



PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : BURUNDI

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PROFILE SUMMARY

Summary

Since 1993, the ethnic war in Burundi has caused the death of at least 250,000 persons, the vast majority of which have been civilians. The establishment of a power-sharing transitional government in November 2001 including ethnic Hutu and Tutsi representation, was seen by local and international observers as a positive step to solve the conflict. But the civil war in Burundi actually escalated soon after the transitional government was installed and as of early September 2002, there was still no cease-fire between the government and the two main rebel groups operating in Burundi. The UN reported in July 2002 that approximately 487,500 people were internally displaced, both in sites and dispersed throughout the countryside as of July 2002. Growing insecurity, lack of access and poor funding continue to severely constrain the capacity of the international community to respond to the needs of the displaced.

Main causes of displacement: ethnic violence and regroupment policy

Since its independence from Belgium in 1962, Burundi has succumbed to several waves of political and ethnic clashes. The latest round of large-scale violence has plagued Burundi since 1993, following the assassination of the first and so far only elected President, Mr. Melchior Ndadaye. Massive waves of displacement occurred in 1993 but also in 1994–96 when the conflict between a new coalition government and several rebel groups escalated. In 1996–97, in the wake of the conquest of Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) by Laurent Kabila, thousands of Burundian refugees returned to their country and became internally displaced. Clashes between government and rebel forces have since continued to cause severe displacement.

In addition to chronic insecurity, internal displacement in Burundi is also the result of a government policy known as 'regroupment'. The regroupment policy was implemented in 1996–97 and again in 1999–2000 and consisted of relocating the population – mostly Hutu – into camps guarded by government armed forces. The official aim of this policy was to ensure the security of the population in areas subject to systematic destabilization by rebel groups. According to many observers, the undeclared aims were in fact to deprive the rebel forces from local support and to regain control of territory. In September 1999, the government forced nearly 350,000 civilians to move into 53 regroupment camps, mostly in the province of Bujumbura Rural. The displaced often suffered serious human rights violations during the regroupment process and while in the camps at the hands of both government and rebel forces (HRW, June 2000). By the end of July 2000, the regroupment camps had been dismantled as a result of international pressure, but the displaced received very little assistance during the resettlement process. Since then, according to the UN and international NGOs, the Burundian government has again resorted to forced regroupment. More than 30,000 civilians were reportedly forced from their homes in Ruyigi province from April to June 2002 (UNICEF 31 July 2002 & HRW 4 June 2002).

Latest political developments

Following negotiations facilitated by former South Africa President Nelson Mandela, 19 parties, including the government of President Pierre Buyoya, oppositional parties and armed opposition groups, signed a peace agreement in Arusha on 28 August 2000.

In November 2001, a transitional government was finally installed on the basis of the Arusha agreement. Pierre Buyoya and Domitien Ndayizeye, an opposition leader, became president and vice-president for the first phase of the three-year transition. Hutu politicians were allocated 14 out of the 26 ministerial posts. South Africa committed 700 military and administrative personnel to safeguard opposition leaders returning from exile.

Two Hutu armed rebel groups which had not taken part of the Arusha peace process, ie the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD) and the National Liberation Forces (FNL), continue to fight the government, despite the transitional process. Ceasefire negotiations are now facilitated by Nelson Mandela - assisted by South African Vice-President, Jacob Zuma - and by the President of Gabon, Omar Bongo. In August 2002, the government signed an agreement with a wing of the FDD, but there is great concern that ceasefire talks will fail if they do not become all-inclusive (Van Eck 28 Aug 2002).

Fighting has intensified in traditional zones of insecurity, in the southern and eastern provinces, but also in the northern provinces which had been less affected by conflict for some time. Several UN reports indicated in 2002 that members of rebel groups had been crossing into the eastern and western provinces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and from Tanzania, causing substantial displacement as well. In July 2002, outlying neighborhoods of Bujumbura town were targeted with mortar and rocket shelling. The violence has caused population displacements of 5,000 to 30,000 people at a time over the past few months (UNICEF 31 July 2002).

Available IDP figures

In July 2002 the UN reported that 387,469 of the estimated 487,500 internally displaced were registered in 226 sites. Due to a worsening security situation, the number of registered IDPs has increased in many provinces, such as Bujumbura Mairie, Cankuzo, Gitega, Karuzi, Kayanza, Kirundo and Ngozi. At this time, the largest number of internally displaced resided in sites in the southern provinces of Makamba (105,558) and Bururi (89,307) (UN OCHA, 31 July 2002, p5). Chronic insecurity and problems of access have made it impossible to count displaced people outside the sites, but it is estimated that an additional 100,000 persons may be dispersed in the countryside, including those who found refuge with friends and relatives following the dismantlement of the regroupment sites in July 2000 and those who fled their home communities over the past years.

The above statistics do not fully reflect the scope of internal displacement in Burundi, because many people have been displaced more than once and these estimates only reflect long-term displacement. Significant temporary displacement to escape government and rebel military operations has also occurred in the Burundian context. Improved data on IDPs should be available by the end of 2002, following a demographic and reproductive health survey by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (UN OCHA 6 Aug 2002).

Protection and humanitarian needs

During an NRC workshop on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in Bujumbura in October 2001, the Minister of Human Rights indicated that during displacement, violations to the right to life, physical and moral integrity, such as rape, torture and theft, were common (NRC, 31 October 2001). The situation has apparently not improved since the creation of the transitional government (AI 24 June 2002). Children are particularly at risk. Up to 14,000 children, many of them displaced, have been forcibly conscripted in the civil war in Burundi since 1993 (UN OCHA 29 June 2001).

A nutritional evaluation was undertaken in June 2002 by the Burundian Ministry of Agriculture and UN specialized agencies. It reported an overall decrease of malnutrition but still high level of malnutrition in Bujumbura Rural, Cankuzo, Ruigi, Makamba and Rutana, mostly linked to security issues (Minagri/FAO/PAM/UNICEF August 2002).

The World Food Program (WFP) announced in mid 2002 that 9 percent of the 6.8 million Burundians would need emergency food for the second part of 2002 (WFP 21 June 2002). Many are internally displaced people who have been unable to access their fields and depend on international assistance for their livelihood. The FAO reported in December 2001 that emergency food assistance was a continued requirement for IDPs (FAO, 13 December 2001).

The ongoing conflict has resulted in the destruction and lack of maintenance of health centers, water and sanitation facilities and schools. UNICEF has reported that only 12 percent of the displaced population in sites had access to potable water in 2000 (UNICEF, 1 March 2001).

HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of mortality in Burundi with 40,000 killed by the disease in 2000 alone, according to the Director of Burundi's national AIDS program. HIV rates are particularly high in IDP sites due to the prevalence of sexual violence and the breakdown of family structures (IRIN-CEA, 22 June 2001). The number of malaria cases rose dramatically at the end of 2000 when an unprecedented epidemic broke out, reaching over 700,000 recorded cases. The number of cases has since greatly lowered (UN OCHA 31 July 2002, p12). In August 2002, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) reported that a cholera epidemic which had recently affected IDPs in Bujumbura Rurale was now under control (MSF 26 Aug 2002).

Return and land issues

Since the end of March 2002, UNHCR has been facilitating –but not promoting – the return of the Burundian refugees from Tanzania who express the desire to go home and who are from the comparatively calmer northern provinces. Recent reports by the UN and government agencies noted that some of the returnees had not been able to return home and had now joined IDPs in established sites (UN OCHA 31 July 2002; Robarts, Oddo, Aug 2002)

One of the major obstacles to durable solutions for the IDPs is the scarcity of land. Local observers have noted that parcels allocated to the displaced are often not sufficient to cover their needs (NRC, 31 October 2001). In January 2002, the government of Burundi conducted a national survey of available land to be allocated to IDPs and refugees upon their reinstallation in their communities of origin. In a country where 85 to 90 percent of the population lives on subsistence farming, disputes over land have worsened considerably over recent years due to massive population displacement and growing poverty.

Humanitarian response

The capacity of aid agencies to reach the displaced has remained severely constrained by insecurity. USAID reported in 2001 that humanitarian access was only intermittent in 70 percent of the country (USAID, 3 July 2001). People dispersed in the countryside are beyond the reach of humanitarian assistance (UN OCHA, 22 May 2001). Recent attacks on humanitarian workers, such as the November 2001 killing of the WHO Representative to Burundi sadly illustrate the obstacles faced by the humanitarian community (UN OCHA, 30 November 2001).

In 2000 and 2001, the UN Representative on Internally Displaced Persons and other UN observers highlighted the need to improve existing coordination mechanisms to better protect and assist the displaced. A UN inter-agency mission also noted that the majority of humanitarian agencies focused their activities on the provision of assistance, while inadequate attention was given to the protection needs of the displaced. Following the visit of the UN Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement, several measures were taken to improve the response to the needs of the displaced. An important step was the creation in February 2001 of a framework of consultation between the government and the humanitarian community, to promote the protection of IDPs. In July 2002, UN OCHA announced the establishment of a Thematic Group to be chaired by the Norwegian Refugee Council, which will publicise and further the application of the Guiding Principles on IDPs (UN OCHA 21 July 2002).

At a donor conference in December 2001, US\$830 million were pledged for the overall reconstruction of Burundi, including the resettlement of the internally displaced (UNICEF, 27 February 2002). But by mid-2002, in the absence of a ceasefire, most of the pledged funds had not been released. (September 2002)

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT

Conflict and displacement: background and development

Ethnic background and pre-colonial times

- Composite population comprising Hutu (85%), Tutsi (14%) and Batwa (1%)(colonial census)
- Numerous interrelations between the ethnic groups (marriage, language, common monarchy)
- The Batwa are most likely the most ancient ethnic group in Burundi but they are marginalized in Burundi society

"Burundi is situated in Central Africa, along Lake Tanganyika and shares borders with Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. Its population is about 5,450,000 people. According to statistics dating back to the 1930s, 85 per cent of the population are Hutu, 14 per cent Tutsi and 1 per cent Batwa. The Hutu are considered to originate from Chad and the Niger, while the Tutsi, of Nilo-ethiopian origin, are thought to come from eastern Africa. The Batwa originate from the Congo Basin (Pygmies). This breakdown does not take into account the Ganwa (those of princely origin), nor a handful of other immigrant communities, nor those of mixed origins (mixed marriages having been common in the past). [...] It also does not take into account the fact that within both groups there existed historically rankings of status nor that passage from one group to another, for instance becoming Tutsi from Hutu or Ganwa, was also possible. The Burundians all speak the same language, Kirundi, which is both the national and the official language. Other languages, as provided for in the Constitution, are also spoken. [...] Despite ethnic differences, the Burundians live intermingled on the thousands of hills of the country without distinction on account of ethnicity. They are therefore inextricably bound to one another and cannot contemplate any notions of separation.

Although settlements have always been mixed, society in Burundi [...] was built along a 'class' and 'caste' system. [...] While their distinctions were not rigidly determined along 'ethnic' or 'tribal' lines, [...] there was significant correlation between class and ethnicity, with the Tutsis associated with the upper class and the Hutus with the lower class. This did not mean that all Tutsis were upper class nor all Hutus lower class. Both class and the ethnic correlations were also dynamic. A Hutu could rise economically and socially and become a 'Tutsi'.

Hutu and Tutsi relationships were in the past cemented by their shared loyalty to common institutions. Kingship was such an institution; patron-client ties constituted another powerful socio-political institution. Patrons were expected to offer protection and gifts in exchange for services and offerings in kind. As social and political roles that once gave meaning and cohesion to membership in the community vanished, the use of the terms 'Hutu' and 'Tutsi' with ethnic connotations became more rigid. [...] Today the use of the term 'Hutu' describes an ethnic group which is poorer and powerless, whereas the Tutsi, especially the Hima (a Tutsi subgroup), are the pre-eminent power holders. [...] Nevertheless, the impression should not be created that the terms 'Hutu' and 'Tutsi' are figments as the "official truth" during the Bagaza period (1976-1987) would have it. This stance restricted discussion on the underlying problems of ethnicity and expression of ethnic differences without solving them." (UN Commission on Human Rights 28 November 1994, paras. 15-17)

"La situation de la minorité twa mérite une attention particulière que malheureusement elle ne reçoit pas toujours. Les Twas sont sans doute le noyau le plus ancien de la population burundaise, comme dans d'autres pays des Grands Lacs; ils constituent aujourd'hui environ 1 % de la population. Cette minorité est la grande absente de tous les débats et recherche de solutions au Burundi alors qu'elle compte,

proportionnellement autant de victimes en son sein en raison de la généralisation du conflit. Les Twas semblent être tenus à l'écart du développement économique, social et culturel alors qu'il leur est de plus en plus difficile de se livrer à leurs activités traditionnelles (poterie pour les femmes et chasse pour les hommes). Ils vivent en retrait, sans accès aux services du Gouvernement, en particulier aux structures d'éducation et de santé et participent très peu à la prise de décision politique (une seule représentante twa à l'Assemblée nationale)." (CHR 19 March 2001, para. 100)

Colonial rule and military regimes (1899-1992)

- 1962: Burundi becomes independent
- 25 years of a Tutsi dominated military dictatorship
- Massacres in 1965, 1967, 1972 and 1988
- 1980: creation of the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People (Palipehutu) by activists from the Burundian Hutu refugee community in refugee camps in Tanzania

"The transition from traditional power structures to 'modern' politics has by no means been an easy one. Two Ganwa (princely) dynasties continued fighting for control during the era of the colonial Powers, (first Germany from 1889 to 1918, then Belgium until 1962) as they had done during the pre-colonial era. The Party of Unity and National Progress (Uprona) was dominated by the Ganwa Bezi, while the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) was led by the Ganwa Batare. In the legislative elections of September 1961 Uprona won, with Prince Rwagasoré as Prime Minister designate. A month later, however, Rwagasoré was assassinated. The political game switched from Ganwa to Hutu and Tutsi hands for the first time.

Burundi gained its independence from Belgium in July 1962. Until 1966 the crown continued to stabilize the situation. Violent incidents erupted after the elections in 1966, following which the Prime Minister, Michel Micombero, a Tutsi of the Hima group from Bururi, [...] overthrew the monarchy and declared a republic, concentrating power in the army. The National Assembly was dissolved and later replaced with a committee of officers, which, by 1971, was made up of 24 Tutsi and 3 Hutu, and Uprona was declared the sole party. Serious intra-Tutsi rivalries for power emerged. At this time Hutu were already being systematically purged from the army. The transition from a Ganwa-run kingdom to a Tutsi-dominated military dictatorship to the exclusion of Hutus caused more violence. For the next 25 years Tutsi factions fought over control, turning the Hutu into scapegoats whenever the Hutu would rise up and demand more equitable power-sharing. On the other hand, whenever efforts towards power-sharing were made, extremists from both groups would resort to violence, to delay or cancel them.

Massacres had taken place in 1965 and 1967, but the most serious ones took place in 1972 triggered by Hutu militants from the Burundian refugee community in Tanzania. Hundreds if not thousands of Tutsi were killed and there is widespread fear that what had happened to Rwanda's Tutsi, namely, systematic subjection and extermination, would happen to them too. The Tutsi retaliation and repression that followed were instant. The first victims were Hutus with education: secondary school and university students, teachers, nurses, doctors, priests, pastors, drivers, headmasters, businessmen, shopkeepers, civil servants, bank clerks, professors. Most Hutu families lost members. Hutu widows moved to the city outskirts when their houses were seized by Tutsi. Many Tutsis also fled. Many left the interior, where they felt frightened among Hutu neighbours, and moved to Bujumbura to fill the many jobs now vacant. Others rushed to occupy the flat, fertile, palm-oil-producing strip of lake shore south of Bujumbura, after the flight of very many Hutu who had been living there. Reports have spoken of genocidal acts and of hundreds of thousands of Hutus killed. [...]

These events had great reverberations in Burundi; yet, nothing was ever done about the massacres. There has never been an official inquiry into them, an accounting, or any effort to bring to justice those responsible for the killings. Thereafter there was no question of Hutus entering the army, and many refused to send their children to school, fearing they were exposing them to a future massacre. Those at school had no role models. The educated, competent, urbane were all Tutsi. That there was a "lost" Hutu generation is still evident today in the political life of the country.

There was little power-sharing following the massacres, even after Micombero was overthrown by his deputy chief of staff, Colonel Jean Baptiste Bagaza, also a Hima (Tutsi subgroup). There were no massacres during Bagaza's 11-year rule and many refugees returned home. Bagaza reportedly hoped development would push his country through the ethnic deadlock. Observers note that he engaged in a series of reforms, without, however, addressing the ethnic issue. [...] All provincial governors were Tutsi and most judges, university and school teachers, magistrates and heads of hospitals were Tutsi too. Uprona remained a Tutsi party and its members were the ones to benefit mostly from Bagaza's management of the economy. In the last years of the Bagaza regime corruption and nepotism reportedly flourished. [...] In the meantime, in 1980 activists from the Burundian Hutu refugee community formed the Palipehutu, or the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People, in refugee camps in Tanzania. Bagaza was himself deposed in 1987 by a group of army officers and a cousin of his and nephew of Micombero, Major Pierre Buyoya, became President.

In August 1988 frustrated Hutu hopes for an improvement were at the root of hundreds of ethnic killings. Thousands were killed. This time the regions most affected were Ntega commune in Kirundo province and Marangara commune in Ngozi province, both bordering Rwanda. Palipehutu members from Rwanda had been infiltrating into Burundi and sporadic fights were taking place until Hutus turned against the Tutsi community, many of them Rwandan refugees. The army pursued those assumed responsible (although it is unclear how much resistance these people who had no guns put up against the soldiers) [...] and in the next eight days it reportedly killed large numbers of civilians, including women and children. More than 60,000 people poured into Rwanda across the swamps and the Akanyaru river. Others took refuge within Burundi in swamp areas. The massacres were surprising even to the Burundians. Hutu had to face the fact that the army was still prepared to use maximum force and Tutsi that Hutu could still massacre many Tutsi before soldiers reached the scene." (UN Commission on Human Rights 28 November 1994, paras. 19-24)

Assassination of first democratically elected president, military coup of Major Buyoya and economic embargo (1993-1998)

- October 1993: Assassination of elected President Ndadaye triggers large-scale inter-ethnic violence
- July 1996: Coup installs President Buyoya; sanctions imposed by neighbouring countries
- Economic embargo in response to the coup d'état of July 1996 imposed by neighboring countries
- Sanctions worsened the problems caused by prolonged conflict, giving rise to a parallel economy, high inflation, rising unemployment and profiteering

"The current government is headed by Major Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi officer who took power in a military coup in 1996. Although it includes some Hutu, it is dominated by Tutsi, as are the Burundian armed forces. Buyoya headed the government once before following an earlier coup, but ceded power to a democratically elected Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, in 1993. Ndadaye governed for only a few months before being murdered by Tutsi army officers, who also killed other leaders of his political party, the Front for Democracy in Burundi (Front pour la Démocratie au Burundi, FRODEBU). Hutu, in many cases organized by officials or political leaders, then slaughtered thousands of Tutsi civilians. Tutsi soldiers and police

subsequently massacred thousands of Hutu, in some cases in communities where there had been no previous killings of Tutsi.

From the time of the Ndadaye murder to the time when Buyoya took power in 1996, the two most important political parties, FRODEBU and the National Union for Progress (Union Nationale pour le Progrès, UPRONA), along with smaller partners attempted to govern in an uneasy coalition. They sometimes yielded to pressure from Tutsi extremist parties whose militia carried out "dead city" operations in which they forced businesses and offices to close and brought life in Bujumbura to a standstill. On the other side, increasingly militant Hutu took up arms in rebel movements, three of which currently pose the major threat to the government. The FNL, important more for its military capacity than for the numbers of its adherents, is strongest around the capital; the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie, FDD), the largest of the rebel movements, challenges the government primarily in the south and east; the less important National Liberation Front (Front pour la Libération Nationale, FROLINA) operates largely in the east. Several of the political parties and armed opposition movements have split, including FRODEBU and FDD, further complicating negotiations for ending the war.

After Buyoya took power, his coup was sharply criticized by most international actors and governments of neighboring states imposed a boycott on Burundi. In 1998 Buyoya agreed to share power with the National Assembly and began negotiations for a peace settlement with opposing parties and some of the armed opposition groups. The negotiations dragged on for a year and a half with little progress but at the start of 2000 they showed fresh promise after Nelson Mandela assumed the role of facilitator." (HRW June 2000, "Background")

For more detailed information on 1993 events, see "[Profile in displacement](#)" (Report of the Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Francis M. Deng, 28 November 1994), paras. 29-36 [External link]

"[Burundi's] fragile economy was further weakened by the outbreak of hostilities in late 1993; overall production has since declined by an annual average of 5%. The percentage of the rural population living under the poverty line increased from 35% in 1990 to 58% in 1997, while the percentage of urban poor increased from 33% in 1992 to 66% in 1996.

Reeling from the effects of two and a half years of civil war, the Burundian economy was dealt a further blow when neighboring countries imposed a comprehensive economic embargo in response to the coup d'état of July 1996. The sanctions, compounding the effects of conflict, have sent commodity prices soaring, contributing to a 36% increase in the general price index over the course of the first year alone and virtually doubling the average family's household costs between July 1996 and July 1997." (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998, pp. 16-17)

A seriously deteriorating economic and social situation despite lifting of the embargo (1999-2000)

- Violence has caused severe economic disruption, even after the lifting of the embargo in January 1999
- Government initiated a series of political reforms during 1997-1998, known as the "internal partnership", which resulted in the suspension of the economic sanctions (Jan 1999)
- The number of Burundians living in 2000 below the poverty line has augmented from approximately 33% to 60% since 1993

"Burundi is poor and densely populated, with over four-fifths of the population engaged in subsistence agriculture. The small modern sector, largely based on the export of coffee and tea, has been damaged by an economic embargo imposed by neighboring states in 1996. The ongoing violence since 1993 has caused

severe economic disruption and dislocation. Large numbers of internally displaced persons have been unable to produce their own food crops and largely depend on international humanitarian assistance. Government efforts to privatize publicly owned enterprises are at a virtual halt. Per capita national income is estimated at less than \$200 per year." (U.S. DOS 26 February 1999)

"On Saturday 23 January 1999, East and Central African leaders, meeting in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha, suspended economic sanctions imposed on Burundi on 31 July 1996. The move followed the 7th Regional Summit on Burundi, which was called to review the political situation in Burundi and the progress in the peace negotiations. The Summit was briefed by the mediator Mwalimu Nyerere and Burundi's President Buyoya on the progress made to date. The Regional leaders evaluated the recent developments as positive. The Ugandan President Museveni said that the 'regional leaders have unanimously agreed that the sanctions should be suspended, not removed.' This would imply that if the peace talks fail, sanctions could be re-imposed. The move was welcomed by the UN, OAU and governments world wide.

