

WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

25 Sept – 1 Oct 2006

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ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

Update on the distribution of seeds, tools and seeds protection rations: FAO/Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit, WFP and NGOs continued to provide assistance to vulnerable families nationwide either through direct distributions or seed voucher campaigns. Over the reporting week, CRS in collaboration with its local partner SOPRAD, organized seed voucher campaigns in Gitega, Cankuzo and Ruyigi provinces. On the whole, a total of 18,300 beneficiaries received seeds worth 146,400,000 Burundian Francs (approx. 140,000 USD). This distribution campaign which will reach 15% of the population who are considered the most vulnerable will continue until the 10th of October.



Seed voucher campaign conducted in Ruyigi commune © CRS/SOPRAD Sept 2006

Meanwhile, alongside the seeds and tools distribution campaign, FAO/Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit (ERCU) started delivering seedlings to vulnerable families through partner organizations. This distribution falls under the programme for the rehabilitation of farmland and the improvement of the nutritional status of the vulnerable. By the end of this distribution campaign, FAO/ERCU will have assisted 12,500 families with six different types of avocado and mango seedlings.



Avocado seedlings in a multiplication site in Kanyosha, Bujumbura Mairie © FAO 26 Sept 2006

Psycho-social assistance to war-affected children: As part of activities aimed at evaluating its Cluster Based Intervention (CBI) project, Health Net-TPO organized a series of field visits in order to lay the ground for data collection. To this end, meetings were held with provincial education authorities in Bubanza during the week under review. On 29 September, HN-TPO social worker teams in said provinces met to discuss the progress

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achieved with regard to community training in psycho-social assistance. This project which focuses on war-affected children started in early 2005 and covers the provinces of Bujumbura Rural, Bujumbura Mairie and Bubanza.

Refugee returns: Over the week under review, UNHCR reported the return of 1,534 Burundian refugees who came back from Tanzania (1,399) and DRC (135). Due to persisting problems in the repatriation via Ruyigi after the collapse of a bridge, convoys are redirected via Makamba. A convoy bringing home another 553 returnees who were supposed to arrive in Ruyigi was delayed as a result. Since the beginning of the year, some 25,901 refugees have returned to Burundi.

Update on assistance to Burundians expelled from Tanzania: During the reporting week, PARESI (the governmental reintegration project for conflict affected persons) registered a total of 159 Burundians who had been expelled from Tanzania. They are registered and assisted in Muyinga (Kinazi transit centre). CRS, in collaboration with the Burundi Red Cross society, provided non-food items both to newly arrived families in Kinazi transit centre as well as to those who had been transferred to Kirundo. For those families who had already been transferred to their *collines* of origin in Ngozi without receiving any assistance, CRS plans a distribution before 15 October. This is at the same time the date of closure of the CRS NFI distribution programme.

It was furthermore reported that a number of expelled Burundians had arrived via Ruyigi but confirmation as well as possible statistics were pending at the time of writing.

Rwandan Asylum Seekers: During the reporting week, 38 Rwandan Asylum Seekers were repatriated to their home country with a convoy organized by UNHCR. As of 1 October, the number of Rwandan asylum seekers remaining at Musasa site stands at 4,944.

SGVB: Within its VOT (victims of torture) project, Health Net-TPO held a two-day training session (28-29 Sept) for community leaders in the communes of Bukemba, Giharo and Rutana in Rutana province. The training aimed at capacity building for the prevention of and care for victims of sexual violence and torture.

Suspected cholera cases: WHO reported having monitored 34 suspected cholera cases in the communes of Bujumbura-Mairie between 4 August and 25 September. None of the cases was confirmed but due to seasonal circumstances, it is expected that within the next weeks the first cases of cholera will occur.

COORDINATION

Coordination: OCHA organized missions to the communes of Muhuta, Kabezi, Mutimbuzi (Bujumbura Rural), Mpanda and Gihanga (Bubanza) with the objective to follow-up on the distribution activities preparing for the agricultural season 2006-A.

Moreover, a series of meetings of key thematic groups were held in Bujumbura to elaborate the criteria by sector for the CHAP/CAP 2007 for Burundi.

Security, access: Since the signing of the ceasefire agreement between the Government of Burundi and FNL movement, no major security incident has been reported in the provinces of Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza where the movement was reported to be most active. However, in Bujumbura Rural, residents report that some FNL combatants continue to collect food assistance from families.