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Rutana and Makamba. The main objective was to take stock of the situation in terms of rainfall, implementation of agricultural season 2008A and support required by expelled persons recently settled in Mishiha/Cankuzo Province. With regards to population movements towards Tanzania, the mission found it normal but recognized that the situation is being aggravated by additional factors such as an extended lean period due to lack of rains. Moreover, the lack of cassava which is the most important staple food does not ease the situation. The cassava type resistant to the mosaic disease has not yet been distributed in all communes of the Province. As a traditional coping mechanism during the lean period, some heads of households therefore tend to travel to neighboring Tanzania where they expect to earn some money for the well being of their families. Given the already fragile nutritional situation in the Moso region (Eastern Provinces), climatic changes will have a negative impact on the most vulnerable families including expelled persons who were recently transferred to Mwiruzi/Mishiha Commune and who have just started implementing season 2008A.

Concerning the quantity of rains, the mission noted that it has rained regularly in all the communes of Muyinga Province. Rain scarcity was noted in the communes of Kayogoro and Vugizo in Makamba Province and in the Moso region (Eastern parts of Rutana, Ruyigi and Cankuzo Provinces).

With regards to seeds availability, farmers are confronted with difficult access to seeds especially bean seeds due to poor crop harvests for season 2008B in the Moso region and the delayed implementation of

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season 2008A due to lack of rains. The lack of food on the market led to an increase in prices for basic food crops, compelling farmers to consume their seeds initially reserved for planting; rendering the situation even more complicated particularly for the most vulnerable families.



Ruyigi market, bean seeds sold at 900 Fbu/kg (equivalent of 0.8 USD) and potato seeds at 700 Fbu/kg (equivalent of 0.6 USD), FAO November, 2007

The set up of a national platform for the prevention and management of disasters by the Government of Burundi is an important step forward towards the management of disasters. Within this framework, a partnership was formed between WFP, the *Climate Predictions and Applications Center* based in Nairobi/Kenya (ICPAC) and the Burundi Geographic institution (IGEBU) to improve analytic capacities with regards to climate forecasts. Under this perspective, WFP held a training session for its field staff, partner organizations and the Government on food security assessment. The objective of the training was to improve capacities in prevention and early warning for climate related disasters.

Update on repatriation

UNHCR registered 1,234 Burundian refugees who mostly arrived from Tanzania through the entry points of Kobero/Muyinga Province (59), Gisuru/Ruyigi Province (756), and Mabanda/Makamba Province (391). 28 spontaneous returnees were registered in Mabanda. Since January 2007, 36,987 Burundian refugees have been repatriated to their home country including 473 spontaneous returnees. So far, 375,986 Burundians refugees have returned under the UNHCR facilitated repatriation process which began in April 2002.

Update on food aid

Over the reporting week, in collaboration with its implementing partners, WFP assisted 84,175 beneficiaries with 1,108 MT of food. 61% of the assistance was distributed through the Food for Work programme.

In order to increase recovery activities, WFP launched a series of environmental protection activities in the Kirundo and Muyinga Provinces. In Kirundo, bamboos will be planted on 20 hectares of land in the Gaturanda region which will contribute to the protection of Lake Cohoha. In Muyinga, such activities consist of the protection of hillsides against erosion. These initiatives which fall under WFP Food for Work programme will be implemented by community-based associations involving 156 persons.

As of 13 November, WFP's operation stocks stands at 9,110 MT of food, 540 MT are being offloaded and another 6,452 MT are still in transit. In order to meet food needs up to March 2008, WFP requires an extra 3,700 MT of food.

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Ongoing initiatives for the protection and community reintegration of returnees

The Legal Aid Clinic Project of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) concluded the mediation of five land conflicts in Rumonge/Bururi Province, Mabanda/Makamba Province and Butaganzwa/Ruyigi Province. Furthermore, two conflict management trainings were organized for 50 community leaders in the communes of Itaba/Gitega Province and Mabanda/Makamba Province. Eleven individuals received legal advice where after they were either referred to their partner organization, Avocats Sans Frontières or to relevant judiciary institutions.