With the sanctions suspended, regional trade with Burundi can resume as normal. The Tanzanian President Mkapa announced that Tanzania's border had been opened with immediate effect and called on business people to resume trade with Burundi as soon as possible." (UN OCHA 01 February 1999)

"The violence over the last few years has had a detrimental effect on the economy. Since the lifting of the economic embargo in January 1999, there has been little sign of recovery; the cost of living has increased by 50% since mid-1999, the exchange rate has fallen and state structures are finding it increasingly difficult to function properly. The authorities struggle to provide the civilian population with basic health care, and treatment has become a privilege for those who can pay. In addition, medical structures are crumbling, medicines and equipment are in short supply, and many qualified medical staff have either left the country or become concentrated in Bujumbura. Urban water supply networks are increasingly unable to cope with the combined effects of the conflict, a strong demographic growth (average population density 230 inhabitants/km²), three years of economic embargo, a radical drop in international financial support, and the insufficient resources of the national water board (REGIDESO)." (ICRC 30 August 2000)

"A presentation of the economic situation of Burundi by the World Bank showed the absence of direct foreign investment and resources, with particularly negative impacts on the poorest strata of the population. [...] The number of Burundians living below the poverty line has augmented from approximately 33% to 60% since 1993." (OCHA 30 September 2000)

"Burundi has also been experiencing fuel shortages since early March [2000], only partly attributed to the rise in international fuel prices. Prices rose by more than 20 percent in mid-March, from Burundian Franc (FBU) 470/litre to FBU 570/litre, contributing to increase the inflation rate in all sectors of the economy. Owing to a decline in the terms of trade and lack of external assistance, foreign reserves had declined to US\$ 48 million by the end of 1999 reducing import coverage to less than two months." (FAO/WFP 27 July 2000, "Economic situation")

Signing of Peace agreement in Arusha in 2000 and establishment of transition government (2000-2002)

- Peace process initiated in Arusha (Tanzania) under the mediation of former Tanzanian President Nyerere (until October 1999) and former South African President Mandela (from December 1999)
- Peace agreement signed by 19 Parties on 28 August 2000 but no cease-fire is in sight
- Mandela launched committee to monitor peace deal on 27 November 2000
- Three-year transition period will start on 1 Nov 2001
- South Africa deployed force to protect Hutu political leaders in November 2001

Signing of Arusha Agreement

"The peace initiative undertaken by former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere in March 1996 led to signing of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement on 28 August 2000, which designed a transitional power-sharing arrangement between Pierre Buyoya's UPRONA (Union for National Progress) and FRODEBU.

A great shortcoming of the process was that the two armed rebel groups, the CNDD-FDD and the PALIPEHUTU-FNL, were excluded from the talks and the agreement. They were initially barred from the table until they reconciled with the groups they split from in 1998 and 1992 respectively. After two years of negotiations, South African President, Nelson Mandela (Nyerere's successor as mediator), invited them to join. The rebel leaders first declined, then stated preconditions.³ They wanted an alternative negotiating process since Arusha neither addressed their major concern, Burundi army reform, nor gave them a seat at the political 'high table' through which to push their broader security sector agenda.

Efforts since the signing of the Arusha Agreement to bring all rebel groups to the table have failed." (ICG 6 Aug 2002, pp 1-2)

Follow-up mechanism of peace process

"Burundi's peace process mediator Nelson Mandela on Monday [27 November 2000] inaugurated the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC) which will oversee implementation of the Arusha peace accord, signed on 28 August [...]. He also announced that the chairman of the new body would be the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Great Lakes, Berhanu Dinka. The IMC has 29 members comprising the 19 signatories to the accord, and representatives of donor countries, the UN, the OAU, regional states and Burundi's civil society. Speaking in Arusha, Tanzania, Mandela stressed that the IMC's function would be to implement decisions taken by the signatories to the accord, and not to negotiate." (IRIN-CEA 27 November 2000)

Transition government

"On 23 July in Arusha, Nelson Mandela's choice of Pierre Buyoya and Domitien Ndayizeye as president and vice-president of Burundi for the first phase of transition was endorsed at a summit of regional heads of state. Buyoya and Ndayizeye also agreed to fulfill eleven conditions guaranteeing the full implementation of the Arusha agreement of 28 August 2000. The three-year transition period will start on 1 November 2001. In the absence of a ceasefire, the implementation of the Arusha agreement will not be backed up by a UN peacekeeping force. However a special Burundian protection force is foreseen to facilitate the return of exiled political leaders. Half of the force will be picked from members of the Tusi-dominated army; the parties representing Hutu interests will choose the other half." (ICG 14 August 2001, "Executive Summary")

"South Africa agreed to deploy a protection unit to Burundi by 1 November, to be joined later by contingents from Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. The first contingent arrived in Burundi on 27 October 2001, a few days after the formal installation of the Transitional Government. The return of the exiled politicians coincided with the arrival of the South African troops responsible for protecting them. These troops, who are mainly financed by the European Union, are not operating under a United Nations mandate. In addition to protecting G-7 political leaders, the South African soldiers are charged with training a special Burundian protection force that might form the core of the future national army. A peacekeeping force might be established in the future, providing there is an effective ceasefire." (CHR 7 March 2002, B.13)

"Despite some initial concerns that its implementation might be delayed, on 1 November 2001, President Pierre Buyoya was sworn in as head of the first 18 months of the power-sharing Transitional Government for Burundi. Domitien Ndayizeye was, at the same time, sworn in as Vice-President. Ministerial posts within the Transitional Government were allocated to representatives of the parties signatory to the Arusha

Agreement, with 14 out of 26 posts being given to Hutu politicians and party representatives, a number of whom returned from exile only immediately before the inauguration. [...]

With the inauguration of the new Government and despite considerable opposition expressed by G10 parties in the October meeting, the Implementation Monitoring Committee formally moved to Burundi and held its sixth session and first meeting in Bujumbura on 26-30 November. The IMC's Executive Council has also now been established. While the relocation to Burundi represented a step forward in bringing the peace process back to Burundi, the achievement was, however, somewhat marred by wrangles over conditions and allowances for delegates. The IMC now awaits, from the National Assembly, bills for review on temporary amnesty, genocide, crimes against humanity, and the establishment of the National Commission on the Rehabilitation of Returnees and Internally Displaced People.

Shortly before the inauguration of the Transitional Government, South Africa committed 700 military and administrative personnel for the Protection Force tasked with safeguarding political leaders returning from exile. The composition of the force had initially been subject to much debate, with some extremists objecting strongly to the use of foreign troops in Burundi, while deployment of promised personnel from Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria continues to be delayed. The temporary deployment of the South African force was approved, however, by regional leaders and the Security Council and it is understood that South African National Defence Force members will train a Burundian Special Force to take over the protection of returning exiles. It is unclear at present how long the South African personnel will be required to remain in Burundi." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, pp7-8)

"The Nigerian, Ghanaian and Senegalese detachments of the originally planned multinational force have declined to go to Burundi until a ceasefire is in place." (Mail and Guardian 8 March 2002)

Fighting between government and rebel forces which did not sign Arush Agreement continued (2000-2002)

- Despite political progress in November 2001, no ceasefire with two main factions of armed rebellion and intensification of conflict
- About 250,000 persons have been killed in ethnic violence between October 1993 and end 2001
- Security situation steadily worsened in 2002 as conflict has intensified between rebel groups and armed forces in provinces bordering Tanzania, in the area bordering DRC and in Bujumbura Rurale and town
- International Crisis Group reported that Rwandan troops are active in Burundi to support the government's efforts against rebel forces (August 2002)
- Coup attempts against President Buyoya in April and in July 2001 show the fragility of the situation

"Even as some political progress is made [i.e. agreement of transition government, 23 July 2001], actual peace in Burundi may remain but a distant dream if a ceasefire with the two main factions of the armed rebellion (CNDD-FDD and Palipehutu-FNL) cannot be achieved." (UN OCHA 12 Oct 2001)

"The war has claimed the lives of an estimated 250,000 Burundians, most of them civilians [...]." (IRIN 18 April 2002)

"In addition, there have been a series of infiltrations from both DRC and Tanzania into western and eastern provinces, displacing and injuring numerous people." (UNICEF 27 February 2002, p2).

"It needs to be noted that the civil war in Burundi actually escalated soon after the Transitional Government was installed in November last year. Since then both the armed movements and the Burundian Army have

been massively re-arming themselves. Although the armed movements have not been able to establish permanent control over any areas, the Army has also not been able to remove them permanently from areas where they regularly operate.

The provinces most seriously affected by insecurity are Bujumbura Rural (around the capital Bujumbura), Makamba, Ruyigi and Bubanza. With the exception of the northern provinces of Ngozi, Kayanza, Kirundo, Muyinga and Cankuzo, most other areas have experienced unacceptable levels of insecurity." (Van Eck May 2002, para 2.1)

"Even as attempts continue to bring the armed rebellion to the negotiation table, the security situation within Burundi has steadily worsened. Conflict has intensified between rebel groups and the armed forces in the provinces bordering Tanzania, in the area surrounding Kibira forest and bordering the DRC, and in Bujumbura Rurale. In early June, Bujumbura itself (Kamenge) was hit by a number of mortar shells. Again, in late July, rebel shelling started once again on the outskirts of Burundi (Buyenzi). In July, fighting has spread to the central province of Gitega, with attacks reported on Gitega town itself. It is believed that rebel forces infiltrating from the east and reported to have been massed in Makamba, may be attempting to cross central Burundi to join forces with those in the west and mount combined attacks. There are rumours that Rwanda is assisting the Burundian army to meet this threat." (UN OCHA 31 July 2002, p8)

"At least 30 rebels, eight civilians and two government soldiers died when Hutu rebels of the Forces nationales de libération attacked the northern outskirts of the capital, Bujumbura, on Sunday, Interior Minister Salvador Ntihabose told reporters." (IRIN 27 Aug 2002)

Rwandan troops in Burundi

"[...] in the last year, despite Burundian army spokesman denials, Rwanda has directly intervened in Burundi to support the army against the rebels, especially to control rebel movements in the Kibira forest and Rukoko valley from South Kivu by the Rusizi plain. In late March 2002, twenty to thirty Rwandan soldiers were reported killed in the Rukoko valley.

Rwanda's army was also heavily involved in the operations in Bujumbura Rurale. By May, its intervention in Bujumbura Rurale was estimated by regional military experts to be 3,000 men strong.

The official justification for this is the infiltration of Rwandan rebels into Burundi from the DRC and their use of the Kibira forest to cross over to Rwanda and establish themselves in the Nyungwe forest." (ICG 6 Aug 2002, p4)

"The two attempted coups of 18 April and 23 July can be regarded as being serious warning signs for Buyoya and his ability to guarantee the cohesion of his camp and, consequently, to impose these agreements. The first coup involved young lieutenants from the Military Academy (ISCAM), the second coup involved two battalions responsible for the security of the capital. One possible interpretation of the attempted coups is that they were the expression of a rejection of Buyoya's nomination for the transition or, at least, a serious warning that the army's interests could not be sold off in South Africa. The second attempt was designed to express disagreement with the decision made in Lusaka by the mediation team and the regional heads of state to choose Buyoya as president for the first half of the transition. It clearly rejected the explanation given by Mandela that this choice was supported by the soldiers." (ICG 14 August 2001, p.13)

Renewed negotiations for cease-fire (2002)

- Renewed negotiations for a ceasefire in August 2002; Deal between the government and wing of FDD (Forces for the Defence of Democracy) in Aug 2002 but still no agreement with larger rival FDD wing nor with FNL (National Liberation Forces)

- UN says that due to increased factionalism within armed groups, there is a lack of clarity on appropriate partners for negotiations (August 2002)
- Burundi analyst warns that without inclusive cease-fire, the second transition period will probably not go forward

"Inconclusive meetings with the armed opposition in Libreville and South Africa seem to have had little result but to confirm the intransigence of both FDD and FNL in their stated positions and demands – which, at one stage, included the rejection, by at least one group, of South African rather than Gabonese facilitation, and of the Transitional Government, rather than the army itself, as a negotiating partner. Splits and shifting alliances within and between the groups themselves have only increased the difficulties of mediation. The division of FDD into two rival factions, one led by Jean Bosco Ndayikengurikiye and the other by Peter Nkurunziza, now seems confirmed, while, at the same time, former rivals, FNL and FDD, are reported to have joined forces in several locations for action against government troops and even to have entered into cooperative agreements with interahamwe." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, p9)

In August 2002: "Negotiations began with preliminary consultations at a technical level from Tuesday 6 August. Three weeks of actual ceasefire negotiations will begin on Monday 12 August 2002.

South African, Nelson Mandela, assisted by South African Vice-President, Jacob Zuma, and President Omar Bongo are the official co-facilitators. South African Deputy President, Jacob Zuma (who departs South Africa on Sunday 11 August) will reportedly open the negotiations on behalf of the Mediator.

Parties present at this round of negotiations include the Burundi Government, CNDD/FDD led by Pierre Nkurunziza, the CNDD-FDD led by Jean Bosco Ndayikengurikiye and (as at 8 August) Palipehutu (FNL) led by Alain Mugabarabona." (UN OCHA 11 Aug 2002)

"A deal struck this week between Burundi's government and a minor Hutu rebel group will have little impact on ending the devastating civil war that has ravaged the central African country since 1993, analysts said Tuesday.

The group in question, a wing of the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD), is hardly active in Burundi, most of its troops being deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

On Tuesday, forces of a larger, rival FDD wing, which was not party to the deal despite having held talks with the government, launched an attack on Burundi's second city, Gitega.

Meanwhile, neither branch of a separate rebel group, the National Liberation Forces (FNL), which split in two in a brief power struggle early this month, has yet held direct ceasefire discussions with the interim government.

FNL rebels are reported to have shelled the Burundian capital Bujumbura on Sunday and Monday in what is analysts said was a show of strength. The group has long said it will not hold talks with the government, demanding instead to deal directly with the army, which it says wields power in Burundi." (AFP 27 Aug 2002)

"Although serious attempts are being made to broker a ceasefire between the armed rebellion and the Transitional Government and thus bring an end to the conflict, these have met with little success to date. The situation is further complicated by growing divisions and increased factionalism within the armed groups themselves and, therefore, a lack of clarity on appropriate partners for negotiation and their actual command over forces on the ground." (UN OCHA 15 Aug 2002, p13)

According to J. Van Eck, conflict analyst specialising in Burundi, "The fact that the two-week long Burundi cease-fire talks held in Dar es Salaam, facilitated by South-African Deputy President Jacob Zuma, have

produced virtually no hope that an end to the ongoing and escalating civil war in Burundi can be achieved in the foreseeable future, is a major setback for the whole Burundian Peace Process.

Although these talks are to be resumed by 16 September, it is also highly unlikely that any significant progress with regards to achieving an inclusive cease-fire within a short time, will be achieved.

Without an inclusive and durable cease-fire, it is extremely unlikely that the second 18-month phase of the transitional period will actually begin on 1 May 2003, once the first 18 month transitional period has been completed." (Van Eck 28 Aug 2002)

For a chronology of key events in Burundi, see [BBC News' Timeline: Burundi \(4 July 2002\)](#) [[External Link](#)]

Rebel groups: FDD, CNDD-FDD and FNL (2002)

- CNDD-FDD is the largest of the two rebel forces
- FDD separated into two wings, following the change of leadership in Oct 2001
- Ndayikengurukiye, founder of FDD in 1993, reportedly commands only about 5,000 men most of them in eastern DRC
- Rumors of secret deal between Ndayikengurukiye and the head of the government, who both come from the rich and powerful Bururi province

National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD)

"The FDD is the larger (approximately 15,000) of the two rebel forces and represents, at least numerically, a greater threat but is geographically vulnerable. Its operational bases are in the DRC and Tanzania, out of the army's direct reach but susceptible to regional political and military events beyond their control. The need to infiltrate across borders exposes FDD forces over long periods during operations. Indeed, the longer the operation inside Burundi, the greater the strain on the rebels and their demands on civilians. Such operations also provide greater scope for differences to develop between political leaders who remain behind and the fighters. This has been a constant problem for the FDD, whose cohesion is much undermined by communication problems.

The CNDD-FDD operates in most parts of the country, although their activities are reportedly weaker in the Northwest (Kirundo, Ngozi, Cankuzo)." (ICG 6 Aug 2002, p5)

"A deal struck this week between Burundi's government and a minor Hutu rebel group will have little impact on ending the devastating civil war that has ravaged the central African country since 1993, analysts said Tuesday.

The group in question, a wing of the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD), is hardly active in Burundi, most of its troops being deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

On Tuesday, forces of a larger, rival FDD wing, which was not party to the deal despite having held talks with the government, launched an attack on Burundi's second city, Gitega. [...]

Ndayikengurukiye, who founded the FDD in 1993, now "only commands about 5,000 men, almost all of them stationed in the DRC," said a Great Lakes region analyst who asked not to be named.

These men are helping DRC President Joseph Kabila in his fight against DRC rebels backed by Rwanda and Uganda.

"This rebel group hardly has any fighters in Burundi," said Interior and Public Security Minister Salvator Ntihakose.

According to seasoned Burundi watchers, Ndayikengurukiye stands accused of striking a secret deal with Burundi President Pierre Buyoya.

While Ndayikengurukiye is a Hutu and Buyoya a Tutsi, both men come from Bururi province, whose lion's share of power and wealth has over the years fuelled friction almost as much as the country's ethnic divide.

"Don't forget that aside from ethnic problems, Burundi is sick with regionalism which sets Bururi against the rest of the country," said one expert.

In October 2001, when the FDD boasted some 15,000 troops, Ndayikengurukiye was deposed from the movement's leadership by Pierre Nkurunziza, who now heads the rebel movement's main wing, active in Burundi and thought to comprise between 10,000 and 12,000 men.

Ndayikengurukiye is now based in Lubumbashi, a city in southeast DRC." (AFP 27 Aug 2002)

National Liberation Forces (Palipehutu-FLN)

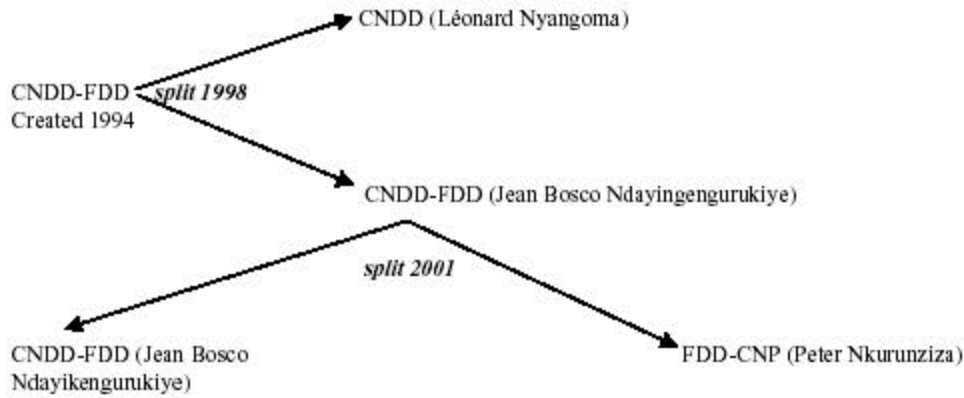
"The FNL is a small force (approx 3,000), operating primarily within Burundi, mainly in Bujumbura Rurale, Cibitoke and sometimes Bujumbura itself. Its strategic position allows it to keep pressure on the civilian population of the capital. The downside is that FNL forces are constantly in close proximity to the army, resulting in high levels of combat fatigue. FNL units are also constantly on the move in a relatively small area, with limited sanctuaries, of which until early 2002, the Tenga forest was the most important.

The FNL has undertaken a number of 'audacious' operations in the last eighteen months. Holding for two weeks the Northern Bujumbura suburb of Kinama in February and March 2001 indicated considerable confidence and ability. However, it also highlighted weaknesses, particularly in the continuous offensive in Bujumbura Rurale, in alliance with the Rwandans, has inflicted heavy losses on the FNL. These developments make it difficult to assess the FNL's remaining fighting capacity, although recent resumption of combat and the shelling of Bujumbura at the end of July show that the movement remains a threat to the capital.

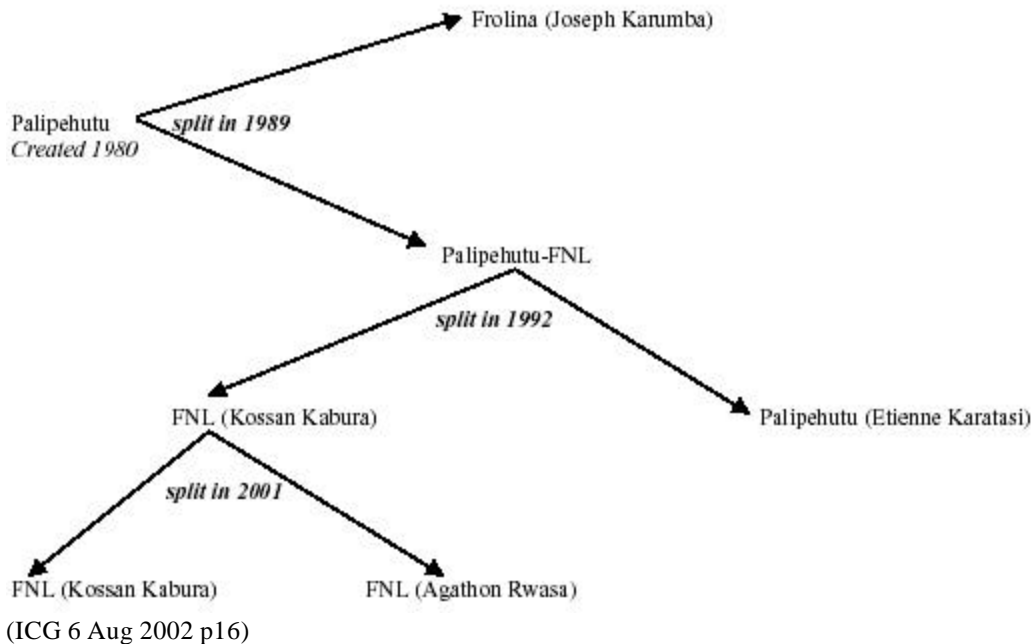
The FNL sustains itself through voluntary and (more often) forced contributions from civilians. It also taxes Bujumbura businessmen who need to use FNL-controlled roads to transport goods to the countryside. It has strong links with Mai Mai groups across the border in Congo, from whom they buy food and supplies. There is also a strong suspicion that millenarist religious movements as well as some local adventist churches fund the FNL, which claims to be fighting to realise a millenarist prophecy of liberation from Tutsi oppression." (ICG 6 Aug 2002, p5)

HUTU REBEL MOVEMENTS

1) CNDD-FDD



2) PALIPEHUTU



Causes of displacement

Government resorted twice to "Regroupment" policy (1996-2000)

- 1996: government policy to move civilian populations into "regroupment" camps
- 1997: end of the large-scale, long-term "regroupment" policy

- 1998: short-term forced movement of populations continues, particularly in unstable western provinces
- Since September 1999, over 350,000 people were forcibly moved by government forces to 53 regroupment camps to deprive insurgent groups of local support
- Government explained that regroupment camps were established to protect civilians from the rebels
- Dismantlement of regroupment camps was precondition to peace negotiations and camps were dismantled by mid-2000

First "regroupment" (1996-1998)

"One of the most distinguishing characteristics of the Burundi conflict is the policy of mandatory regroupment, which at one point in 1997 accounted for nearly half the total displaced population. [...]"

