

# Burundi Weekly Humanitarian News

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## ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

### Evaluation of damage caused by heavy rains



In response to information received on the destruction of houses by heavy rainfall in the Commune of Kamenge/Bujumbura Mairie Province on 01 June, OCHA and UNICEF went on a joint fact-finding and evaluation mission. The following damages were noted:

- Roof of the Gikizi primary school administrative block;
  - Roof of the Kamenge youth center computer room;
  - A classroom roof of the Charity College in Mirango I;
  - Partial destruction of 247 houses (either the roof or wall) in the following neighborhoods: Heha (19 houses), Gukizi (39 houses), Teza (17 houses), Twinyoni (21), Kavumu (50), Gituro (51), Songa (50).
- According to Administrative Officials, the problem is generally linked to poor water drainage in the commune. Inhabitants did not lose household items because they were able to remove their belongings as soon as water levels began to rise. Populations have been able to

quickly repair their damaged homes although they are still fragile. The mission concluded that victims did not require humanitarian assistance on this occasion. However, it was recommended that UNICEF should examine the possibility of replacing the roof of the Gikizi primary school through its support to education programme.

### Humanitarian assistance: UNICEF

UNICEF assisted 336 expelled persons who arrived in the Gisuri (Ruyigi Province) transit site from Nduta/district of Kasulu in Tanzania. After receiving food and non-food items, they were transported to their respective collines of origin with the exception of 37 persons who will be transported this next week.

In response to the effects of heavy rains UNICEF delivered NFIs to the Burundian Red Cross to enable the disinfection of flooded zones in the Commune of Mpanda/Bubanza Province; particularly the Mpanda cemetery. The following items were given: 6 sprays, 10 plastic boots, 10 household gloves and 10 breathing apparatus.

In response to the needs of IDPs resulting from recent conflicts between government forces and the FNL, UNICEF delivered the following non-food items to the Burundian Red Cross for distribution to victims: 264 blankets, 264 plastic jerrycans of 10 liters and 11 boxes of soap. Target beneficiaries are the 132 households lodging at the Musigati parish and with host families in the Commune of Musigati/Bubanza Province.

Five drums of calcium hypochlorite were delivered to the NGO Solidarités for the purification of water to be distributed to health centers and various transit and refugee.

### Repatriation of Burundian refugees

During the reporting week, UNHCR facilitated the return of 1,955 Burundian refugees from Tanzania; with 2 convoys arriving from Katumba (1972 old refugee settlement) through Mabanda/Makamba Province (497 persons); 1 convoy arrived through Gisuru/Ruyigi Province (399 persons) and 3 convoys through Kobero/Muyinga Province (1,059 persons).

### Monitoring of returnees from the 1972 group

UNHCR continued to monitor the situation of former Burundian refugees from 1972 who voluntarily returned to Burundi from Katumba, Mishamo and Ulyankulu refugee settlements in Tanzania. As of 8 June 2008, a total of 77 returnee households have been visited in Makamba, Bururi and Rutana provinces since the voluntary repatriation from the settlements began on 09 March 2008. The returnees interviewed described the security situation and relations with their neighbors generally as good. However, the majority of the households interviewed (54 households) had no access to land, in most cases because it was occupied. In addition, UNHCR and the authorities continued to refer returnee families from the settlements who had no place to go to or no access to land to a temporary accommodation center at Gitara (Mabanda Commune/Makamba Province). The center's capacity has been extended to 152 households.

### Assistance to Burundians expelled from Tanzania

The Government project for the reintegration of war-affected persons (PARESI) registered 117 Burundians (37 families) expelled from Tanzania who arrived through the entry points of Kobero/Muyinga Province 46 persons (18 families) and Mabanda/Makamba Province 71 persons (19 families). Since 01 January, 3,438 expelled persons (1,435 families) have returned to the Burundi.

## Protection and community reintegration of returnees

The Legal Aid Clinic Project of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) successfully mediated 2 disputes in the Commune of Bukemba/Rutana Province. Both cases were land disputes. In addition, 12 people received legal advice from ACCORD and were later referred to either Avocats sans Frontières (ASF) or to a relevant judiciary institution. These initiatives assist towards the reintegration of returnees into communities, the promotion of reconciliation, and the protection of returnees.

## Update on food aid distribution

Last week, WFP distributed 402 MT of food aid to 68,229 beneficiaries nationwide; mostly through its Food for Work programme. Distributions through this programme were recently re-launched while rations which had been reduced due to insufficient resources in the pipeline have been reinstated.

## Support of FAO/ERCU during the implementation of season 2008C



Ruyigi warehouse for potato tubers (FAO/Tuduzikivi Association)

In order to prevent a possible food crisis and to assist in mitigating the negative effects of the rise in food prices, the FAO/ Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (FAO/ERCU) is distributing agricultural inputs to vulnerable households in support of the implementation of agricultural season 2008C. About 106,000 households will receive market-gardening seeds consisting of; maize, beans, groundnuts or soya, sweet potato cuttings or potato tuber. The beneficiary households will receive a package of 20 grams of market-gardening seeds, 5 kgs of maize seeds, 10 kgs of beans seeds, 10 kgs of groundnut seeds, 10 kgs of soya seeds, 500 sweet potato cuttings or 25 kgs potato tubers. All of the potato tubers, beans and groundnut will be taken from the FAO/ERCU's quality seeds multiplication programme site. This same programme will also provide 55% of the maize, soya and sweet potato inputs. All market-gardening seeds have to be imported due to its unavailability locally. This distribution of seeds will enable beneficiaries to make use of marshlands which are the most appropriate planting

zones during season C; which is also the dry season. However during distributions, priority will be given to the Eastern regions (Moso and Buragane) where during season 2008B beans plants were greatly affected by rainfall shortage; leading to the scarcity of foodstuff.

FAO/ERCU – Assistance to households during season 2008C								
Province	Sweet potato	Groundnuts	Potato	Maize	Market-garden seeds	Soya	Bean	Total
Bubanza	1 300	150	0	2000	2500	150	300	6 400
Buj. Mairie	0	0	0	0	2000	0	0	2 000
Buj. Rural	1 200	100	320	1000	2500	800	200	6 120
Bururi	1 200	0	160	1200	2000	0	300	4 860
Cankuzo	2 500	150	240	2000	2000	200	200	7 290
Cibitoke	2 500	150	100	2000	1500	500	600	7 350
Gitega	600	150	320	1000	4150	300	200	6 720
Karuzi	600	100	200	50	3275	150	350	4 725
Kayanza	0	100	180	2400	2500	100	400	5 680
Kirundo	0	100	160	1800	2000	0	150	4 210
Makamba	1 200	150	240	2400	2250	350	200	6 790
Muramvya	0	0	200	1600	3500	350	100	5 750
Muyinga	2 400	100	240	1200	1750	0	150	5 840
Mwaro	0	0	320	1600	3500	200	400	6 020
Ngozi	1 200	200	320	2000	2000	350	500	6 570
Rutana	1 200	150	240	3800	2250	500	200	8 340
Ruyigi	1 200	150	240	3200	2250	100	300	7 440
Total	17 100	1 333	3 480	29 250	41 925	8 200	4 550	105 838