The term regroupment has come to be used when (mostly Hutu) populations in areas subject to systematic destabilization by rebel activity are required to leave their homes and relocate to camps guarded by armed forces. The purpose of this exercise is to allow the military to conduct operations aimed at flushing out rebel positions and regaining control of the territory. Typically, the civilian population is given a deadline by which they have to make their way to a designated regroupment site; anyone remaining in the *collines* after the deadline expires is considered a legitimate military target. Authorities have generally provided no form of assistance to assure minimum living standards for the regrouped.

This policy was first implemented on a large scale in Karuzi province early in 1996, followed by Karanza and Muramvya provinces later that year. By the end of the year, some 250,000 people had been forcibly removed from their homes in these three provinces alone. In February 1997, following a broad consultation process involving UN agencies, NGOs and donors, the international humanitarian community adopted a common setting out conditions for a carefully calibrated relief response designed to avoid any intervention that might be seen to endorse or prolong regroupment, while ensuring that the most urgent, life-sustaining needs of the affected populations were covered. Particular emphasis was placed on agencies readiness to provide significant assistance for the definitive return of the regrouped to their homes.

In mid-1997, partly as a result of international pressure and partly because the policy had achieved its military objective of reclaiming territory held by the rebels, the authorities began to dismantle the camps. By the end of 1997, virtually all the regrouped people of Kayanza, Muramvya and Karuzi had returned to their homes.

Opposition and rebel groups have consistently portrayed regroupment as a violation of fundamental human rights and international humanitarian law, while the Government has always maintained that it is a short-term security measure designed to protect civilians. " (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998, p. 7)

Renewed Regroupment (1999-2000)

"In July and August 1999, the rebels launched increasingly frequent and damaging raids in and around Bujumbura, killing dozens of civilians as well as some soldiers. The army retaliated with attacks that killed more than one hundred civilians as well as combatants and the government tightened an existing curfew. These measures failed to satisfy Tutsi extremists in Bujumbura who demanded more drastic action to protect the city and to repress the rebellion. With rumors circulating of a possible coup and of violence being organized by extremists, the government decided to impose a policy of regroupment on most of Bujumbura-rural, particularly on areas inhabited largely by Hutu and near the city." (HRW June 2000, "Regrouping")

"In mid-1999, it [the government] had revived the regroupment policy in parts of southeastern Burundi before deciding to extend it to the area of the capital in September." (HRW June 2000, "Regrouping")

"The Tutsi-dominated government of Burundi, combating rebellions among the Hutu majority, began forcing civilians in the area around the capital into so-called "protection sites" or "regroupment camps" beginning in late September 1999. Burundian authorities claimed the measure was intended to protect the civilians, most of them Hutu, from attack by the rebel National Liberation Forces (Forces Nationales pour la Libération, FNL) who were becoming increasingly well-entrenched in the area. In fact, they meant to deprive the FNL of support from local people who helped them, sometimes willingly, sometimes under duress. By removing civilian support, the authorities hoped to isolate the FNL and thus reduce its increasingly frequent attacks on the capital. They hoped also to quiet Tutsi extremists who accused them of weakness in confronting the rebel threat." (HRW June 2000, "Summary")

"By the end of 1999, authorities had obliged some 80 percent of the population of the province of Bujumbura-rural-some 350,000 people-to live in fifty-three camps. Although regroupment helped reduce attacks on the capital city, rebels remained firmly established in rural areas. They simply shifted from one place to another when attacked by the army, which had insufficient troops available to control the whole region at the same time. Rebels continued to live off the crops of local people and even to inhabit the houses of those forced to live in the camps. (HRW June 2000, "Summary")

Dismantlement of regroupment camps (2000)

"Government authorities argued that the camps were a temporary measure to protect civilians from attack and deprive rebel groups of food and lodging in rural areas. Burundian officials urged international humanitarian organizations to provide food, water, sanitation, and medical care to the sites. Burundian President Pierre Buyoya visited several sites in October [1999] and stated that conditions there were better than portrayed by aid agencies. The regroupment camps were 'no dramatic situation,' he assured." (USCR 2000, "Regroupment")

"The international community severely criticized the policy of regroupment. In January 2000, the Burundian government promised to begin closing the camps but it made little progress in doing so until early June. At that time, rebel leaders made closing the camps a precondition for peace negotiations and former South African President Nelson Mandela, facilitator for the negotiations, condemned the regroupment sites as 'concentration camps.' Under this pressure, President Pierre Buyoya agreed that everyone in the camps would be allowed to return home by the end of July." (HRW June 2000, "Summary")

Fighting between rebel and government forces caused insecurity and displacement (2001-2002)

- In Feb 2001, fighting caused short-term displacement of 54,000 in Bujumbura Mairie
- In March-April 2001, fighting caused temporary displacement of 40,000
- In Sept-Oct, intensification of fighting in Bujumbura Rural resulted in the displacement of 20,000
- Reports estimate that violence has displaced as many as 80,000 civilians from January to March 2002
- Incursions from rebel groups based in Tanzania cause displacement as well (2002)
- Intensification of violence between rebel and government forces cause substantial displacement of 5,000 to 30,000 people at a time (July 02)

"Burundi's is not a conventional war that well structured and organised enemies fight along a clearly demarcated frontline. On one side highly fragmented and geographically scattered guerrillas harass government positions through hit and run operations and paralyse economic activity by cutting roads and

creating insecurity. On the other side, an army uses air and ground operations supported by heavy artillery against assumed rebel positions and employs forced displacements and terror as regular tactics. In the end the rebellion and the army hardly hit one another but both kill a lot of civilians." (ICG 6 Aug 2002, p14)

"In February 2001, an outbreak of violent fighting between armed opposition groups and military in and around Bujumbura led to the temporary displacement of 54,000 citizens. In March and April, a wave of fighting between Burundian regular forces and armed opposition groups moved from the southeastern province of Rutana towards the central and north-central provinces of Gitega, Mwaro and Muramvya.

The fighting caused large-scale temporary displacement of an estimated 40,000 people and destruction of homes and public infrastructure. An intensification of fighting in the province of Bujumbura Rural in September and October resulted in the displacement of an estimated 20,000 persons. According to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the coordination focal point in Burundi for the distribution of non-food items and shelter materials, some 36,000 families (approximately 180,000 individuals) had to flee their homes due to the violence by the military and armed opposition factions in 2001." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p27)

"Fighting between the government's army, composed primarily of ethnic Tutsi, and an ethnic Hutu rebel group, the National Forces of Liberation (FNL), has continued to disrupt the lives of tens of thousands during the past weeks. Some reports estimate that violence has displaced as many as 80,000 civilians since January." (USCR 21 March 2002)

"The security situation remained volatile in many provinces of the country and confrontation between the army and the rebels as well as incursions from Tanzania in the eastern provinces were reported. " (WFP 23 Aug 2002)

"The fighting continues throughout the country with sporadic attacks and rebel movements causing population displacements of 5,000 to 30,000 people at a time. The deterioration of the security situation started on the 7th of July with attacks on Makamba and Ruyigi towns (7 mortar shells each). Both Gitega and Bujumbura were later attacked and the fighting moved further to the center of the country with activities in Gitega, Karuzi, Muramvya and Mwaro. Pillage and destruction of houses and infrastructure frequently accompany rebel movements. It is also to note that there have been attacks even in the Provinces of Karuzi and Ngozi that are usually considered as "calm" regarding the security situation." (UNICEF 31 July 2002)

A chronology of population movements: A review by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (1998)

Chronology of Population Movements	
1972	An estimated 200,000 Burundians flee from programs and communal violence; many seek refuge in Tanzania, where most remain to this day.
1993	To escape the violence that broke out following the assassination of President Ndadaye, nearly 200,000 people leave the hills to seek protection in sites grouped around military posts. A vast majority are still there.
1994-1996	The escalation of the civil conflict sparks massive population movements; the northwestern province of Cibitoke, sandwiched between the rebel bases in the mountainous Kibira forest and in neighboring Kivu, is particularly unstable. Large numbers seek

	refuge in neighboring Zaire (150,000) and Tanzania (250,000). Up to 400,000 congregate in sites inside the country.
1996-1997	In the wake of the conquest of Zaire by the Kabila-led alliance, most of the refugees in Kivu return to Burundi, where they swell the numbers living in the displaced camps on the north-western provinces, particularly Cibitoke.
1996-1997	As a military strategy to regain control of rebel-held territory, the authorities forcibly regroup 250,000 civilians in Karuzi, Kanyanza and Muramvya provinces. Nearly all of them return home by the end of 1997, but the policy of controlled population movements continues to be implemented in other, more short-term forms elsewhere in the country.
1997-1998	Following the loss of their bases in the Kivu, the rebels regroup in Tanzania, and the main theatre of operations shifts to the southwest, along the ridge of the Nile-Congo watershed that is the main conduit into and out of the country for guerrilla groups. The ensuing destabilization leads to large scale displacement to new sites, again mainly along the main tarmac roads of the western plain, not only in Makamba and Bururi provinces but also as far as north as Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza.
1997-1998	As the military gradually established control in certain areas, the authorities begin to dismantle the big sites near main roads or major towns and create smaller, decentralized sites grouped around advanced military positions in the hills (Cibitoke, parts of Bururi, Bubanza). Elsewhere, short-term regroupment operations continue to be implemented in response to localized destabilization (Bujumbura Rural)
1998	Nearly all the sites in Cibitoke province, for so long the most unstable part of the country, are dismantled by June and the people return to their hills. At almost the same time, the crisis in neighboring Congo produces an influx of some eleven thousand people, which continues up to present.

(United Nations Resident Coordinator System for Burundi 1998, p. 5)

Causes of internal displacement: an analysis by the U.S. Committee for Refugees (1998)

- Pervasive psychology of "flee or be killed" is a lasting legacy of the 1972 massacres and the 1993 upheavals
- Displacement has also been used as a deliberate goal of violence since 1993
- Massive retaliation by the armed forces
- Suspicion towards the displaced population creates more displacement
- Use of violence and displacement as a way to achieve political or economical objectives

"A history of massacres has taught the people of Burundi, regardless of their ethnicity, that their personal survival hinges on their ability to flee and seek a safer place temporarily. For many peasant Burundians, the lesson of the past is that violence can erupt suddenly and can rapidly become all-encompassing. It is a lesson handed down from generation to generation. Some of the underlying causes of internal displacement in Burundi follow:

First, a pervasive psychology of 'flee or be killed' has become the lasting legacy of the 1972 slaughter and the 1993 upheaval. The 1994 genocide in neighboring Rwanda has reinforced the psychology of flight in Burundi.

Second, the smaller massacres that have occurred almost daily since 1994 serve to validate the historical lessons of fear and mistrust. Fear is also ingrained that large number of Burundians have learned to flee their homes not only in reaction to danger but also in anticipation of it.

Third, much of Burundi's displacement since 1993 has been caused by «ethnic cleansing.» Displacement is no longer merely as accidental by-product of violence; it has become a deliberate goal of violence.

Fourth, both ethnic groups of Burundi regard themselves as vulnerable. The sense of vulnerability has become an important part of the self-identity. Hutu are demographically dominant but see themselves as vulnerable to the political and military power of Tutsi. Tutsi are politically and militarily powerful but view themselves as vulnerable to the demographic dominance of Hutu. Members of both ethnic groups regard themselves as victims, despite the fact that many massacres in Burundian history have been largely one-sided.

Fifth, a pattern is evident in many violent eruptions over the decades: regardless of how violence begins, there is almost always massive retaliation against the Hutu by the Tutsi-dominated military. As a result, many Hutu instinctively flee at the mere sight of soldiers or at the distant sound of their vehicles. The country's forces of order, unfortunately, create new disorder and displacement – deliberately in some cases, inadvertently in others.

Sixth, population displacement in Burundi often exacerbates rather than alleviates the conflict. Uprooted Burundians of one ethnic group are often regarded as dangerous by members of the other ethnic group. The military suspects that many internally displaced Hutu are rebels. Many Hutu suspect that camps of displaced Tutsi are bases for militia activity. There is some truth to these mutual suspicions. The result is that displacement at times begets more violence, causing still more people to flee. In short – at least in Burundi – displacement causes more displacement.

These are only partial explanations of the population displacement in Burundi, of course. This review of Burundi's history indicates that some actors create violence and displacement as a way to achieve political control by force that they are unable to achieve or maintain through nonviolent means. Some elements in Burundi create violence and displacement for the economic rewards it brings them through banditry, confiscation of property, and skimming of relief aid. Still other Burundians commits violence and force displacement based on pure fear or hate, reinforced by decades of grievances, real or imagined." (USCR 1998a, pp. 32-33)

POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES

Global figures

Increase of IDP estimates: 387,469 in camps as of July 2002

IDP Estimates (1999-2002)

Date	Total IDPs	IDPs in sites	Dispersed IDPs	Source
July 02	487,469	387,469	100,000	UN OCHA 31 July 2002, p5
Feb 02	475,509	375,509	100,000	UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, p6
Oct 01	632,809	432,809	200,000	UN OCHA 12 Oct 2001
Nov 00	524,055	324,055	200,000	UN November 2000, p5
Dec 99	808,004	808,004 (incl. in regroupment camps)		(UN OCHA 24 Dec 1999)

According to the NGO Save the Children Fund (SCF), the bulk of dispersed IDPs live in Bujumbura Rural (SCF 16 Aug 2001).

UNICEF reported in May 2002 that there were 180,000 IDP children in camps (UNICEF 29 May 2002).

Initiatives in Data Collection and Monitoring of Internally Displaced Persons (2000-2001)

- UN study for improved data collection and database management on IDPs
- Insecurity and logistical constraints hinder collection of information on displaced populations not living in sites or displaced for short periods
- Need of independent census on the displaced population

"Preliminary results on the humanitarian situation, taken from a study conducted in July 2001 by UNICEF's M&E unit have been shared with OCHA and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) [...]. The study is envisaged to provide base-line data on the humanitarian situation (displaced, repatriated and refugees) and selected indicators which will be periodically updated. A preliminary meeting regarding the modalities and potential collaboration for improved data collection and database management on IDPs has taken place between OCHA, UN Development Programmes (UNDP) and UNICEF Burundi." (UNICEF 10 August 2001)

According to the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Internal Displacement:

"In addition to what is considered the 'old' caseload, there continue to be cyclical waves of temporary displacement due to the escalation of violence. There is little information available on such displacement, as most of the affected areas are inaccessible due to security and logistical constraints. These internally displaced persons therefore tend to receive little to no attention.

In the course of the mission, the lack of detailed information on internal displacement in Burundi, beyond global figures and location, was highlighted. Accurate numbers are difficult to obtain because of the overlapping of categories, the volatile nature of displacement in Burundi and the problem of access. There remains a need to review in a comprehensive manner - in qualitative as well as quantitative terms - the situation of internally displaced persons throughout the country in order to identify their needs and assess the gaps in the current international response.

The recommended review should form the basis for the humanitarian and longer-term response to the needs of all displaced populations and focus on objective indicators of vulnerability and capacity for sustainable return and resettlement and reintegration. The response also needs to be comprehensive and should take into account the needs of the host community. Moreover, special attention should be paid to the particular needs of women heads-of-household, orphans, elderly, and other vulnerable groups of internally displaced persons." (UNRSG 6 March 2000, paras. 31-33)

IDP estimates: 1993-1999

- An estimated 500,000 to 700,000 persons were internally displaced in late 1993 by the violence that erupted in October of that year; there were still an estimated 400,000 internally displaced at the end of 1996
- Return movements as a result of the closure of large-scale regroupment camps were registered in 1997 and 1998 but the total displaced population increased again in 1999

"The precise number of persons internally displaced by the violence of 1993-96 is difficult to determine. Security concerns at times have limited the access of international relief agencies and hampered their ability to make sophisticated estimates. Many displaced Hutu have dispersed into the hills and swamps to hide and do not reside in designated camps because they consider camps vulnerable to attack. Local leaders of both ethnic groups routinely inflate the number of uprooted families in an effort to attract more aid and gain more sympathy for their political cause. 'In some camps,' noted one relief worker, 'those in charge are so hostile that it becomes dangerous even to ask about numbers or need. They will bluntly say that it's none of your business.'" (USCR 1998, pp. 34-35)

IDPs end 1993	500,000 to 700,000
IDPs end 1994	400,000
IDPs end 1995	300,000
IDPs end 1996	400,000

Sources: (USCR 1995, p51; USCR 1996, p40; USCR 1997, p. 60; USCR 1998, pp. 34-35)

Flow of Internal Displacement: 1997-1999

IDPs July 1997	577,142
IDPs November 1998	558,506
IDPs September 1999	801,438
% Population	12

Source: OCHA/Burundi
(UN November 1999, p. 6)

Geographical distribution

Southern provinces of Makamba and Rutana have the highest number of IDPs (2001-2002)

- From Feb 02 to July 02, important diminution of IDP figures in Rutana, but major increase in several provinces like Bujumbura Mairie, Cankuzo, Gitega, Karuzi, Kayanza, Kirundo and Ngozi

Province	IDPs June 2001	IDPs Feb 02	IDPs July 02
Bubanza	14,652	14,202	8573
Bujumbura mairie	264	257	12,643
Bujumbura rural	28,420	28,420	18,363
Bururi	104,986	87,581	89,307
Cankuzo	4,486	4,495	13,989
Cibitoke	0	0	0
Gitega	28,026	5,361	24,940
Karuzi	2,042	2,042	9,131
Kayanza	7,573	7,573	23,838
Kirundo	5,024	5,031	15,165
Makamba	106,540	99,558	105,558
Muramvya	27,250	27,250	17,514
Muyinga	17,481	8,945	15,954
Mwaro	182	182	297
Ngozi	4,389	4,389	21,328
Rutana	78,840	77,901	9,094
Ruyigi	2,654	2,322	1775
Total	432,809	375,509	3,87,469

((UN OCHA 26 November 2001, UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002; UN OCHA 31 July 2002)

June 2001 IDP figures were provided by UNICEF. They "exclude a possible further 200,000 IDPs dispersed following the closure of some regroupement camps and who may have been unable to return to their homes." (UN OCHA 12 October 2001)

"IDP figures exclude a possible further 100,000 IDPs, and possibly more, dispersed following the closure of some regroupement camps and who may have been unable to return to their homes." (UN OCHA 31 July 2002, pp5-6)

Internal displacement 1997-2001

Province	Total pop.	Displaced Sept 1997	Displaced August 1998	Displaced Oct 1999 ***	Displaced Sept 2000	Displaced Oct 2001	% pop.
Bubanza	309,127	73,087	132,641	172,408	14,588	14,652	5%
Bujumbura mairie	341,494	40,734	9,350	14,902	565	264	0%
Bujumbura rural*	456,891	0	57,637	317,384	30,889	28,420	6%
Bururi	454,939	58,099	85,737	85,781	87,581	104,986	23%

Cankuzo	181,686	3,254	0	0	5,500	4,486	2%
Cibitoke	417,131	49,620	13,565	736	0	0	0%
Gitega	649,854	20,997	18,316	21,050	5,147	28,026	4%
Karuzi	377,186	134,540	34,360	12,106	2,042	2,042	1%
Kayanza	491,171	70,164	28,879	26,269	7,573	7,573	2%
Kirundo	533,132	20,072	27,852	5,886	5,031	5,024	1%
Makamba	397,001	45,314	36,710	85,680	121,360	106,540	27%
Muramvya	259,993	40,436	27,063	22,506	27,250	27,250	10%
Muyinga	519,313	22,855	32,081	16,473	8,945	17,481	3%
Mwaro**	235,496	0	0	0	0	182	0%
Ngozi	637,923	19,184	25,712	20,485	4,389	4,389	1%
Rutana	59,987	3,675	2,576	16,279	2,127	78,840	30%
Ruyigi	323,677	6,335	2,127	700	1,068	2,654	1%
Total	6,846,003	608,366	534,606	818,645	324,055	432,809	6%

Remarks: total figures indicate IDPs on sites only; an additional 150,000 to 200,000 individuals (most of them from Bujumbura Rural) are considered as dispersed people, who neither live in camps nor in their homes, due to security constraints.

* The province Bujumbura Rural was separated from Bujumbura Mairie 1999

** Mwaro province was included in Muramvya province until 1999

*** As forced relocation sites in Bujumbura Rural were set up in September 1999, the number of IDPs in those sites was

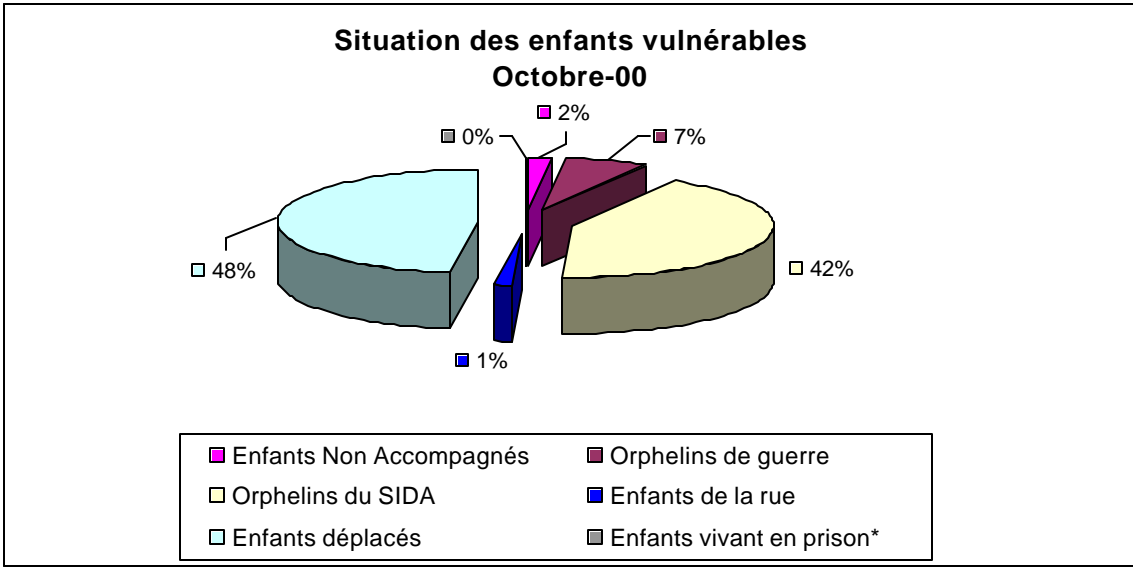
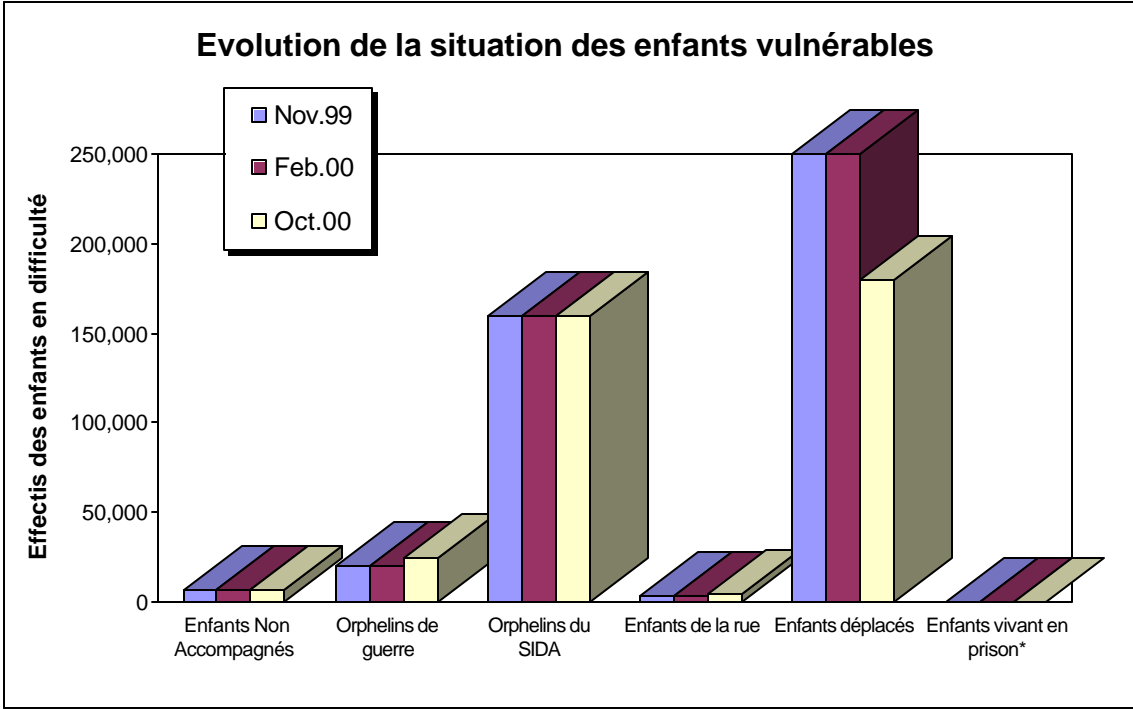
assessed accurately in October 1999." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, pp6-7).

Disaggregated figures

Vulnerable children in Burundi: more than 190,000 orphans and unaccompanied children as of November 2000

Situation of vulnerable children in Burundi (French)

Catégories	nov-99	févr-00	oct-00
Enfants Non Accompagnés	7 000	7 000	7 000
Orphelins de guerre	20 500	20 500	25 000
Orphelins du SIDA	160 000	160 000	160 000
Enfants de la rue + Enfants sans adresse des collines	3 000	3 000	5 000
Enfants déplacés	250 000	250 000	180 000
Enfants vivant en prison*	-	-	173
TOTAL ENFANTS VULNERABLES	440 500	440 500	377 173



(OCHA/Burundi November 2000)

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

General

Short-term displacement due to conflict between government forces and rebel groups (2001-2002)

- The majority of the 54,000 people who had fled their homes in Bujumbura Mairie in Feb 2001 returned to their areas of origin a few days later when security situation improved
- Some 15,000 people were temporary displaced when fighting spread to Rutana province in late March 2001
- 17,000 people were temporary displaced and sought refuge in Mwaro province after fighting moved to Gitega province in April 2001
- 10,000 people were temporary displaced when armed group moved to Muramvya province
- Thousands flee their homes in a hill area to the east of the capital in August 2001, following renewed clashes between the Burundese army and the rebels
- 9,200 fled violence in Bubanza province and moved closer to a military post for protection in October 2001
- 30,000 fled from Isale district in Bujumbura Rural to adjoining districts In January 2002
- Increased fighting between government and rebel forces caused temporary displacement all around the country in July 2002 (40,000 in Bujumbura Rural)

"According to military sources fighting broke out in the district of Kinama, which had been infiltrated by FNL rebels. During the following hours, combats between government forces and armed groups spread to the adjoining districts of Carama, Cibitoke, Kamenge, and Mutakura. To avoid being caught in the crossfire between rebels and army, residents left these areas, migrating towards the more central areas of town, others moving towards the airport and Buterere, another district in the outskirts of Bujumbura." (UN OCHA 4 March 2001)

"A wave of fighting between the Burundian army and rebel forces has caused 'massive temporary displacement' although most of the victims tend to move back to their homes 'when calm returns', humanitarian sources told IRIN on Thursday. The recent wave of fighting started on 24 February in Bujumbura-Mairie and resulted in the temporary displacement of 54,000 people, the sources said. It has, however, swept through the southeast, central and north-central Burundi, they added. In the last week of March, some 15,000 people were temporary displaced after fighting spread to the southeastern Rutana province, the sources said. On 7 April, fighting moved on to Gitega province where about 17,000 people were displaced and sought refuge in the neighbouring Mwaro province. The armed group moved through Mwaro to Muramvya province where some 10,000 people are also temporarily displaced." (IRIN 26 April 2001)

"The vast majority of those who fled their homes returned to their areas of origin to protect their belongings against looting, some days later, when security was considered to be safe." (UN OCHA 31 May 2001)

" At least two civilians were wounded and several thousands forced to flee their homes in Nyambuye -- a hilly area to the east of the capital -- following renewed clashes Wednesday between the Burundese army and the rebels of the Hutu-controlled National Liberation Front (FNL).

The heavy fighting was concentrated in the Kibingo, Kinuke and Mirama areas from 4:am (0200 GMT), with high explosives and bursts of gunfire clearly audible since midday in Bujumbura, a source told AFP.

The people of the Kibingo, Kinuke, Mirama, Gasarara and Kirombwe sectors had only moved back into their homes at the weekend after having fled from the fighting of July 13 in which ten civilians were killed." (AFP 15 August 2001)

"After fighting in Kanyosha and Kavumu (Bujumbura Rural) in July, up to 5,000 families were reportedly displaced, many of which went to Ruyaga and Sororezo." (UN OCHA 27 August 2001)

"Burundian military and UN aid agency sources have told IRIN on Tuesday that 9,200 people in Muzinda, Rugazi commune, have been displaced by fighting that started 3 October between loyalist and anti-government forces in Bubanza province.

A humanitarian aid official said the displaced had moved close to a military post in Mpada commune, about 20 km north of Bujumbura, the capital, for greater protection." (IRIN-CEA 9 October 2001)

"[T]emporary displacement in response to military and rebel operations has been significant, particularly in Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, Ruyigi and Cankuzo. In January, local authorities reported the displacement of up to 30,000 individuals from Isale district in Bujumbura Rural to adjoining districts, as military sought to drive out rebels from the Gasarara valley.

Where possible in such cases of temporary displacement, the humanitarian community has assisted with distributions of food and, if required, shelter materials and non-food items. However, access to these populations has not always been possible. For example, only recently has access been granted to the humanitarian community to Kavumu (Bujumbura Rural), and to households accommodated there who originated from Kanyosha and Nyabiraba over a year and a half ago.

Overwhelming humanitarian needs in the sectors of water and sanitation, and education, were reported. It was also report that local authorities encouraged the return of the displaced to their own homes but this was, in turn, discouraged by security forces. Access in this instance, albeit delayed, was granted under the protocol establishing a Framework for Consultation and Protection of IDPs, which had been signed between the Minister for Human Rights and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in February 2001." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, p10)

"Fighting between the government's army, composed primarily of ethnic Tutsi, and an ethnic Hutu rebel group, the National Forces of Liberation (FNL), has continued to disrupt the lives of tens of thousands during the past weeks. Some reports estimate that violence has displaced as many as 80,000 civilians since January." (USCR 21 March 2002)

"[I]ncreased fighting in the beginning of July caused the displacement of thousands of people all around the country. More than 3,700 people arrived on the 23rd of July to Muramvya town, among whom 2,300 children (64%). The majority of these people returned home after an appeal made by the Governor on July 25th. Heavy fighting also forced thousands of people in Bujumbura Rural (Kabezi) to leave their homes." (UNICEF 31 July 2002, p2)

"Bujumbura Rural Since 23 July clashes between rebels and the military has caused significant displacement in Kabezi commune (18 km from Bujumbura). Local authorities report the temporary displacement of between 9000-10,000 families (estimated population temporarily displaced: 40,000 people):

- 4,000 families in central Kabezi
- 2,000 families in the neighbouring commune of Mutambu

- 2,000 families in Mutumba (south-western Kabezi commune)
- 1,000 families within the city limits." (UN OCHA 4 Aug 2002)

Regroupment of population allegedly undertaken several times since dismantlement of regroupment camps in 2000 (Dec 2000-Aug 2002)

- UN Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement encouraged the government to respect the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when undertaking displacement for security purposes
- UNICEF and Human Rights Watch reported that 32,000 people were forcibly regrouped by the government from April to June 2002
- Group of the Framework for the Protection of IDPs, which include the Government of Burundi, OCHA and the humanitarian community discussed regroupment issues in June 2002

"While regroupement camps in Bujumbura Rural have reportedly been dismantled, new relocation of populations is allegedly being undertaken in the south/eastern provinces of Burundi. The lack of safe and unhindered access to these areas has rendered virtually impossible the provision of essential assistance and protection to the affected populations. In the course of discussions with the Mission, governmental authorities agreed to allow humanitarian organizations to have access to these populations.

Action:

Government encouraged to ensure that any relocation of populations for the purposes of security is undertaken in conformity with the provisions of international humanitarian and human rights law and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

UN agencies and the wider international community to reiterate to the Government its position with regard to forced relocation, as outlined in the IASC policy (of February 2000).

Where access is possible, appropriate UN agencies in collaboration with NGOs to undertake a rapid needs assessment of these displaced populations and provide necessary assistance and protection." (Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement 23 Dec 2000)

Forced regroupment in Ruyigi province (April-June 2002)

In Aug 2002, UNICEF reported that: "Over 32,000 people were forcibly regrouped in Ruyigi province from the end of April until mid-June." (UNICEF 31 July 2002, p2)

"Burundian army soldiers forced more than 30,000 civilians from their homes in Ruyigi province in eastern Burundi in late April and early May, Human Rights Watch said today. Burundian authorities have refused to allow humanitarian aid groups to provide assistance to the displaced persons, who are suffering from malnutrition and disease.

Soldiers forced people to head for these regroupment sites by firing in the air," said Alison Des Forges, Senior Advisor to the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch. Authorities call the camps "protection sites" and say they were created at the request of the people. "Camp residents protest that they had no voice in this and want only to go home," said Des Forges.

Beginning on April 27, soldiers ordered civilians to move immediately to the sites and refused to allow those caught at the market or on the roads to return home to get basic necessities. Authorities provided no shelter, food, water, or sanitation facilities at the sites, in violation of article 17 of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions. After spending one night outside in a cold rain, the displaced persons built temporary shelters the next morning.

Authorities have excluded aid workers, saying the area is "insecure." Rebels of the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD), fighting the Burundian government for the last seven years, make frequent incursions into eastern Burundi from bases in neighboring Tanzania.[...]

According to camp residents, they are allowed to leave the sites one or at most two days a week which is not enough to allow them to care for their fields and seek supplies at home.

Camp residents accused the military of beating and torture, arbitrary arrests, and prolonged detention in communal lockups. They say the soldiers raped and otherwise assaulted women in the camp. They declared that soldiers force civilians to carry supplies into combat and gave the example of a young man wounded by gunfire in the course of such service.

Soldiers have transformed the Nyabitsinda hospital into a military barracks, forcing the patients out and making it unlikely that sick persons will seek help there. They reportedly used chairs and benches from the local school as firewood to cook goats stolen from local people." (HRW 4 June 2002)

"The Group of the Framework for the Protection of IDPs, which includes the GOB, UN OCHA and the humanitarian community, met on June 7. The Ministers of Defense, Repatriation, Reinstallation of Refugees, Interior, Health and Human Rights, and U.N. representatives discussed regroupement issues and the need for better communication between the government, the army, and the population, and advocated for the inclusion of the humanitarian community. The GOB informed the meeting participants that the IDP population in Ruyigi province left the regrouped site and returned home." (USAID 20 June 2002)

Displacement affects both Hutu and Tutsi populations in and outside camps (2000)

"The country included at least three types of internal displacement: up to 200,000 people, primarily rural Tutsi, who have lived for six years in designated camps protected by government soldiers and thousands, who have become displaced in the countryside or at makeshift sites for varying lengths of time; and nearly 350,000 Hutu whom the government required to live in so-called 'regroupment' camps." (USCR 2000, "Regroupment")

"There are a number of categories of persons, both hutu and tutsi, who are now or have been displaced within Burundi, many of whom are in highly insecure situations. These include persons who are living in camps, are dispersed in the countryside or towns with no permanent home, remain in or near camps that had been dismantled, have been unable to return home because their home has been destroyed, or repeatedly have to flee their homes. Some have been displaced for years, others for a much shorter time. (Women's Commission on Refugee Women and Children October 2000, p.2)

Regroupment of civilian population (September 1999)

- 350,000 people, mainly Hutu, from the province around the capital forced by the army into around 50 temporary sites of camps
- The Government failed to prepare the sites or to make provision for food, water and shelter for those relocated
- Evacuation of civilian population by the army because of counter-insurgency operations is a source of grave breaches of humanitarian law

"Burundian authorities have pursued two waves of forced population relocation, or regroupment. The first regroupment wave occurred during 1996-98 when the government moved at least a quarter-million Hutu into 50 camps scattered throughout the country. Some observers estimated that up to 800,000 persons lived

in the regroupment camps at that time. Most regroupment sites closed during 1998, allowing occupants to return home.

The second wave of forcible regroupment occurred during late 1999. Authorities responded to rebel attacks near Bujumbura by requiring nearly 350,000 Hutu in and near the capital to move into about 50 regroupment sites. Approximately three-quarters of all residents of Bujumbura Rural Province were living at the designated sites as the year ended." (USCR 2000 "regroupment")

"In one community after another in late September and early October 1999, soldiers forced people to leave their homes with little or no notice. They arrived in the rural areas where most people live in homes scattered across the hills and simply fired in the air before ordering the frightened people to gather at designated sites. Often they forced them to leave without allowing them time to gather belongings or even food to take with them. In some cases, soldiers shot and killed those who did not follow their orders quickly or completely enough." (HRW June 2000, "Regrouping")

"Regroupment was recently extended to two other provinces. In Rutana, in the southwest border of the country with Tanzania, 16,279 people have been regrouped in 13 sites. In the central province of Muramvya, adjoining Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza to the west, the population of two collines (around 500 households) has been regrouped in early December near the Kibira forest. This site is not accessible due to security conditions." (UN OCHA 24 December 1999)

"[Civilians] were directed to sites, many of them on barren hilltops, far from any source of water. They were ordered to build shelters out of whatever branches and leaves they could find. Authorities provided no food, no water, and no building materials for them and said nothing about how long they would be required to live there." (HRW June 2000, "Regrouping")

"Many of the cases [of extrajudicial killings reported by Amnesty International for the period November 1998-March 1999] have taken place in areas where the local civilian and military authorities have ordered the civilian population to leave the area because of counter-insurgency operations. While ostensibly a measure aimed primarily at protecting the civilian population, members of the government and the armed forces have publicly stated that people left in the areas will be considered to be linked to the armed groups, and therefore military targets. This assumption has led to repeated cases of extrajudicial execution of unarmed civilians, including of very young children, despite it being clear in many cases that they represent no threat to the lives of the armed forces and are taking no direct part in the armed conflict. The clearing of such areas appears to have been taken by the security forces as a licence to kill with impunity. [...]

In reality, while there may be members of armed opposition groups in cleared areas, for a variety of reasons cleared areas are rarely empty of all civilians. For example, failure to provide adequate or even minimum food in camps for the newly displaced population has meant that people often return to their homes to seek food. Many are farmers and may take the risk of returning to harvest or tend their crops, or to protect their crops or property from theft. In some cases it appears people simply choose not to move, perhaps because they are tired of repeated evacuations, or underestimate the threat posed by the order to evacuate. Some may be ill and not wish or be able to relocate to overcrowded and unsanitary camps. Many members of the Hutu population see the armed forces as a source of fear not of protection, as a consequence of years of atrocities committed by the armed forces. Amnesty International is not aware of measures taken to ensure that all civilians have received and understood the order to leave, nor of special precautions being taken to ensure that people such as the elderly and the sick are safely evacuated in a timely fashion. The time between a clearing operation and subsequent military operation appears to vary, and it is not always clear that a realistic time lapse occurs." (AI 17 August 1999, section III)

The point of view of the international community

"Forced relocation in Burundi, known as 'Regroupement', involves the massive forced movement of entire communities to sites at catying distances from their homes. These sites typically lack all basic services, are

sometimes on the sides or tops of steep hills and, while officially administered by civilian authorities, are in practice under the control of military units. In many cases communities have been moved with no prior notice, in the middle of the night, and are allowed to take only what they can carry. Their homes are then often looted. [...]

Humanitarian impact of the policy

The impact of [regroupment] on the affected populations has been disastrous. The Government failed to prepare the sites or to make provision for food, water and shelter for those relocated. This resulted in widespread suffering involving psychological trauma, as these people, already among the poorest of the population, have been placed in sites with access to basic services. The Government's claim that it was the responsibility of the international community to assist the affected people was unacceptable, and was rejected." (IASC 3 February 2000)

See also "Policy of the international humanitarian community regarding provision assistance in the context of forced relocation (1999-2000)" [Internal link]

Typology of displacement reflects multi-faceted phenomenon (1993-1998)

- The displaced: ethnic Tutsi who have fled to camps or villages (end 1998: approximately 200,000)
- The regrouped: ethnic Hutu who the Government required to move into regroupment camps (end 1998: approximately 200,000)
- The dispersed: unknown number of mostly ethnic Hutu who have fled from their homes to remote areas scattered throughout the countryside;
- Above categories of displacement no longer used by the humanitarian community as criteria for assistance

"Displacement in Burundi is not a static phenomenon, population movements occur in several parts of the country and for number of reasons. Some of these movements are the result of military operations in which people are forced to move, others are organised by local authorities in order to protect specific populations or to bring them nearer to their lands and others are spontaneous, people fleeing from real or perceived dangers. While some displaced have remained uprooted since 1993 others have repeatedly fled as security conditions changed.

Different terms are used to describe the country's uprooted population:

The displaced, indicating ethnic Tutsi who have fled to camps or villages. By the end of 1998 they amount to an approximate 200,000;

The regrouped, indicating ethnic Hutu who the Government required to move into regroupment camps. By the end of 1998 they amount to an approximate 200,000;

The dispersed, indicating an unknown number of mostly ethnic Hutu who have fled from their homes to remote areas scattered throughout the countryside;

These different labels were adopted by the humanitarian community and to some extent reflected the different humanitarian needs of the uprooted populations. In 1998 the humanitarian community called for an abandonment of the practice of calibrating assistance to affected populations on the basis of a series of semantic categories, in favour of more objective criteria for assistance such as vulnerability and capacity for sustainable reinstallation." (Inter-Agency Standing Committee-Working Group February 1999, pp. 69-70)

"Conditions in the sites are wretched but things are even worse for an unknown but significant number of so-called dispersed population hiding in the forest and marshes. Terrified of emerging from their hiding

places lest they become even easier targets, these people are forced to play a macabre game of hide-and-seek with rival factions that deny them access even to the basic assistance available in the sites. Surviving solely on what they can scavenge, the dispersed are clearly the most vulnerable of all, but also the most difficult for relief workers to locate and to reach. Sometimes, those who manage to break out, end up dying from exhaustion when they finally reach a feeding centre. [...]

Like almost all aspects of the Burundian conflict, population movements are a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon. Up to mid-1998, it was the practice of the humanitarian community to classify different groups on the basis of the circumstances that obliged them to leave their homes and/or the environment to which they have moved. A whole new lexicon of categories emerged: the old- and new-caseload displaced; short- and long term regrouped [...]; dispersed; and newly liberated, to mention just a few. Over the course of the past year, however, humanitarian agencies and their partners have begun to question this practice. In light of the evolution of Government policy as well as of other developments, it is now appropriate to focus on current vulnerability and a continuous objective assessment of needs. However they are described, all affected populations are caught up in a vicious cycle of insecurity, flight, poverty and disease. Assistance should be provided with the view to long-term, viable resettlement, for as many families as possible, as soon as conditions permit." (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998, pp. 6-7)

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

General

Frequent violations to the right to life, physical integrity and security reported (2002)

- Civilians are victims of rebel attacks and the reaction of armed forces, especially in Bujumbura-rural, Bururi, Rutana, Makamba, Ruyigi and Muramvya
- Armed civilians organized in militias (civilian self-defense force) have reportedly committed numerous human rights abuses
- End 2001, children in the Ruyigi province were abducted by armed groups

According to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Burundi "The human rights situation is still marked by the continued fighting between Government forces and armed groups in various provinces. Innocent civilians continue to be the victims of rebel attacks and the reactions of the armed forces, their only choice being to suffer or to flee towards quieter areas. The provinces of Bujumbura-rural, Bururi, Rutana, Makamba, Ruyigi and Muramvya are the most affected. The rights to life, security and physical integrity are those most frequently violated. Numerous reports in October 2001 referred to dozens of civilians falling victim to rebel attacks and reprisals by some elements of the Government armed forces. The rights to personal freedom and physical integrity are constantly being violated, with numerous reported instances of illegal arrests and detention in the cachets of the police and gendarmerie or military positions, where torture is still being practiced. The right of freedom of movement and choice of residence is utopic in provinces such as Bujumbura-rural and Bubanza." (CHR 7 March 2002, para.22)

"The Burundian Government has taken a number of steps to fortify or expand its security system. [...] [T]he civilian self-defence policy encouraged by the Government, which has enabled civilians to be trained in weapons handling, has spread to most of the northern, southern, eastern and central provinces. In some provincial localities, armed civilians, generally selected among youths ranging from 14 to 25 years of age, are virtually organized into militias under the orders of the local government and even the military administration. They are used as scouts or porters and are either former rebels or rural youths. Mention has been made of the numerous abuses and acts of extortion committed by these militias. The Special Rapporteur has learned that these vigilantes have a tendency to exact payment from civilians, whom they often subject to fines or forced contributions." (UN GA 17 Oct 2001, para.13)

For more information on the self-defence program, please see below HRW December 2001, "To Protect the People: The Government-sponsored "self-defense" program in Burundi."

According to Ligue Iteka, a local human rights organization: "in 2001, Burundi "remained profoundly affected by massive violations of human rights, in particular the right to life, due principally to the continued civil war between the national armed forces and the two principal armed [rebel] factions, the Front national de liberation (FNL) and the Forces pour la defense de la democratie (FDD)"" (IRIN 1 March 2002)

To view the report by Iteka [in French], please see link below

"The abduction by armed groups of 31 children from a school in Ruyigi in early November and of 95 high school pupils in Kayanza, as well as the rape of all women and girls in one village in Cankuzo are but horrific examples of the violence to which the population is still subjected." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, p8)

Right to life and personal security

Belligerents on all sides take revenge on the population for its silence or presumed complicity with other camp (2002)

- In March 2002, the UN Commission on Human Rights noted that clashes between the government and rebel forces are more a war on civilians than a civil war
- In June 2002, Amnesty International published a report condemning the numerous human rights abuses by armed political groups, and the failure by the Transitional government of Burundi to investigate them

"The violence and, in particular, the army's often disproportionate reaction to it, are still causing population movements, particularly in the province of Bujumbura-rural. Given all these events, the country is more at war than at peace. The clashes between the army and the armed groups are more in the nature of a war on civilians than of a civil war. The prize in this war is the civilian population and it is it which suffers most from the violence. The rebels seek to gain its sympathy, but those who resist are likely to become the victims of reprisals. The army behaves in the same way. The belligerents on all sides take revenge on the population for its silence, neutrality or complicity with the other camp." (CHR 7 March 2002, A.8)

According to Amnesty International, "Failure by the Transitional Government of Burundi to condemn increasing killings of civilians by its armed forces amounts to acquiescence, in what has become a well-established pattern," Amnesty International said in a report published today; *Punishing the population - reprisal killings escalate*.

The report documents the deliberate killing of scores of unarmed Hutu civilians by the Burundian armed forces in reprisal for military activity by Hutu-dominated armed political movements. These include the killing of 30 people in Bubanza province in February 2002, 23 people in Rural Bujumbura province in March, and a further 27 people in Bubanza province in April. Some of the child victims were bayoneted or burned to death.

None of these killings are known to have been investigated, or even publicly condemned, by the state authorities.

The report also condemns numerous human rights abuses by armed political groups, including the killing of 18 unarmed civilians, among them six children and a new-born baby, in Bururi province in November 2001, and repeated killings of unarmed civilians in multiple ambushes on civilian transport. Armed political groups are continuing to unlawfully kill those who fail to contribute financially to their organizations, suspected informants and captured soldiers." (AI 24 Jun 2002)

To view AI Report, June 2002, Burundi Punishing the population – reprisal killings escalate, please see [Link below](#)

UN Inter-Agency Mission recommended increased protection of IDPs in Burundi (2001)

"Although the Burundi government responded positively to international pressure and dismantled the regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural, the newly dispersed population received little resettlement support and now presents new humanitarian challenges. As a result, in December 2000, a high-level inter-agency group undertook a mission to Burundi to assess the situation of the internally displaced and the capacity of UN agencies, other humanitarian actors and the Government to respond to their needs. One of

the major recommendations of this mission was to increase the protection of IDPs in Burundi." (UNICEF 1 March 2001)

Amnesty International urges to help improve the protection of the Burundi community from human rights abuses (August 2001)

"Amnesty International believes that the **international community** should play a key role in ensuring that human rights concerns are given a central place in on-going negotiations and in planning for the future. To this end, governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in working for a resolution of the conflict should:

support independent and impartial national human rights groups and human rights defenders, in recognition of the important role they could play in the current context; and

ensure that international peace-keeping forces have the mandate and capacity to protect persons belonging to all ethnic communities and political groups in Burundi from human rights abuses. The duty to monitor and report on human rights abuses should explicitly be included in their mandate." (AI 28 August 2001)

Attacks and killings in camps for displaced population (1999-2002)

- Destruction of Jesuit Refugee Service center for IDPs (December 2001)
- Reports of abuses perpetrated by members of the Burundian military forces against camp residents
- Some groups of displaced were relocated in the interior of military posts; others were kept around military posts, thus surrounding the soldiers
- Military forces did not always intervene to ensure the safety of the camps against aggression by the rebels
- Members of the armed forces claimed that armed opposition groups had infiltrated the camps

"Unknown attackers destroyed the JRS income -generating centre in Buterere for internally displaced people on the night between 19 and 20 November. The centre in Buterere, a suburb of Bujumbura, included tailoring and weaving projects, and a restaurant. The watchmen of the centre were approached at about 1am by a group of men who asked for the keys of the building. However, they refused to hand them over and the assailants responded with intense gunfire. The watchmen were forced to leave the building. Shortly after, the building was set alight and the fire raged for the rest of the night. It seems the attackers used petrol or kerosene to set fire to the centre, which was totally destroyed. Nearby houses were robbed that night. JRS Grands Lacs does not understand why the men chose to attack a building belonging to a humanitarian agency." (JRS 3 December 2001)

Violence attributed to armed forces

"Before the camps were established, civilians in Bujumbura-rural often risked death, injury, and loss of property as a consequence of the ongoing military conflict. [...] Most camp residents who had faced loss from such instances of "insecurity," as they generally called it, said that they welcomed the relative "security" of the camps, meaning not having to run for their lives at the approach of soldiers and not having to hand over their hard-won produce to rebels. But residents of at least seven of the camps appear to have been exposed to greater danger from gunfire as a result of enforced residence in camps located near military posts. In the nine months from October 1999 to June 2000, rebels attacked posts near the camps of Nyambuye, Kabezi, Kibuye, Kinyankonge, Maramvya, Mubone, and Mukonko. In several cases, they attacked a post more than once and sometimes they launched the attack from within the camp. The soldiers returned fire, on occasion firing directly into the camp. Civilians could not flee the camp during these exchanges of fire and could hardly count on protection being provided by the flimsy walls or roofs of their

temporary shelters. In all but two of these cases, civilians were killed or wounded in the exchange of fire or by volleys fired at the camp by soldiers once the rebels had fled." (HRW June 2000, "Life in the camps")

"After the beginning of regroupment, rebels reduced their attacks on Bujumbura although they continued attacking soldiers and sometimes civilians in the countryside. In the early months of 2000, both rebels and the army increased military activity parallel with new efforts to settle the war by negotiation. Soldiers became increasingly concerned about rebel activity within the camps. They selected suspected rebels from among camp residents and beat them to obtain information and to force them to join the government side. In several cases, soldiers beat the suspects to death." (HRW June 2000, "Summary")

"Most of the residents interviewed for this report related one or more cases of abuses perpetrated by members of the Burundian military forces, but many also indicated that not all military behaved abusively. Witnesses from Kabezi camp who particularly criticized the members of the army mobile squad for abuses noted that they had no problems with national policemen. Residents at Mubone also reported abuses by the mobile squad in October but added that soldiers from the nearby post disapproved of their behavior. One man from the Nyambuye camp said homes in his area had been looted by soldiers from Kanyosha, not by soldiers posted at the camp. Others recounted that soldiers with whom they had good relationships freed them from arbitrary detention or ended beatings to which they were being subjected. Still others related how some soldiers helped them resist exactions by others. Several remarked that some soldiers misbehaved only after they had been drinking and that others were simply young and undisciplined. [...] In some cases administrative officials cooperate with the soldiers in their exactions or at least do nothing to stop them. [...] In other cases, administrative officials have tried to limit abuses of soldiers." (HRW June 2000, "Authorities")

"[T]he protection offered to different groups of people displaced by the insecurity appears to vary considerably; some are grouped in well-protected sites or buildings, while others are kept outside although there appear to be empty available buildings nearby. Some are kept in the interior of military posts and thus surrounded by soldiers, and others kept around military posts, thus surrounding the soldiers. This latter situation was the case for example in Bukeye, Kibago commune, Makamba province in January 1999, where some displaced people were grouped for a short time around the military post. Although in that instance, none were killed, Amnesty International is concerned that this could amount to using the population as human shields and put them in great danger. In Makamba province in January 1999, concern was raised by some sources that those in the better protected sites appeared to be predominantly Tutsi, while those in the more exposed sites, predominantly Hutu." (AI 17 August 1999, section III)

Violence attributed to opposition groups

"Two people were killed and four wounded during an attack by rebels on Biniganyi camp in Nyanza Lac, southwestern Burundi, an official from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Burundi told IRIN on Tuesday.

According to the official, 40 to 60 houses were burnt in the attack, which took place on the night of 17-18 April. "From mid-April, groups of rebels started by initially looting from the displaced people's camp. On the night of 17-18 April they actually attacked the camp," he said.

"There is no information whether the families attacked were targeted," the official said. The camp is host to between 800 and 1,000 people." (IRIN 23 April 2002, "displaced")

In November 2001, "The rebels attacked the camp for displaced people at Nganji, six kilometers (3.6 miles) from Muyinga, and then torched the dispensary and some offices, which led the displaced persons and several inhabitants of the zone to seek refuge in Muyinga', Muyinga Province Governor Lazare Karekezi said." (AFP 19 Nov 2001)

"According to residents of a number of camps, FNL combatants circulate freely in the camp sites. Some said they saw men whom they knew to be rebels in camp during the day, dressed in civilian clothes.

According to them, the rebels put on uniforms only when they were going to engage in combat. One witness reported that when rebels planned an attack near or from within a camp, they advised the civilian population to take cover. Several witnesses said that FNL combatants came to the camps at night to visit families or friends and to seek new supporters. The rebels reportedly told people that they want only "to protect your houses and fields from the soldiers that want to destroy them." They also distributed pamphlets explaining their cause to residents in camps in Isale and Kabezi communes. In Kabezi camp, they felt sufficiently secure to hold a public meeting at night on April 24 to instruct people how to react to government proposals for closing the camps. They directed them to refuse to return home in small numbers and to leave camp only if everyone was authorized to go at the same time." (HRW June 2000, "Abuses by rebels")

"By executing attacks on military posts near the camps and sometimes from within their confines, [...], the FNL increased the likelihood that civilians would suffer from battle-related injuries or death. [...] In addition, FNL combatants came into the camps to ask or demand money and other 'contributions' from residents. Generally they did so without injuring them, but on April 23 [2000], Easter Sunday, FNL combatants arrived at Ruziba camp and asked or forced resident to over rice, beans, goats, chickens, and clothes, especially jeans. When a fifty-year-old man tried to stop them from taking his property and cried out to attract the attention of others, they killed him. One witness said that the combatant who shot him had been drunk.

Said to be well-disciplined - especially in comparison with the FDD combatants who used to fight in this region - FNL combatants are supposedly forbidden to drink alcohol, gamble, possess any symbols of traditional religion, or have sexual relations with women. They sing Christian hymns when going into battle and they say they fight in the name of God. Some combatants violate these rules. [...] According to a resident of Nyamaboko camp, a young woman named Melanie was executed by a FNL commander because she had reportedly been having sexual relations with one of his men." (HRW June 2000, "Abuses by rebels")

Dismantling of "regroupment camps" forces displaced to return to unsafe areas (1998-2000)

- Reports of displaced returning from "regroupment" sites exposed to fighting between armed forces and the rebels

"Local media in Burundi have reported several attacks in different parts of the country which left at least 10 people dead. The Azania news agency reported on Wednesday that fighting in the Mutambu-Kabezi sector of Bujumbura Rural had followed the beginning of the third phase of the disbanding of regroupment camps by government authorities. It reported that government forces attacked a rebel hideout in Muhwazi in Ruyigi province in eastern Burundi in an attack which targeted a rebel training centre. In another attack, government soldiers surrounded Mutambu in Bujumbura Rural early on Tuesday, killing six rebels and losing two soldiers. On Tuesday night, in the Kayogoro commune trading centre of Makamba province, six people were killed in an attack." (IRIN 16 June 2000)

"On some occasions, the Government also has persecuted displaced persons. However, it permits humanitarian assistance to reach displaced persons and promotes their return and resettlement. On occasion it compelled displaced persons to return to dangerous conditions." (U.S. DOS 26 February 1999, section 2d)

"[I]n some cases, camps have been forcibly closed and the population forced home despite insecurity, bringing into question the government's claim that the camps were set up for the protection of the population." (AI 19 November 1998, section III)

Displaced women and children face specific protection problems (1998-2002)

- Displaced children have to struggle to keep alive in camps as they face abuses from the government and rebel forces
- Many displaced women are victims of threats and sexual abuses in and near camps
- Up to 14,000 children have been used in the civil war and vulnerable children are often targeted
- In Oct 2001 UNICEF and the government signed protocol of agreement to conduct a survey of child soldiers in the army to designing schemes for demobilizing them

"Instead of learning more constructive lessons at school, [...] children [in the camps, especially orphans] learned lessons of abuse and brutality as they fought to keep themselves alive. Older children worked for the soldiers, particularly if there were no adults available to provide the services required from their household. Boys supplied firewood and transported supplies and girls brought water from springs or rivers to meet the soldiers' daily needs. In some cases, boys were required to leave the camp with soldiers, often to transport goods to another post. " [...] Some children, called doriya, work directly for soldiers and spend most of their time in their company. Most have no families or have found that their families cannot support them. [...] In addition to receiving food and clothing from the soldiers, the children sometimes receive a small part of the loot as recompense for their help in pillaging the property of others. [...] The FLN [rebel group], like the regular army, recruit and use doriya, children who serve as soldiers and helpers." (HRW June 2000, "Children and the Doriya" & "Abuses by rebels")

"The Committee [on the Rights of the Child] recommends that the State party make every effort to end and prevent the sexual exploitation or abuse of children, giving particular attention to those children living in camps." (CRC 16 October 2000 para.76)

Soldiers also raped and sexually harassed women who live in the camps. They recruited children to spy for them in the camps, to help them loot property, and to serve as lookouts, scouts, and porters when they are on patrol." (HRW June 2000, "Summary")

"Several cases of rape have been reported in Kinama, in Bujumbura-Mairie (12 since April 2001, including four in the district of Bubanza and three in Muyinga). During her visit to Kinama, the Special Rapporteur was informed by the Kinama women's association that several women had been raped during the events of Kinama in February and March 2001. In its annual report on the human rights situation, ITEKA referred to 93 appeals in rape cases that had been brought before the regional courts of Burundi during the course of the year.

Cases of rape, including the rape of girls, have been reported, particularly in the stricken areas. Other rapes are committed by armed bands on women captured during attacks. Unfortunately, many cases are not brought to trial. The laws of Burundi provide for 10 to 20 years' imprisonment for rape, or even more if there are aggravating circumstances. Most often, however, the guilty go unpunished. No doubt social and other pressures explain the fact that victims or their parents often accept out-of-court settlements." (UN GA 17 Oct 2001, para.69-70)

"Residents of camps in the communes of Mutimbuzi, Isale, Kanyosha, Mutambu, and Kabezi reported cases of rape and sexual abuse of women by soldiers since the establishment of the camps. In a number of cases, soldiers have raped women, often after having encountered them in a secluded place outside the camp or after having brought them to the military post on some pretext. In many other cases, soldiers have used their authority to pressure women to engage in sexual acts against their will, sometimes in return for implied or explicit promises of protection or small payments. [...] Fear of soldiers is so great that sometimes people refuse to intervene even if it is clear that a rape is taking place." (HRW June 2000, "Military abuses")

"At sites of displaced persons and regrouped populations, the difficult access to food and water is the main problem, especially for women and children. The quantity of food is insufficient and its quality mediocre, maize being the main item of nutrition. Because of food scarcity, the women make great sacrifices on behalf of their children who are in very precarious health. Women are often most vulnerable while engaged in their daily tasks, such as gathering firewood. In most camps, women must venture beyond the camp perimeters, sometimes walking several kilometres, to collect wood for their cooking fires. Exposed and helpless, they may be subjected to brutal sexual assault and rape. Often the victims are mercilessly shot, knifed or beaten." (UN GA 13 October 1998, para. 53)

"Up to 14,000 children have taken part in the eight-year civil war in Burundi, according to a report from the 'Coalition to stop the use of child soldiers'. Since the August 2000 peace agreement, which explicitly protects children, fighting between government and opposition forces has continued and both sides have reportedly recruited children as young as 12, often from refugee and regroupment camps. The country's minimum age for recruitment is 16, although the government has stated that in practice no one under 18 is recruited. The rebel groups are also known to recruit child soldiers, including boys and girls under 15, the report stated. "Vulnerable children, such as street children, are often targeted. At the start of the conflict between 3,000 and 5,000 children under 18 were sent to the Central African Republic, Rwanda and Tanzania for training," it said. Opposition groups also reportedly recruit fighters, including children, from five refugee camps in western Tanzania. The report shows the clear importance of efforts to both prevent children from enrolling in the army through legal measures and youth programs, as well as the importance of DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration).

The Ministry of Human Rights in Burundi has acknowledged the issue and released a report entitled, 'Child Soldiers: An Affront to Burundi that must be eradicated' in September 2000. UNICEF has been continually working with the reintegration and reinsertion of formerly child soldiers through support to Maison Shalom, a Burundian NGO, which provides psychosocial assistance, placement with families and job training." (UN OCHA 29 June 2001)

"On 30 October 2001, UNICEF signed a protocol of agreement with the Government to conduct a survey of child soldiers in the Burundian army with a view to designing schemes for demobilizing them and returning them to life in society. [...] It remains to be seen whether this decision will be respected in the field and by all concerned, including a good many parents who, for prestige or out of necessity, lie about the ages of their children whom they want to see enrolled in the army, or, failing that, in a Government militia, at any price." (CHR 7 March 2002, para.61)

Personal Liberty

Reports of forced labor and forced recruitment in camps (1998-2001)

- Male camp inhabitants forced to accompany soldiers on military operations to shield them from ambush by rebels
- Displaced persons in camps forced by armed forces and rebels to cook, fetch water, chop wood, and perform other chores without compensation
- Minister of defense acknowledged that civilians are providing services to soldiers and that abuses should be stopped

"[...] the displaced persons allegedly endure many acts of violence and are subjected to forced labour by the military. Some are said to be planning to leave the camp in order to escape the abuse. The Ministry of Defence should take strong action to put a halt to these practices [...]." (UN GA 17 Oct 2001, para.75)

"In the period immediately after the 'regroupment,' soldiers forced groups of men to accompany them as they searched for rebels in the vicinity of the newly established camps. More recently, they required groups of men to join them on patrols looking for rebels, to go with them to clear underbrush (an operation meant to deny cover to rebels), or to help them in moving goods and equipment from one post to another. Men from Nyamaboko, Kiyenzi, Muberure, Kabezi, Mubone, and Nyambuye all reported having been required to accompany soldiers for work outside the camp. In these operations, the military generally made the civilians walk in front of them so as to shield them from any ambush by the rebels. Camp residents were required to do this work only occasionally but they particularly disliked it because it exposed them to serious risk." (HRW June 2000, "Life in the camps")

"The law prohibits the performance of forced or compulsory labor by adults or children; however, soldiers guarding internally displaced persons sites often require inhabitants to cook, fetch water, chop wood, and perform other chores without compensation. The rebels also require peasants to perform uncompensated labor, including the transport of supplies and weapons. Apart from these situations, forced labor is not known to occur. There were no reports of forced child labor. (U.S. DOS 25 February 2000, sect. 6.c)

"Soldiers generally require camp residents to provide them with firewood and, if there is no water at the post-as is sometimes the case-with water for drinking and bathing. Many men said that they had to find and provide firewood to soldiers once or twice a week. In some cases, households had to supply one person to fetch water every day. At Nyambuye, the water source was one hour by foot down a steep hill from the site and the work was usually done by women. Two frequently burdened with this task complained about how much time it took. They said that soldiers would not let cultivators leave for their fields until their daily quota of water had been provided. Those who refused to work or who were deemed to have done insufficient work were beaten or were refused permission to go their fields the next time they wished to do so. [...]

In a meeting with Human Rights Watch researchers, the minister of defense acknowledged that civilians were providing services to soldiers at military posts near the camps, but he described this as a matter of practice, with variations between camps, rather than as a policy. He said that in some situations the civilians had volunteered to provide the services to show their appreciation for the protection afforded by the soldiers, but he admitted that this was not the case in most camps. He recognized that requiring these services represented an abuse that should be stopped." (HRW June 2000, "Life in the camps")

Forced displacement of 350,000 civilians has been carried out in violation of international law (2000)

- Forced displacement violated Art 17(1) of Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions and Principle 6 of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- Principles 9, 10, 11,12 and 14 of the Guiding Principles were violated while the displaced persons were in regroupment camps

"In terms of the number of persons affected, the Burundian government violated international humanitarian law most seriously by forcibly displacing some 350,000 persons from their homes and keeping them in camps where they suffered from miserable conditions of life, some of them for ten months. Article 17 (1) of Protocol II [to the Geneva Conventions Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Conflicts, acceded to by Burundi on June 10, 1993] prohibits such deliberate displacement of civilians except for their own security or for imperative military reasons.

Combat in Bujumbura-rural had increased in the months preceding the decision for regroupment, but the Hutu population suffered increased risk to their security more from the Burundian armed forces than from the insurgents. This risk of harm was not great enough to require confining residents in camps and could

have been minimized by insisting that members of the Burundian armed forces abstain from attacks on the civilian population. Enforced residence in the camps exposed the displaced people to a number of other abuses by members of the Burundian armed forces as well as to a greater likelihood of death by disease and malnutrition than they would have suffered had they remained at home. In this way, regroupment actually reduced the security of camp residents.

In determining whether regroupment was justified by "imperative military reasons," the most authoritative source to interpreting the Protocol is its Commentary which states :

'Clearly, imperative military reasons cannot be justified by political motives. For example, it would be prohibited to move a population in order to exercise more effective control over a dissident ethnic group.'

The Hutu of Bujumbura-rural constituted a social base for the FNL and Burundian authorities did indeed displace them with the aim of exercising closer control over them, a political reason specifically excluded by the Commentary. Some of the residents of this province had provided food and shelter to FNL combatants-willingly or unwillingly-and so had supported their military activity. But this assistance was not so crucial to their combat as to qualify interrupting it as an "imperative" military reason. Article 17 also provides that all possible measures be taken to ensure that displaced persons be provided with "satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety and nutrition" at places to which they are moved. As is clear from the information presented above, Burundian authorities took no measures to assure satisfactory conditions, even for those persons displaced long after the initial decision for regroupment was made.

Soldiers and national policemen and others acting at their direction, like doriya, who have killed, raped, or tortured civilians or treated them in a humiliating and degrading way, as detailed above, have violated the provisions of article 3 and of article 4 of Protocol II and they have failed to observe the principles recognized by the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 2444. Members of the Burundian armed forces who indiscriminately fired their weapons when herding civilians into regroupment camps and who shot directly into the camps as they did at Kavumu and Kabezi, have also violated these provisions of international law, as they have the prohibition of attacks on civilians. [...]

By forcibly displacing the population, the government of Burundi contravened principle 6 [of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement], which echoes article 17 discussed above. By giving people little or no advance notice of their forcible removal, by failing to provide any explanation of the necessity of the move, by failing to obtain the consent of those moved, and by failing to provide satisfactory conditions for their installation in the camps, the government contravened principle 7. Authorities carried out the displacement in total disregard of the rights to security and dignity of those affected, a violation of principle 8, and imposed the move on people who were largely farmers, those with a special dependency on their lands, thus disregarding principle 9.

Principle 10 specifies the protection of displaced persons against loss of life by murder, summary or arbitrary executions, and enforced disappearances which might result in death. It specifically prohibits direct or indiscriminate attacks, use of displaced persons as shields from attack, and attacks on camps. Members of the Burundian armed forces contravened principle 10 in the crimes and attacks described above. Members of the Burundian armed forces contravened principle 11 by raping, torturing, and committing other outrages on the physical, mental and moral integrity of displaced persons. Members of the Burundian armed forces contravened principle 11 by requiring forced labor from children and principle 12 by recruiting, requiring or permitting displaced children to take part in hostilities. Principle 14 specifies that displaced persons have the right to move freely in and out of camps. This principle was ignored by Burundian authorities, whether military or civilian, who restricted the movement of civilians for their own purposes." (HRW June 2000 "Violation of international law & Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement")

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

General

UNICEF: new IDPs in Bujumbura Rural and Ruyigi Provinces need more assistance (Aug 2002)

"Between 80,000 and 100,000 people have been displaced in Bujumbura Rural since the beginning of April. Currently, approximately 35,000 people are gathered in the small town of Rushubi. Although the humanitarian community has provided temporary assistance and protection to this population, the assistance is not appropriate for the length of time that the population has been displaced considering that the deterioration of the security situation do not favouring their return home.[...]

Over 32,000 people were forcibly regrouped in Ruyigi province from the end of April until mid-June. In spite of the efforts of the humanitarian community, these displaced people did not received sufficient protection or assistance." (UNICEF 31 July 2002)

"Some 45,000 civilians who fled fighting in Kabezi, near the capital Bujumbura, between Hutu rebels and government forces have been stranded without humanitarian aid for a week, a local official said [...]. [...]

Ten cases of cholera have been declared at one of the sites where the displaced have set up camp, he said.

'There is no drinking water, no toilet facilities, they have no roof over their heads—they have nothing,' he said, urging 'humanitarian organisations to come to their aid very quickly.' (AFP 1 Aug 2002)

Gitega: at least 32,000 IDPs need humanitarian supplies urgently (Aug 2002)

"At least 32,000 people in the central province of Gitega are in distress and in urgent need for humanitarian supplies, as a result of rebel attacks in July, the Burundian state-owned news agency, ABP, reported on Thursday, quoting provincial authorities.

The displaced are mostly concentrated in the communes of Giheta, Bugendana, Itaba, Nyarusange, Ryansoro and Gitega, with the largest numbers of them in Bugendana (19,278), Gitega (5,522) and Giheta (5,263) communes. They need food, clothing, blankets, household utensils, medicine, and iron sheets to reconstruct their houses.

With schools due to reopen, children also need learning materials, the agency reported. It added that the provincial governor had asked the minister of reintegration and resettlement of displaced people and repatriates, Francoise Ngendahayo, for help." (IRIN 30 Aug 2002)

Makamba: urgent shelter, non-food and education needs in the Province with highest number of IDPs (2001- 2002)

"Participants in a provincial focal point meeting underlined, that security has improved, despite incidents of looting in the southern communes of Nyanza Lac, Mabanda and Kibago. Agricultural production is not sufficient, due to unfavourable climatic conditions, and because farmers find it difficult to access their

fields regularly, particularly in unstable areas close to the Tanzanian border. Out of the province's total population of 400,000 one third is displaced in 50 sites on five communes. Their most urgent needs are shelter materials and blankets. Education infrastructures are insufficient and children from extremely impoverished backgrounds cannot attend school, a problem observed countrywide, because no system has so far been established to provide them with the necessary means." (UN OCHA 14 Feb 2002)

"A joint inter-agency mission from 30 January to 1 February to assess the humanitarian situation in Burundi's southernmost Makamba province was welcomed by the provincial authorities. The mission, which comprised members from FAO, Italian cooperation, OCHA, UNHCR and UNICEF concluded that the food security situation was generally good, also in IDP sites. [...]

Two communes along the Tanzanian border in the east, Kayongoro and Kivago may face food problems because farming activities could not be carried out regularly due to security constraints.

According to the governor and NGOs active in Makamba the security situation in the other four communes of Nyanza Lac, Mabando, Vugizo and Makamba is good.

Apart from the encouraging food security situation preliminary findings of the inter-agency assessment mission reveal that interventions in the water and sanitation sector, particularly in IDP sites, and the rehabilitation of public infrastructures and buildings, particularly in the education and health sector need to be made a top priority. According to the provincial administration, schools are currently unable to accommodate even those pupils, whose families are in a position to pay for school fees and materials.

Health experts in the province say that they are grateful to the Dutch NGO Memisa for the provision with drugs, but say that more supplies are desperately needed, particularly anti-malarials. Quick supply with additional provisions may, however, be hampered by the fact, that apart from Memisa only few NGOs, namely the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Burundian Red Cross with support of the International Federation of the Red Cross, currently carry out activities in Makamba. The NGO Tearfund says, that it intends to commence health and nutrition promotion campaigns in the IDP camps of Makamba soon. With more than 103,000 IDPs, 3000 of which became newly displaced during the past weeks of strife, the province continues to host the biggest number of IDPs countrywide. " (UN OCHA-Burundi 5 February 2001)

UN/Burundi Government assessment showed that members of Batwa community displaced in Bujumbura Mairie live in very precarious conditions (August 2001)

"On 07 August, a joint assessment team of OCHA Burundi, a representative of the Ministry of Reintegration and Reinstallation of Refugees and Displaced Populations and of Bujumbura Mairie visited the Batwa in Buterere district, 6 kms north from Bujumbura city centre. The local administration initially reported a number of 146 Batwa households on the site, current lists indicate, that there are 246 or more households.

The Batwa, who were only recently relocated within Buterere a new site, expressed content about the fact of having finally been allocated a space to settle by the local administration, but complained about lack of land for cultivation. The living conditions are very precarious. There are few materials to construct housing structures. The nearest water point is two kilometres away and they have no jerry cans. Personal hygiene and sanitation are problematic, deep latrines cannot be constructed, as the area is swampy - and thus a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes, once the rains are expected to begin in September. The men hunt in nearby forests for food. The community has not yet received food assistance.

A UNICEF assessment mission to Buterere , conducted 09 August, concludes that there are 286 households on the site with 100 war orphans and that none of the 108 children of school age attend school, due to lack of materials and lack of means to pay school fees.

The Batwa's represent approximately 1% of Burundi's population and generally suffer from discrimination, extreme poverty and lack of access to basic services." (UN OCHA 27 August 2001)

Illustration of the difficult conditions in IDP camps: Gihungwe Camp, Bubanza Province (June 2001)

- Most of the habitants of the camps are from the Hutu ethnic group who fled their homes due to rebel attacks and lootings
- IDPs live in small huts built from straw
- They cultivate their fields during the day, about 2 km from the camp
- IDPs often lack basic items like soap, salt and cooking oil
- Closest source of water is two km away
- The closest health center is 8 km away, malaria is very common and there is an infestation of rats in the camp
- International humanitarian agencies provide food and non food items, and have trained health workers in the camp

"Gihungwe camp, established in 1998, is some 40 minutes by road from the capital Bujumbura, down a rough track bordered by long grass on both sides. The military are present everywhere. Visitors are enthusiastically greeted by the displaced people who live here. Shabbily dressed, most of them barefoot, men, women and children surge forward to meet the new arrivals.

A tour of the camp reveals small huts built from straw, many of them precariously close to cooking fires. In almost every open space, peeled cassava tubers are neatly arranged on the ground to dry in the heat of the scorching sun. 'After the cassava dries up, it is ground and the flour is cooked in boiling water to make 'ugali' [maizemeal] which we eat with cassava leaves locally known as sombe,' the leader of the camp, Mark Mvano, told IRIN.

"We harvest maize and beans sometimes," he said. 'This time we did not get beans.' They have farms some two kilometres from the camp and cultivate their fields during the day, returning to the camp at night for security.

Relief agencies have often stepped in to distribute 15-day food rations. The last distribution was carried out on 21 April to assist some 226 families, whose fields had been destroyed by floods. Earlier in February, the population at this site received seeds and accompanying seed protection rations, to ensure that the seeds for planting were not eaten. "When we have food we eat, but of course it is never much. When even that little amount is not there, we go hungry. What can one do?" Mvano asked.

The inhabitants of this camp, some 382 households with a total of 1,976 people mostly from the Hutu ethnic group, fled their homes because of persistent rebel attacks and looting. 'They could come and take away everything,' Mvano said. 'It was as if we were just preparing and keeping the things for them.' [...]

Basic commodities are not familiar possessions for people in this camp. 'We do not have soap, salt, cooking oil and we kind of don't think about them,' he said. 'Some people sell part of their produce to get some money to buy such items from the neighbouring Gatumba market.' Sometimes during the food distributions, relief agencies give non-food items like soap too. 'It is a life of abject poverty,' Mvano added.

Gihungwe camp also has a serious water problem. 'Water has been targeted in the war, you see. Now we get water some two kilometres away,' he explained.

The soldiers use one of the two permanent block buildings in the middle of the camp as their residence. The other is the school, but many school-age children stay away from the classrooms because "their parents cannot afford the fees", Mvano said. [...]

Agencies working in the area concede that children's access to education is limited, as many schools in Bubanza have closed during the past years of crisis. They say the remaining schools are often too crowded to be able to accept new pupils. [...]

But one of the greatest enemies of the population in this camp is malaria. "There are a lot mosquitoes around. So many people suffer from malaria all the time and yet they have no money to seek treatment," Mvano said. [...] The nearest public health centre from the camp is eight kilometres away.

The British-based NGO Children's Aid Direct (CAD) has trained 'agents de santé communautaire' [health workers] among the population on the site who carry out simple treatments. According to Mvano, pregnant women mostly have to deliver in the camp because they could not afford to get to the health clinic 8 km away. 'When there are complications people in the camp often try to donate money to rush the victim to the health facility.'

There is also an infestation of rats in the camp. 'It is serious because they have destroyed most of our blankets and the already old and scanty beddings. We just don't know what to do about them,' Mvano added.

About 300 metres from the grass huts, the construction of semi-permanent houses with iron sheet roofs is underway for some 286 households. 'It is the reinstallation village,' Mvano said. 'These are people who have decided to reside in this area and not go back to their original homes. We are hopeful that the war will end one day. But it has totally disrupted our lives.'" (UN OCHA 27 June 2001)

Assessment of needs of IDPs and other people affected by conflict in Rutana Province (2001-2002)

- Local administration official reported theft and killing of livestock, burning of housing
- Displaced in site of Musongati commune are without any water point or latrines and without any assistance
- A study in 2002 indicated that global acute malnutrition had risen in Rutana to 19.2% as compared to the average rate for the country of 7%

"An inter-agency rapid evaluation team went to Rutana Commune on 3 April 2001. The mission was comprised of CRS, IMC (Focal Point for Rutana) and OCHA. [...]

With regard to the wave of combats that affected the three communes of Gitanga, Rutana and Musongati on 23-27 March 2001, the [local] administration provided the following elements:

- Gitanga Commune: 206 houses burned, 1,500 families displaced, 4 people killed and 2 wounded, 30 people taken as hostages (18 of them have returned), 257 goats and 20 cows stolen or killed.
- Rutana Commune: 72 houses burned, 1187 people displaced.
- Musongati commune: the area was still affected by fighting; therefore, the administration had not finalized the complete estimate of damages.

Most IDPs had effectively been encouraged by the administration to return to their hills in the aftermath of the combats.

An IDP site remained in Ngoma zone (Musongati commune), near the Zonal Office and in front of a public health centre which hosts a Supplementary Feeding Centre supported by IMC. The Advisor to the Governor pointed out to the possibility of other IDPs being still present in Shanga and Musongati zones, but no direct confirmation was available due to persisting fighting.

According to the administration, the site in Ngoma hosted populations from the areas still affected by insecurity, mainly in Musongati commune. At the time of the visit (2 p.m.) the site was virtually empty; however, the 'chef de zone' reported that at least 2895 people (according to his latest registration) were spending the night there. During the day they were reportedly either looking for food and water or working in their fields.

No water points or latrines were available on the site. According to the administration, people were fetching water from a natural source located at about 30 min. walk from the site. Some 10 holes had been dug by the administration to replace the missing latrines.

The administration indicated that these IDPs had not received any assistance. As a matter of fact, the rice and beans provided by the Minister of 3Rs, as well as the 700 sheetings offered by UNHCR, had been or were being distributed to the displaced populations from Gitanga and Rutana communes.

The 'chef de zone' reported that a mobile clinic from Memisa made 2 visits to the Ngoma site last week. The administration estimated that by Friday, 6 April detailed lists for the three communes and the IDP site should be prepared and transmitted to OCHA and CRS in Bujumbura.

Observations:

The situation remains extremely volatile. Population movements (displacement and return) remain dependent on outbreaks of fighting. On 5 April, the Advisor to the Governor of Rutana reported that the protraction of fighting throughout 4 April had caused further displacement, including an increase in the IDP population hosted in Ngoma.

The team only saw a few burnt-down houses, as well as a school and a church looted and damaged in Rushemeza. It was not possible to verify the magnitude of destructions as reported by the administration. Any in-depth assessment of damages and needs would be difficult, due to the volatility of the military situation, the tight security constraints, the extension of the affected area and the bad conditions of secondary roads.

Houses did not seem to have been systematically burned, but rather selectively targeted. Crops did not appear to have been damaged during the course of the fighting. " (UN OCHA 5 April 2001)

"A nutritional study in Rutana [...] indicated global acute malnutrition had risen to 19.2% as compared to the average rate for the country of 7%." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, p11).

Great disparities in living conditions of IDPs in Bubanza Province sites (March 2001)

- UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi visited the sites of Mpanda and of Gihanga (Bubanza Province)
- 4000 persons of different ethnic groups live in the Mpanda site, where there is a primary and secondary school and where IDPs are better treated than in Gihanza
- Hutus and Twas live in the Gihanza site in conditions similar to former regroupment camps; many are severely malnourished, and have been living in straw huts for the past three to four years

" Le Rapporteur spécial a visité deux sites [dans la province de Bubanza] qui présentent des situations très différentes : celui de Mpanda et celui de Gihanga. Le site de Mpanda existe depuis 1993 et regroupe toutes les ethnies : 4 000 personnes y vivent mais les autorités pensent que dans moins de trois mois ce site

disparaîtra. L'existence d'une école primaire et d'un collège communal favorisent la "villagisation" en cours. Le site de Gihanza présente une situation plus précaire et n'offre pas les mêmes avantages. Il abrite des Hutus et des Twas qui sont livrés à eux-mêmes, vivant dans des conditions déplorable semblables à celles déjà observées dans les anciens camps de regroupement. Les populations, et surtout les enfants, sont victimes de malnutrition sévère. Les personnes âgées sont abandonnées à la mort car elles n'ont pas les moyens d'accéder aux centres de santé trop éloignés du site. Les habitations sont, pour la plupart constituées de cases en paille et en banco dans lesquelles les familles survivent depuis trois ou quatre ans. On ne retrouve pas à Gihanga les mêmes efforts qui sont faits à Mpanda, et force est de constater qu'il y a inégalité de traitement entre les deux sites." (CHR 19 March 2001 para. 98)

Deplorable living conditions of displaced in settlement in Buterere (Bujumbura Mairie) (Dec 2000)

"A rapid assessment mission, composed of members from OCHA and the NGOs Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Jesuite Refugee Services (JRS), have visited two settlements of internally displaced in Buterere in the north of the capital. The population of one site are members of the Batwa minority group. Inhabitants of the other settlement are 15 families who have been displaced for the past seven years. According to the visiting team living conditions in both sites are deplorable, with inhabitants dwelling in makeshift constructions made out of branches and bits of plastic sheeting since their arrival on the site in 1993. Hygienic and sanitary facilities are practically non-existent.

The inhabitants of both sites report that their major problem is access to land. They have not been able to obtain permission to build more appropriate housing on the site so far, nor have they been able to gain access to land for cultivation. They say that they gain their livelihoods through daily labor and by producing charcoal." (OCHA 29 December 2000)

Nutrition

Despite global improvement of nutritional status of population, IDPs remain highly vulnerable to malnutrition (2001-2002)

- FAO reported slight decrease in the number of people in need of assistance in 2002 as compared to 2001
- FAO estimates that necessary to distribute seeds and tools to approximately 400,000 in 2002, most of them IDPs or temporarily dispersed populations
- Ninety percent of Burundians sustain their livelihood through subsistence farming and reduced access to land has greatly impacted on malnutrition rates over the past few years
- Number of beneficiaries attending supplementary and therapeutic feeding centers gradually decreased globally in 2002 but increased in Bujumbura Rural, Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Makamba and Rutana
- Increase of planted areas due to better security in westerns parts and closure of regroupments camps in Bujumbura Rural, which allowed farmers to return to their fields
- Recent nutrition survey in seven provinces of the country indicated a 10 percent rate of acute global malnutrition

- The World Food Program (WFP) announced in mid 2002 that 9 percent of the 6.8 million Burundians would need emergency food for the second part of 2002

"The first information collected during advance assessments by the FAO Emergency Unit predict stabilisation and even a slight decrease in the number of people in need of assistance in 2002 as compared to 2001. This is due to the current normalisation of weather patterns and the improvement of the security situation in the Northern provinces. In this context, FAO estimates that it will be still necessary to distribute seeds and tools to approximately 400,000 beneficiary households in 2002 throughout the three cropping seasons, most of them IDPs or temporarily dispersed populations, to avoid major disruption in the basic food production. Approximately 10% to 20% of these households are chronically vulnerable (holding a very small plot of land, which cannot produce enough to meet the needs of the family, non-existent investment capacity) and their situation has dramatically worsened over the past ten years. This group will need exceptional support to regain part of their production capacity and restore their socio-economic status to some extent." (UN 26 Nov 2001, p19)

"Food insecurity, exacerbated by the limited or sporadic access to land by the population as result of the war, has been a major cause for concern and there was a significant deterioration in the nutritional situation in the country in the last quarter of 2000 and a corresponding high rise in the level of malnutrition in the north in particular. Concerted inter-agency action to address food and related medical needs has, however, had a positive impact and the number of beneficiaries attending supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres has gradually decreased, with 68,020 treated in SFC [Supplementary Feeding Center] in May 2001 compared with 94,475 in January 2001, and 1,965 patients in TFC [Therapeutic Feeding Center] in May against 3,307 in January. The figures are, however, still higher than those recorded for the same periods in 1999 and 2000 and the situation remains critical." (UN OCHA 12 October 2001)

"The results of the survey undertaken by International Medical Corps (IMC), early June indicated a decrease of the global malnutrition rate in Muyinga province and an increase in Kirundo province. The decrease in Muyinga was the result of the intensive WFP food distribution and the good treatment of epidemics. The increase reported in Kirundo resulted from malaria epidemics, reduced access to medical care and the drought." (WFP 7 September 2001)

"The assessment identifies the following main causes of malnutrition (in order of importance):
 Inadequate diet, resulting from both structural (poverty, unfertile soil and land scarcity) and proximate causes (displacement, insecurity and drought);
 Illness (malaria, severe respiratory infections, diarrhoea, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis);
 Insufficient knowledge about an appropriate diet and inappropriate feeding practices;
 Insecurity, resulting in the inability to farm land or store the harvest.

Even with an improvement in the nutritional situation, some groups (children head of households, elderly, internally displaced, peasants without land, widows with large families, etc...) remain more vulnerable to malnutrition.

The assessment also concludes, that despite recent improvement in the nutritional situation, the situation remains critical with levels of malnutrition higher than those recorded at the same time last year." (UN OCHA 31 July 2001)

According to WFP, "Malnutrition in many communes of Bujumbura Rural province is mainly resulting from the looting of crops by armed groups and the general insecurity, limiting population's access to their farms or forcing them to flee their home." (WFP 27 July 2001)

"Between 19-25 August, OCHA, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and WFP carried out a joint rapid assessment in Kabezi and Mutambu communes in Bujumbura Rural province and reported that 10,903 households displaced by the recent wave of violence were in need of food assistance. The HFEA teams also

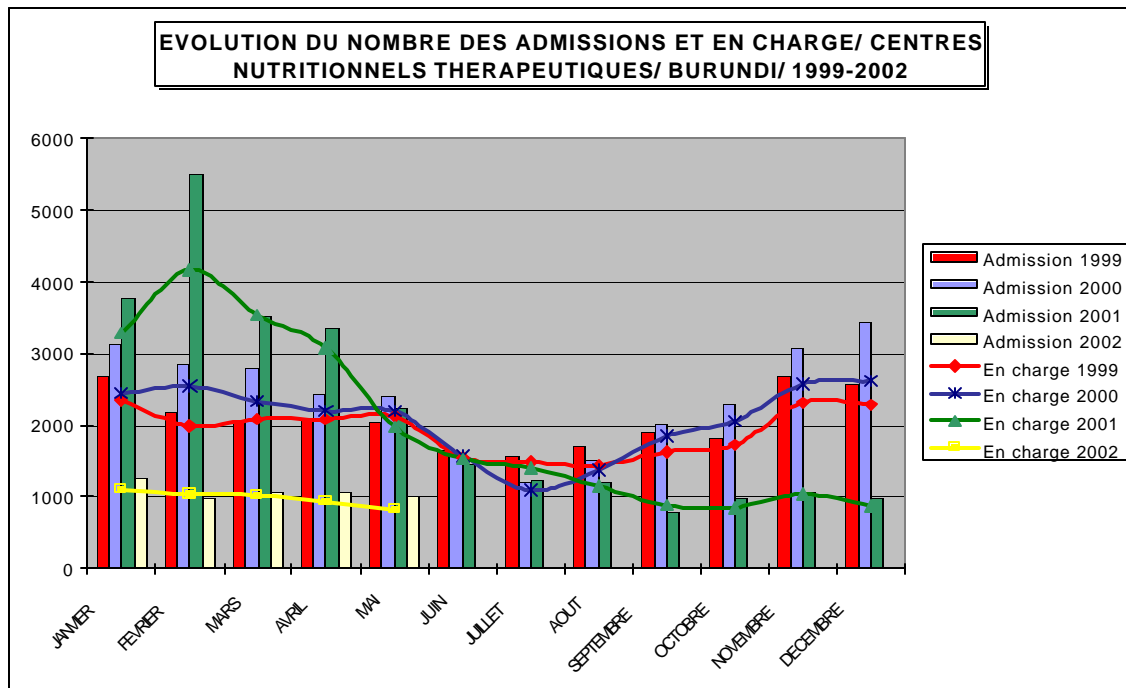
reported that 7,965 households of IDPs from Bugendana commune, hosted in Giheta commune of Gitega province, were also in need of food." (WFP 30 Aug 2002)

"The nutritional status remains precarious due to insecurity, drought, displacement and disease. Women and children are particularly affected. Malnutrition is a serious problem among children under five. The global acute malnutrition rate was less than 6% in 1993. Surveys conducted by UNICEF partners in 1999-2000 in 13 of 17 provinces indicated that global malnutrition rates varied between 6 and 23.7% with severe malnutrition rates ranging from 0.6 to 14.4%. The drought in the northeastern provinces, which affected 28% of the population, has had a direct effect on food security and the malnutrition rates will remain high until at least two good harvests are collected in 2001 and early 2002. The length of the drought has eliminated food reserves and is compounded by damage to the present harvest by heavy rains and flooding. The malaria epidemics also severely affected the nutritional situation.

Data obtained from nutritional centres showed an alarming increase in admissions during the last quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001. Some 90,000 malnourished women and children were being fed in 200 supplementary feeding programmes across the country, and more than 3,000 severely malnourished children were being treated in 25 therapeutic feeding centres at the beginning of 2001." (UN 26 November 2001, pp22-23)

"Actuellement, en raison des mauvaises conditions climatiques, de l'insécurité et de déplacements massifs et forces, la malnutrition et les maladies commencent à faire plus de victimes que la guerre." (CHR 19 March 2001, para. 127)

"Depuis trois ans, le niveau des admissions en CNT n'a jamais été aussi bas alors que le nombre de centres nutritionnels est resté pratiquement identique. C'est également la première fois que nous ne pouvons remarquer d'augmentation des admissions en fin d'année alors que, traditionnellement, cela correspond au Burundi à la période de soudure.[...]



(Minagri/FAO/PAM/UNICEF August 2002, pp18-19)

"Results from rapid assessments and monthly food security monitoring missions conducted in all the 17 provinces by the HFEA teams indicate that 634,643 persons representing 9 percent of the total population

in Burundi will need emergency food aid during the period between June to December 2002. The total requirements for the period are 36,651 tons." (WFP 21 June 2002)

Health

General deterioration of the health status of the population (2000-2002)

- Despite slight increase of number of operational health centers in 1999, health services remain rudimentary because of essential drug shortage and lack of qualified personnel
- Three-year drought has affected health population
- Malaria, acute respiratory infections, measles, diarrhea, HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality are major health hazards among IDPs
- Aids has dramatically increased over the past few years, with HIV reaching 6% of rural population and 21% of urban population (Nov 2001)
- 12% of displaced population had access to potable water in 2000

"The different components of the already fragile National Health System, in particular those of the National Health Information System, have been greatly weakened since the onset of the crisis. For the first time since 1993, the epidemiological surveillance system cannot provide basic statistics. From 1993 to 1996 the number of operational health centres fell from 318 to 217 and increased again to 351 in 1999. However, currently only rudimentary services can be provided due to shortage of essential drugs and qualified personnel. The Government pays salaries but is unable to keep the health centres equipped with drugs and supplies. In November 1999, the Government estimated that during the crisis, one hospital and 74-health centres were damaged.

Health indicators before and after the crisis

	1987	1993	1999
Number of functioning public health centres	187	270	351
Number of doctors	206	262	306
Number of nurses	1,095	1,517	2,067
Life expectancy	48.3	53.8	51.5
BCG vaccination rates	82 %	97 %	72 %
Polio vaccination rates	70 %	86 %	91 %
DTC vaccination rates	67 %	86 %	64 %
Measles vaccination rates	54 %	68 %	47 %
Infant mortality (per 1,000)	138	100	136
Under-five mortality (per 1,000)	209	108	190
Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)	900	600	800
Urban HIV infection rate	11 %	n/a	21 %
Rural HIV infection rate	0.7 %	n/a	6 %
Percent of drugs supplied by central pharmacy	n/a	64 %	18 %

(UN November 2000, p.22)

"Before the outbreak of civil war in October 1993, health indicators in Burundi met WHO standards. Since then, the health situation has suffered due to the direct or indirect effects of the crisis, leading to a continuous deterioration of the health system, including:

Large-scale destruction of public health and sanitary infrastructures;
Severe reduction of medical staff;
Unequal distribution of medical staff, because of the insecurity situation;
Impoverishment of the population, leading to rising malnutrition rates and no means to pay for basic health services;
Decrease of the Government's health budget: the portion of the national budget spent on health has fallen from 5% in 1992 to 2.9% in 2000. Most of the health budget is currently spent on delivering basic health assistance in emergency situations.

The three-year drought further affected the health situation, with impoverishment of the rural population, food insecurity, and a severe **malnutrition** crisis during the last quarter of 2000 and the first of 2001.

An unprecedented **malaria** epidemic reached high altitude regions of the country, where natural resistance is low. During the past year, 35% of cases treated in health posts were malaria-related. Malaria and malnutrition have contributed mainly to the death of some 500,000 Burundians during the past year.

Other major health hazards include:

Acute respiratory infections, with 702,561 cases recorded countrywide (an average of 1,134 infections per 10,000 individuals). Forty-one percent of the infected are children under five years of age.

Measles vaccination coverage has decreased dramatically. While vaccination rates were 80% in 1992, in 2000 the coverage was 61%. The coverage rate for BCG vaccine was 96% in 1990, dropped to 71% in 1997 but rose again slightly to 73% in 2000.

Diarrhoea is a major health hazard among the IDPs and other vulnerable groups, as their precarious living conditions favor the spread of diarrhoea and other communicable diseases with unusually high mortality rates (an average of 2 deaths/day per 10,000 inhabitants). Diarrhoea is also a main cause for mortality among children under five years of age.

HIV/AIDS infection rates increase constantly in rural and urban areas. Infection rates increased from 1% in 1983 to 11% in 1989 and to 18,6% in 2000. In the capital Bujumbura, 24% of women between 25 to 34 years and 3% of the children under five are estimated to be HIV positive. The number of AIDS orphans is estimated at 230,000.

Maternal mortality ratio is currently estimated to vary between 800 to 1,300 per 100,000 live births. Attendance of pre-natal consultation services is low or occurs too late in the pregnancy (66% of women who use pre-natal consultation services, have their first consultation in the third semester), which makes it very difficult to detect possible complications. Only 18% of the babies delivered are born in health centres or hospitals, which explains the low rate of 3,8% caesarian births. Maternal mortality is reported to have increased from 10% to 30% since the beginning of the war." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p21)

"The Committee [on the Right of the Child] is deeply concerned by low immunization rate, high levels of malnutrition and micro-nutrition deficiencies and by extremely poor health conditions among children in general and particularly in camps. Further, the Committee is concerned by high mortality rates, by low investment in health care, the limited number of hospitals and health centers that are operational, the limited drug supply and relative cost of existing medicines including generic drugs and the concentration of medical professionals in Bujumbura city." (CRC 16 October 2000 para.54)

"Only 12 per cent of the displaced population had access to potable water in 2000, and only 47 per cent to latrines. Some 56 per cent of children and 51 per cent of women have been diagnosed with diseases that could be controlled with improved water and sanitation facilities." (UNICEF 1 March 2001)

Meningitis epidemic: see IRIN 29 Aug 2002, "Burundi: Meningitis epidemic declared in a Ruyigi commune, [[External Link](#)]

Cholera epidemic which hit IDPs and others in Bujumbura now under control but cholera spreads to Cibitoke Province (Aug 2002)

- Epidemic hit when fighting increased between rebel and army troops
- Most patients were coming from Gihosha district, which has to cope with a chronic lack of water and an influx of IDP coming from Bujumbura Rural
- Cibitoke provincial health authorities report that people have died of cholera in their province in July/August 2002

According to WHO:

"As of 22 August, the Ministry of Health has reported a total of 591 cases including 8 deaths (case-fatality rate, 1.35%) in Bujumbura since the outbreak began on 17 June 2002 [...]. In Bubanza province the Ministry of Health has reported 46 cases including 3 deaths (case-fatality rate, 6.52%) from 5-30 July and 157 cases including 2 deaths (case-fatality rate, 1.27%) in Cibitoke province from 2 July to 11 August." (WHO 29 Aug 2002)

"The cholera epidemic that hit Bujumbura, capital of Burundi, over the past months seems to be over its peak. At the beginning of the epidemic three to four cases per day were counted. At the peak of the epidemic the number went up to as high as 32 cases in one day.[...]

"The mortality rate is very low, given the war-like circumstances in which our teams had to work to deal with the situation," said Luc Nicolas, operational coordinator for MSF. "The epidemic hit when fighting increased between rebel and army troops. During the day our people were treating cholera patients while at night they could hear shooting and fighting very close by. It is not obvious to obtain such good results and control an epidemic this fast in these conditions."

Most patients were coming from Gihosha district. This region has to cope with a chronic lack of water and an influx of displaced people coming from Bujumbura Rural province, due to the fighting. MSF installed two water bladders of 15,000 litres each. Also other preventive measures - such as water trucking, spraying in suspected cases houses, active research of cases and distribution of sanitation items to the most affected areas - were taken in collaboration with local health authorities, GVC (an Italian NGO) and ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross).

"The reasons behind the good results achieved are multiple," explained country coordinator Stephan Goetghebuer. "Such as good coordination between us, the Ministry of Health and ICRC; early prevention measures; good emergency preparedness stock; an enthusiastic staff; and the relatively quiet area given the war circumstances."

The cholera epidemic seems under control now. The CTC [Cholera Treatment Center] in Rubiza is closed and the number of patients in the CTC of Kamenge is decreasing. Over the past weeks there also were alarming reports of a suspected meningitis epidemic, especially in the northern provinces of Karuzi and Ngozi where there were several meningitis cases." (MSF 26 Aug 2002)

"Cibitoke provincial health authorities have said that four of the 215 people who have contracted cholera in the area between 2 July and 19 August have died, and that overcoming the disease in this part of the country had become difficult." (IRIN 21 Aug 2002)

Significant decrease in Malaria infection rate in 2002 compared to 2000/2001

- Due to population displacement and insecurity, low Malaria vaccination coverage rates and severe Malaria epidemic (2001)
- 30% of population was affected by malaria epidemic
- MSF described in Jan 2001 the current malaria epidemic, which rages in six of Burundi's 16 provinces as "unprecedented" in outreach and magnitude
- Malaria has appeared in areas previously untouched, where the population lacks the immunity developed by previously affected populations
- Government response was undermined by budget cuts and lack of doctors outside of Bujumbura

"According to the Burundian Ministry of Health and WHO fears of a significant increase in malaria infection rates during the high-risk months of October to December have not materialised. There were only 176,925 cases registered countrywide in health structures during November 2001 (732,309 in November 2000) and 142,602 in December 2001 (640,677 in December 2000).

An overall analysis of malaria infection ratios reveals, that after a significant decrease in the number of malaria cases from the height of the epidemic in November 2000 (see above) until August 2001 (130,028 registered cases), the number of malaria cases has seen a slight increase as a result of seasonal changes since September 2001. The provinces of Gitega, Mwaro and Kayanza, which were among the most seriously affected by the epidemic, have seen a particular increase in the number of recorded cases. The situation there is being monitored closely." (UN OCHA 14 Feb 2002)

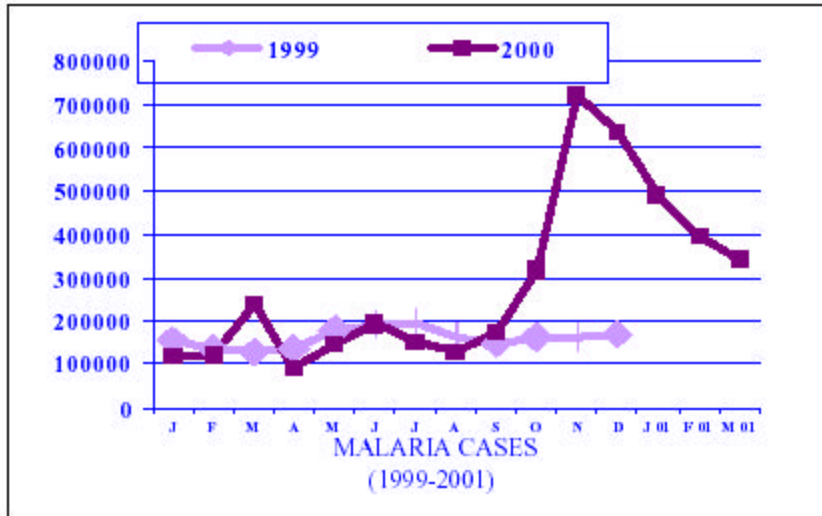
"In 2001, malaria touched 2.7 million lives in Burundi, affecting almost half of the people who live in this country of 6.2 million." (IMC 25 March 2002)

2000/2001

"A severe malaria epidemic has affected not only Burundi's lowlands, which are traditional areas of infection, but also reaching regions of higher altitudes between 1,400 and 1,800 meters, where natural immunity is low since October last year. In 2000 the annual number of registered cases has increased 5 times vis-à-vis figures from 1990, with 3,018,995 people affected; in the same year, 35 percent of health problems and 50 percent of hospitalizations resulted from malaria. [...]

The increased occurrence of disease and illness has decreased productivity, increased food insecurity and heightened the vulnerability of the population to other illnesses.

As a result of population displacements and insecurity, vaccination coverage rates were at their lowest in seven years in the first trimester 2000, although recent vaccination campaigns have been able to increase coverage rates." (UN OCHA 4 April 2001)



(UNICEF 29 June 2001, p.2)

"Le paludisme a touché environ 30% de la population, y compris ceux des collines, plus résistants à la maladie, qui par le passé étaient épargnés." (CHR 19 March 2001, p.128)

"UNICEF reports that the capacity of the Ministry of Public Health to handle the situation is undermined by several factors, including budget cutbacks following the withdrawal of most official aid and general reluctance of health staff to work outside the capital. It is indicated that 70% of doctors and 50% of all nurses work in Bujumbura, where only 6 to 7% of the total population resides. As a result, at least 10% of the country's health infrastructures were currently non-functional, the UN agency said. [...]

It is worth mentioning that the Government declared in November that the treatment of malaria in health facilities was free of charge." (UN OCHA-Burundi 19 February 2001)

"MSF describe the current malaria epidemic, which rages in six of Burundi's 16 provinces as 'unprecedented' in outreach and magnitude. 720,000 cases were registered countrywide in November, WHO report 607,000 registered cases in December. A survey conducted by MSF in Kayanza, one of the worst affected provinces, between October and December 2000 revealed that mortality rates of those infected are alarmingly high. More than 1.000 have died, more than half of them were children under five, MSF say in a press release issued 9 January.

MSF and Burundian health authorities, currently intervene in the three most affected provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi and Karuzi targeting a population of 1.4 million." (OCHA-Burundi 12 January 2001)

"Displaced populations, meteorological changes, and variations in agricultural practices since 2000 has resulted in the migration of malaria into areas previously untouched, and where the local population lacks the immunity that lowland populations have developed." (USAID 3 July 2001)

IDPs are very vulnerable to HIV/AIDS (1998-2001)

- Over 18 percent of the urban population and 7.5 percent of the rural population are HIV positive
- HIV/AIDS pandemic is on the rise due to population displacement, promiscuity in sites, social taboos regarding sexuality issues, and early sexual relations among adolescents.

According to the Director of Burundi's national AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases control program, Dr. Joseph Wakana, "AIDS has become the leading cause of mortality among children and adults in the country." (IRIN-CEA 22 June 2001)

"In Burundi, the rate of HIV/AIDS sero-prevalence has increased considerably in rural areas. The rate of HIV/AIDS infection has risen to 18.6% in urban areas and 7.5% in rural areas (compared to 11% and 0.7% respectively in 1989). There are currently an estimated 230,000 AIDS orphans and more than 80% of Bujumbura hospital beds in internal medicine units are occupied by HIV/AIDS patients.

Today, the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Burundi is on the rise due to population displacement, promiscuity in sites, social taboos regarding sexuality issues, and early sexual relations among adolescents. Moreover, the generally low level of education, among other factors, hampers social mobilization campaigns. Promotion campaigns take into account traditional gender patterns in Burundian society and religious beliefs, especially while advocating the use of condoms." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p24).

"The rate of sero-prevalence is unknown in displaced persons camps but given the dearth of public health information at these sites and the high rate of violence directed towards women, immediate action is warranted." (UN December 1998, p. 39)

"Concentration of internally-displaced people (IDPs) in camps and promiscuity are to blame for the increasing rate of HIV infection in Burundi's population, and the camps have become new centres of high infection rates in the countryside, the director of Burundi's national AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases control programme, Dr. Joseph Wakana, told the Pan-African news agency (PANA) on Monday. However, UN sources disputed Wakana's claim of "promiscuity" as a cause, noting that HIV rates are higher in IDP and refugee camps worldwide due largely to sexual violence by men against women and breakdown of family structure. "There is widespread rape - people are no longer bound by social conventions," Damien Rwegera, an adviser for conflict zones in West and Central Africa for the UN AIDS organisation, told Reuters on Tuesday. "The soldiers rape, the men rape - especially as up to 95 percent of people in a refugee camp can be women and children because the men are dispersed." A UN humanitarian source in Burundi added that seventy percent of households in the country's IDP camps are headed by women." (IRIN-CEA 22 June 2001)

Overview of number of hospitals, health centers and medical personel per province (August 2001)

Province	Population de la prov	Nbre d'hopit.	Nbre de centres de santé fonction.	Nbre de centres de santé non fonctionnels	Nbre de médecins	Nbre d'infir A2	Nbre d'auxill A3
Bubanza	309.127	1	13	1	2	21	16
Buja mairie	341.494	9	43	0	198	360	197
Buja rural	456.891	1	29	0	3	30	12
Bururi	454.939	4	27	0	5	44	71
Cankuzo	181.686	2	10	0	3	28	13
Cibitoke	417.131	3	12	0	5	16	35
Gitega	649.854	4	28	0	25	48	70
Karuzi	377.186	1	13	0	2	14	21
Kayanza	491.171	2	18	0	4	32	33
Kirundo	533.132	1	28	0	4	19	43
Makamba	397.003	1	26	0	2	26	32

Muramvya	259.993	2	16	1	15	17	40
Muyinga	519.313	1	21	0	4	27	67
Mwaro	235.496	2	17	0	3	32	34
Ngozi	637.923	3	23	0	12	66	52
Rutana	259.987	2	17	0	3	26	38
Ruyigi	323.677	3	17	3	4	18	44
Total	6.847.006	42	358	5	294	824	818

Province	Population de la province	Nbre d'habitat par hôpital	Nbre d'habitat par médecin	Nbre d'habitat par centre de santé
Bubanza	309.127	309.127	154.563	23.779
Buja rural	456.891	456.891	152.297	15.754
Bururi	454.939	107.308	85.847	106.509
Cankuzo	181.686	94.500	65.000	19.500
Cibitoke	417.131	139.043	83.428	34.761
Gitega	649.854	617.818	32.517	22.882
Karuzi	377.186	377.186	188.593	29.014
Kayanza	491.171	245.585	98.234	27.287
Kirundo	533.132	403.272	100.818	19.203
Makamba	397.003	397.003	198.501	19.036
Muramvya	259.993	129.996	17.333	16.250
Muyinga	519.313	519.313	129.828	19.233
Mwaro	235.496	114.004	76.003	13.412
Ngozi	637.923	212.641	53.160	27.735
Rutana	259.987	122.468	81.646	14.408
Ruyigi	323.677	101.334	66.968	14.383
Total	6.847.006			

Normes OMS :

- *1 hôpital pour 100.000 habitants*
- *1 centre de santé pour 10.000 habitants*

(UNICEF August 2001, pp52-53)

In Bujumbura Mairie, people currently displaced and those returning home following short-term displacement risk to get epidemics (March 2001)

- In February, six health facilities were destroyed during fighting or were looted
- Half of the potable water sources are in use following the fighting and electricity has been cut
- Other public health concerns include bad evacuation of waste water due to blocked sewer pipes, the presence of large numbers of human and animal corpses and unexploded ordinance

"As the population cautiously returns to Bujumbura Marie after last month's fighting in the capital of Burundi, a joint World Health Organization - Ministry of Health evaluation mission is warning of the potential for epidemics of cholera, measles and malaria in the most affected zone of Kinama.

Mission members, who visited the area on 16 March, say urgent action is needed to maintain minimum hygiene, re-establish water and sanitation structures, control disease-bearing insects and re-build health facilities and immunisation services in the area.

Currently the international community is working with a list of 53,000 people displaced in this conflict who scattered into numerous sites to the north of the city and into the neighbouring rural provinces. Last week the Mayor of Bujumbura reported that most of the populations of Kamenge and Cibitoke have returned to their homes, but fewer than a third of the 50,000 people resident in Kinama.

The WHO-MoH mission estimated more than 20% of homes and buildings have been severely damaged in Kinama, and a further 40% partially destroyed.

At least six health facilities have also been destroyed or are no longer working due to destruction and pillaging. Though the commercial water supplier has re-opened water lines, only 13 of the 26 good water sources in the area before the crisis are now functioning. Electricity supply has also not yet been restored.

Other public health concerns highlighted by the mission include bad evacuation of waste water due to blocked sewer pipes, the presence of large numbers of human and animal corpses and unexploded ordinance.

The ministry of public health, UN agencies and international NGOs have moved rapidly to address these problems. Médecins Sans Frontières has helped reopen two health posts in Kinama, supplying essential drugs and staff support, and set up the cholera monitoring system in collaboration with WHO. Dutch NGO Memisa/COPED is working with local health officials on deploying a mobile clinic, and government teams have teams removing bodies, most importantly to avoid further traumatising returning populations.

Activities are being co-ordinated by the national emergency management committee for health chaired by WHO. The group, which includes all key national and international health players, has convened several times a week even while the bullets flew, in order to review sites and health facilities for the displaced and those returning to their homes, allocate responsibility for essential health services and organise essential drugs and supplies. The group has also set up an early warning system for epidemics based on WHO advice and guidelines.

However, the WHO-MoH mission members urged increased vigilance and activity as people start returning to their homes. "With the return of the population there is potential for an explosion of outbreaks of cholera, measles and malaria in Kinama," they note.

For now, the team recommends the immediate creation of a new health centre to serve populations in the districts of Gitega, Bururi and Bukirasazi, the provision of emergency drug kits, the urgent restart of routine vaccination against childhood diseases, daily monitoring of the epidemic situation in new centres and an immediate public education drive promoting personal and environmental hygiene. In addition, Kinama health centre should be rehabilitated, the activities of private health centres encouraged and teams recovering human and animal bodies reinforced." (WHO 23 March 2001)

Shelter and other needs

IDPs used school buildings for shelter while teachers were on strike (2002)

- Strike ended in July but IDPs can still use school buildings as shelter during the night

"[...] on 13 May, secondary school teachers in Burundi went out on strike for 'an indefinite period' to demand an improvement in living and working conditions and the adoption of a special status for teachers. On 25 May, six students sustained bullet wounds when Gendarmes fired on them during a demonstration in southern Burundi in support of the strike. The Commander of the Gendarmes declared that those responsible for firing would be punished. As the strike progressed, there was growing concern for its impact on the quality of education and that it might spread to other social sectors, including health. However, the strike finally ended on 4 July, with an agreement between the teachers' unions and Ministry of Education both to address immediate concerns and to set up commissions to discuss outstanding issues. During the period of the strike, some of the populations displaced by insecurity had used school buildings for shelter and these will now no longer be available to them." (UN OCHA 31 July 2002, p7)

"During the strike, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in some parts of the war-scarred country were allowed to shelter in schools. Emmanuel Kabaragi, the administrator of Kabezi Commune, Bujumbura Rural Province, said on Wednesday that when the strike ended IDPs would have to vacate classrooms each morning to allow for teaching activities, and return to sleep." (IRIN 5 July 2002)

IDPs in Buterere (outside Bujumbura) had to find new shelter following floods (May 2002)

- Shortage of drinking water, medicine, decent housing and blankets

"More than 6,000 flood victims have been desperately waiting for emergency relief for the past four days at Buterere primary school outside Bujumbura, after fleeing their homes threatened by floods.

The severely affected village of Camara in Buterere area hosted internally displaced people from various locations near the Burundi capital.

The village has turned into a marsh and only a few houses are still standing.[...]

The affected people were angry at the authorities, accusing them of inaction to provide relief in spite of repeated calls for help.

Relief workers, however, have been busy collecting materials from the Ministry of Resettlement and Reintegration of displaced persons and returnees.

According to Basco Nyakiki, a private secretary at the ministry, food relief and equipment would be taken to the affected area to prevent outbreaks of cholera, dysentery and malaria.

He said there was a shortage of drinking water, medicine, decent housing and blankets." (PANA 9 May 2002)

People displaced temporarily usually lack shelter and basic items (2001)

"Reaching these groups [ie temporarily displaced populations], who scatter into the surrounding areas, staying with relatives or friends, and survive by whatever means they can, remains a major challenge to humanitarian actors. Temporarily displaced populations often spend a month or two in ad-hoc locations before returning home. Upon their return, the displaced often find public infrastructures dilapidated, their sources of livelihood shattered, homes and fields destroyed, burnt or looted. Thus, these victims of recent

violence are often without shelter or basic life necessities (cooking pots, blankets, soap, water)." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p27)

UNICEF study highlighted poor shelter conditions in every province (2001)

- Crisis caused destruction of schools, health centers, trade centers, road infrastructures, homes, etc.
- Most Provinces are now rebuilding their infrastructures
- The following provinces continue to suffer particularly from the crisis: Bujumbura Rural, Bururi, Cancuzo, Karuzi; Makamba, Rutana, Ruyigi

"PROVINCE DE BUBANZA, Situation liée à la crise

La crise a causé la destruction des écoles, des centres de santé, des centres de négoce, des infrastructures routières, les maisons d'habitation etc ; sans oublier le déplacement massif de la population. Le nombre d'enfants déscolarisés et non scolarisés a beaucoup augmenté. La province connaît un énorme recul dans le développement suite aux différentes destructions et maintenant elle s'occupe d'abord de la reconstruction pour pouvoir évoluer vers le développement bien que le retard est considérable. [...]

PROVINCE DE BUJUMBURA RURAL, Situation liée à la crise :

a) La crise que connaît le pays depuis 1993 a profondément touché la province de Bujumbura rural. On a enregistré beaucoup de pertes en vies humaines, la destruction des infrastructures socio-économiques et le pillage des biens de la population. Alors que sa proximité avec la capitale lui offre normalement beaucoup d'atouts, la province de Bujumbura rural se remet difficilement du coup dur que lui a porté la crise. b) jusqu'à ce jour, il existe des sites de déplacés datant de 1993 et d'autres plus récents. La population n'a généralement pas accès à ses terres. Les sites sont au nombre de 12 avec une population estimée 14.716 personnes. c) selon l'administration locale, il n'existe plus de camps de regroupement qui avaient compté plus de 300.000 personnes. [...]

PROVINCE DE BURURI, Situation liée à la crise :

La crise sévit toujours dans cette province dans sa partie Ouest, bon nombre d'infrastructures ont été détruites et les populations déplacés restent dans une extrême pauvreté avec une assistance humanitaire très limitées. Cette province est également en phase IV, phase durant laquelle les activités des Agences du Système des Nations Unies sont suspendues.[...]

PROVINCE DE CANKUZO, Situation liée à la crise :

Beaucoup de maisons ont été détruites et beaucoup de pertes en vies humaines. Des milliers de personnes ont fui vers la Tanzanie, d'autres dorment à la belle étoile dans les sites de déplacés.[...]

PROVINCE DE CIBITOKÉ, Situation liée à la crise :

La province a été victime des guerres répétées, qui ont provoquées la destruction des infrastructures socio-économiques de base et les déplacements massifs des populations. Aujourd'hui la situation s'est sensiblement améliorée, tous les déplacés ont été réinsérés soit dans leurs propriétés ou dans des villages de réinstallation. Bon nombre d'infrastructures ont été réhabilitées.[...]

PROVINCE DE GITEGA, Situation liée à la crise :

La province a été frappée par la crise, ses conséquences se sont manifestées par des pertes en vies humaines, des déplacements des population tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur et la destruction des infrastructures socio-économiques. Aujourd'hui, beaucoup de déplacés sont encore dans des sites de réinstallation provisoires et la plupart des infrastructures détruites sont entrainés d'être réhabilitées. [...]

PROVINCE DE KARUZI, Situation liée à la crise :

La crise a particulièrement touchée la province, presque toute sa population a été déplacée ou réfugiée en 1993. Presque toutes les maisons et infrastructures ont été détruites. Il s'agit de remettre la province en nouvel état.[...]

PROVINCE DE KAYANZA, *Situation liée à la crise :*

Les séquelles de 1993 n'ont pas encore disparues. Il y a encore des destructions sur les collines environnantes de la Kibira. La reconstruction bas son plein et les programmes de relance de l'économie sont entamés.[...]

PROVINCE DE KIRUNDO, *Situation liée à la crise :*

Elle a été touchée par la crise comme ses voisins. Sur 57.000 déplacés en 1993, il reste 12.000 qui eux aussi se trouvent dans les sites de réinstallation, les autres ont été réinstallés dans leurs collines. Quelques infrastructures restent à réhabiliter. Le plus grand est l'achèvement de l'hôpital de Mukenke.[...]

PROVINCE DE MAKAMBA, *Situation liée à la crise :*

La crise continue à sévir dans cette province. Sa proximité avec la Tanzanie qui était jadis un atout, est actuellement un handicap, c'est le siège et le passage des rebelles. Cet état d'insécurité fait que les réhabilitations soient impossibles et le personnel ne veut pas y travailler. C'est la province qui compte le plus de déplacés. Elle est la deuxième qui compte plus de réfugiés après Ruyigi.[...]

C'est la province qui nécessite plus d'appui pour deux raisons : i) c'est la province qui a le plus de sinistrés tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur à réinstaller dans le future, ii) c'est la seule province où il n'y a aucun programme de réhabilitation suite à l'insécurité.

Les infrastructures sociales de base sont insignifiantes en égard au nombre de réfugiés et de déplacés à réinstaller. Le personnel est quasi inexistant, parce que les gens ont peur.

Les besoins restent donc énormes à tous les points de vue. Mais elle a un potentiel au niveau économique par sa fertilité et son commerce.[...]

PROVINCE DE MURAMVYA, *Situation liée à la crise :*

C'est une province qui est entrain de sortir de la crise, à part quelques incursions des assaillants sur les collines qui font frontières avec la Kibira. Elle est entrain de reconstruire les maisons et les infrastructures.[...]

PROVINCE DE MUYINGA, *Situation liée à la crise :*

La crise d'octobre 1993 a fait beaucoup de dégâts matériel et humains. Il y a eu des pertes en vies humaines, des déplacés intérieurs et extérieurs. Des infrastructures publiques et des maisons ont été détruites. Actuellement, ils sont à la reconstruction et à la réinstallation mais ils ne sont pas encore au niveau d'avant 1993.[...]

PROVINCE DE MWARO, *Situation liée à la crise :*

La crise a frappé la province occasionnant des déplacements de populations. La province a pu réinstaller tous les déplacés et la reconstruction des infrastructures est en cours.

Situation de la réinsertion/réinstallation des rapatriés : Elle ne connaît presque pas de rapatriés. Ceux qui sont venus ont été immédiatement réinsérés chez eux.[...]

PROVINCE DE NGOZI, *Situation liée à la crise :*

La crise a beaucoup fait chuter tous les secteurs, agricole, élevage, artisanat, santé, éducation etc..., la province s'emploie à reconstruire les infrastructures et relancer son économie.[...]

PROVINCE DE RUTANA, *Situation liée à la crise :*

La crise continue à sévir dans cette province, ce qui inhibe toute initiative de reconstruction. Les infrastructures ont été détruites et des populations entières continuent à se déplacer tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur.[...]

PROVINCE DE RUYIGI, *Situation liée à la crise :*

La province a souffert de la crise comme partout ailleurs. Malheureusement pour elle cette crise continue dans les communes qui font frontières avec la Tanzanie, ce qui bloque les efforts de reconstruction." (UNICEF August 2001)

Women and children

Precarious situation of displaced women and children (1998-2002)

- Access to food and water in camps is especially difficult for women and children
- Other problems affecting women include childbirth-related problems, abortions, anaemia, lack of vaccination coverage and access to health care, exposure to AIDS and other sexually transmissible diseases
- 16 per cent of pregnant girls aged 15-19 years are HIV positive
- IDP women are particularly at risk to be infected by HIV/AIDS (2002)
- Reports that displaced women and children suffer from severe depression
- Over half of women and children have been diagnosed with diseases that could be controlled with improved water/sanitation facilities (March 2001)
- Almost 18% of children die before their fifth birthday, equivalent to 48,000 children each year (2000)

"Insecurity and war encourage the temporary displacement of populations and contribute to the increasing number of persons living in older sites for displaced persons.[...]

The difficult access to these older sites for displaced persons gives rise to concern about the living conditions of the people who are residents there, in particular widows, the elderly and children, who often live in intolerable hardship." (CHR 7 March 2002, para.40-41)

"According to the last census of August 1990, women make up 51.3 per cent of the population of Burundi, and they are essentially located in rural areas where 93.7 per cent of the total population live. The women work on average 18 hours a day for their families, half at home and half in the fields.[...]

Burundian women have been seriously affected by the crisis and the civil war. They constitute the majority of those found at the sites of displaced persons and regrouped populations and are the sole heads of their households. Before the crisis, women formed a large part of the workforce in rural areas which underwent a sharp decline during the war.

At sites of displaced persons and regrouped populations, the difficult access to food and water is the main problem, especially for women and children. The quantity of food is insufficient and its quality mediocre, maize being the main item of nutrition. Because of food scarcity, the women make great sacrifices on behalf of their children who are in very precarious health. [...]

Women at the sites are also affected by other health problems, including those relating to childbirth, abortions, anaemia and the lack of vaccination coverage and access to health care, as well as exposure to

AIDS and other sexually transmissible diseases. The living conditions of women and children have therefore become highly precarious. In Burundi, women represented 50.6 per cent of the registered cases of persons tested as seropositive during surveys in 1995. The number of orphans with AIDS was estimated at 94,000 in 1997." (UN GA 13 October 1998, paras. 51-54)

"Over 15 per cent of the population of Burundi is displaced, dispersed or living in regroupment camps. Many children are living in extremely difficult conditions, deprived of shelter and access to health and education services. Some have been witnesses to, or victims of, violence. Many are traumatized, even disabled. These dispersed children, who have fled with their families from insecurity and gone into hiding in the forests and swamps, are living in very difficult conditions [...]. (UN HCHR 20 September 2000)

"Children suffered perhaps more than adults from the policy of regroupment. Families short on food because they were unable to fully exploit their fields often fed children last and least. Health clinics operating in and around Bujumbura were filled to capacity with severely malnourished children who were particularly vulnerable to disease. [...] With no school or other organized activities to distract them and with hunger ever present, young boys-especially orphans-hung around food distribution centers trying to pick up something to eat. They risked beatings by soldiers and others charged with food distribution as they struggled to gather any food spilled on the ground. (HRW June 2000, "Children and the Doriya")

"[T]he experience of living in a crowded site is both disorienting and degrading for people accustomed to living in relative seclusion and to providing for their own needs. The utter lack of privacy is one of the most difficult and degrading aspects of site life. A UNFPA study carried out in 1998 emphasizes the humiliation women suffer when forced to sleep in the same small room as the male members of their families. As one displaced woman commented, 'Sharing the room with your son or your son-in-law is simply not done. I am ashamed.'" (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998, p. 6)

"One serious issue is the absence of many members of vulnerable groups - single women, children, and the elderly - on the food distribution lists. Refugees International has received information that members of vulnerable groups have been forced to make payments to camp administrators in order to be put on food lists. Women in regroupment camps have reportedly been forced to carry firewood and do other chores for soldiers if they do not have the money for payoffs. Sexual violence continues to be a concern due to the inherently coercive environment in the camps. These serious violations of minimum humanitarian norms can be significantly reduced through an independent registration of regrouped populations by the UN.

Local committees composed of civil society representatives have lately played a valuable role in increasing the representation on food lists of those in need. The use of local committees by NGOs to update and verify food lists should be expanded." (RI 13 July 2000)

"As the primary care-givers responsible for the welfare of their children, some women have apparently suffered severe emotional and mental stress from watching them suffer. One medical worker with an international humanitarian agency assisting the malnourished in Bujumbura-rural has observed symptoms of severe depression in the women whom she treats or whose children she treats. These women appear to have given up caring about their own health or that of their children and sit for hours staring vacantly off into the distance." (HRW June 2000, "Life in the camps")

"Only 12 per cent of the displaced population had access to potable water in 2000, and only 47 per cent to latrines. Some 56 per cent of children and 51 per cent of women have been diagnosed with diseases that could be controlled with improved water and sanitation facilities." (UNICEF 1 March 2001)

"Burundi's child health statistics are dismal. Almost 18% of children die before their fifth birthday, equivalent to 48,000 children each year [UNICEF, Progress of Nations 2000]. While HIV/AIDS remains the main public health concern, malaria, upper respiratory tract infections (such as bronchitis) and dysentery are the most common causes of child death." (SCF 16 August 2001)

"The rise in the infection rates and the number of AIDS patients is due to the continuing war, poverty, and a shortage of training and information. Women, particularly those living among displaced groups and in highly unsafe areas, are the most at risk." (CHR 7 March 2002, para.70)

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

Cost of books, uniforms, school fees and child labor hamper access to education (1998-2002)

- Government policy to waive school fees for internally displaced children not implemented systematically
- Recent increase of school fees decided by the Government further prevents displaced children to access to education
- Government wants local communities and parents to increase contributions to education
- End August 2001, government passed responsibility for identifying the most needy children and providing school fees, materials and uniforms to community level authorities

"Even where schools do function, many families left without livelihoods find the cost of books, uniforms and school fees beyond their means. In addition, parents find the indirect cost of schooling – i.e., the loss of the child's labor at home – increasingly hard to bear, both as a result of declining incomes and the death or absence of family members. In fact withdrawing children from school is one of the first coping strategies undertaken by households with no financial means." (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998, p. 14)

"Education is another area of concern (which is also valid for the other, "non regrouped" internally displaced). Although there are school facilities available, many displaced children are unable to attend as the family cannot afford the standard fee of 1000-1500 B.Francis per semester or the necessary school supplies. Though there apparently exists a Government policy to waive school fees for internally displaced children, it is not being implemented systematically." (UNRSG 6 March 2000, para. 25)

"The communal administrators of Gishbi, Buraza and Mataho, all the province of Gitega, are the opinion that the decision by the Government of Burundi to increase school fees from 300 to 1,000 Burundi francs per pupil might be a violation of the right to education. Many displaced persons and others with few resources would not be able to pay the fees and the children would therefore not do to school." (UN Commission for Human Rights 25 Feb 2000, para. 104)

"[...] the policy of the Ministry is to encourage local communities and parents to cover even more of the costs of education. Primary school fees went up from 300 to 1,000 francs in 1999, and secondary fees were raised too. The Ministry wants parents to become more involved financially and in other ways with their schools; a recent paper encourages 'parents and local groups to contribute more to financing education, and to building and managing school infrastructure'. This sentiment is repeated elsewhere in official papers, but the question is how much more can parents contribute in cash and in kind than they do already." (Jackson 2000, p.33)

"Throughout Burundi many children remain excluded from education – either from problems of access or because of the cost. At the end of August, the Government passed the responsibility for identifying the most needy children and providing school fees, materials and uniforms to community level authorities. The criteria encompass children displaced and repatriated, orphans, child heads of household and the extremely impoverished. Most communities do not have the resources to meet such massive needs as many thousands

fall into these categories. Humanitarian agencies active in these sectors can only address a small portion of the actual needs." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, p12)

"International donors drastically cut aid to education after the coup of 1996. This is one reason for the chronic lack of textbooks in secondary schools. But income from fees paid by parents was also drastically reduced after the crisis. In 1992-3, primary school fees raised 88 million Burundian francs, but in the following three years fees averaged only 47 million francs. In 1997-8, 83 million francs were raised, but with the severe inflation since 1993, the buying power of this money has been significantly reduced." (Jackson 2000, p.9)

Overview of functioning/non functioning schools in all Provinces (2001)

Province	Population de la prov	Nbre d'EP fonctionelles	Nbre d'EP non fonction.	Nbre d'enseignants qualifiés	Nbre d'enseignants non qualifiés
Bubanza	309.127	50	8	287	110
Buja mairie	341.494	44	0	1221	0
Buja rural	456.891	103	5	797	239
Bururi	454.939	187	0	2006	0
Cankuzo	181.686	56	3	277	125
Cibitoke	417.131	92	0	581	0
Gitega	649.854	149	0	1245	358
Karuzi	377.186	69	1	243	84
Kayanza	491.171	111	3	823	138
Kirundo	533.132	97	0	408	143
Makamba	397.003	115	16	625	113
Muramvya	259.993	67	1	541	134
Muyinga	519.313	100	3	573	130
Mwaro	235.496	78	0	829	114
Ngozi	637.923	126	0	727	261
Rutana	259.987	70	4	503	64
Ruyigi	323.677	93	8	358	131
Total	6.847.006	1.607	52	12.044	2.144

Province	Population de la province	Nbre d'élcoliers par école	Nbre d'élcoliers par classe	Nbre d'élcoliers par enseignant qualifié
Bubanza	309.127	459	80	58
Buja rural	456.891	546	76	56
Bururi	454.939	386	57	36
Cankuzo	181.686	283	46	37
Cibitoke	417.131	403	67	64
Gitega	649.854	764	98	71
Karuzi	377.186	459	80	80
Kayanza	491.171	479	84	67
Kirundo	533.132	384	72	68

Makamba	397.003	300	50	55
Muramvya	259.993	536	74	67
Muyinga	519.313	285	54	53
Mwaro	235.496	487	66	40
Ngozi	637.923	380	59	48
Rutana	259.987	328	55	47
Ruyigi	323.677	247	50	64
Total	6.847.006			

Normes du ministère de l'éducation :

- *1 enseignant pour 50 écoliers*
- *1 classe pour 50 écoliers*
- *1 école à 6 classes pour 300 écoliers*

(UNICEF August 2001, pp51-53)

Deterioration of school enrollment rates and of education system's quality (1998-2000)

- Only 37% of children of primary school age attended school in 1999
- Insufficient numbers of qualified teachers and of teaching material in camps
- Special education needs of children traumatized by violence

"There are 1,467 primary schools in Burundi [1999]. In terms of the number of teachers and of resources, primary education is by far the main plank in the Burundian education system. But how many children attend primary school? It is estimated that there are 1.1 million children of primary school age (7-12 years) [1999]. Ministry of Education figures for 1998-9 show that only 37% of these children were in school. In other words, two-thirds of Burundi's primary age children – about 660,000 – did not attend school last year. This is in part the consequence of the massive disruption and displacement caused by the protracted conflict. However, even in the last 'normal' year, 1992-3, only 52% of primary age children were at school, leaving almost half a million outside the formal system." (Jackson 2000, p.11)

"The Committee [on the Rights of the Child] is very concerned by the dramatic fall in the numbers of children attending primary and secondary education in the State party, by the insufficient numbers of qualified teachers working in rural communities and in camps by the lack of adequate teaching equipment and by repeated attacks of armed persons upon schools." (CRC 16 October 2000 para.64)

"77,000 of the internally displaced are school-children, accounting for about one in eight of the school population. In one school in Bujumbura City, the head told me [International Alert researcher] that many of her pupils came 'from all four corners of Burundi'. These children are living in temporary homes in difficult conditions which are not conducive to concentrating on school work. The interruption caused to the education of these children by population movements and displacement is severe." (Jackson 2000, p.8)

"At least 391 primary schools were destroyed as a result of the conflict – more than 25% of the total number. Other schools were damaged while in use as temporary shelters for the displaced. Many are still being used for housing for the displaced. Furniture and textbooks have also been destroyed. Burning and looting of schools was used as a rebel tactic as late as January 2000. [...]

The psychological effects of the conflict on children are considerable, with many manifesting clinical symptoms of trauma. [...] In the country as a whole, the number of single parent families doubled after the

crisis. Many children have lost other close relatives too. In a survey of 2,770 children carried out by UNICEF, over 2,500 reported witnessing acts of violence. 93% showed signs of troubled behaviour. These children came from three of the most troubled provinces – Gitega, Muyinga and Ruyigi – but the results nonetheless reveal that the challenges for education in Burundi are not just at the level of inputs into the system: they also concern the special needs of the children themselves." (Jackson 2000, pp.9-10)

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

General

Transition government has not brought improvement to the population's daily lives (2002)

"A combination of continuing insecurity and increasing poverty in Burundi form "a deadly combination" which threatens not only the survival of the transitional government but also that of the peace process as a whole, says a regional analyst, Jan van Eck, in a report just issued.

The credibility of the whole transition process was being questioned by a growing percentage of Burundians, he said, simply because the Burundian peace process had not produced any (positive) dividends for the people of the country.

Not only was there no inclusive ceasefire process between the Burundi government and the two excluded rebel movements - Conseil national pour la defense de la democratie-Forces pour la defense de la democratie and Forces nationales de liberation - but "there is no prospect of a durable cessation of hostilities or ceasefire being signed in the near future". Secondly, said van Eck, the money received from donors had not resulted in the people of Burundi experiencing any improvements in their daily lives. "Poverty, disease and misery is growing on a daily basis." (IRIN 23 April 2002)

"Since 1993, life expectancy at birth has fallen from 53.8 years to 42.8 years and the proportion of the population living below the poverty line has risen from 39 per cent to 58 percent." (CHR 7 March 2002, B.19)

Access to land

Better access to fields following closing of regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural (2001)

"A locally organized FAO/WFP/UNICEF Assessment Mission estimated food production to be systematically higher than season A 2000. The area planted increased significantly during the A 2001 season reflecting relatively better security in the west (particularly in the provinces of Bubanza and Cibitoke) and the closure of regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural Province, allowing farmers to return to their fields.[...] (FAO/GIEWS 04/01) in (ACC/SCN 29 May 2001)

Displaced households and other vulnerable populations in Gitega, Muramvya, Mwaro, Muyinga and Muramvya have exhausted coping mechanisms (April 2001)

"Following recent reports of new displacement of population due to fighting in Gitega, Muramvya and Mwaro provinces, WFP participated in a joint rapid assessment in Mwaro province to identify urgent needs. [...] Only 200 households displaced from Nyarusange commune (Gitega) to Kibumbu parish (Mwaro) were in need of emergency assistance. Those households were displaced for the second time and all their possessions burnt or looted. [...]

During the last two weeks, WFP FEA teams conducted visits in Muyinga and Murambya provinces, to assess food security. The teams reported that people living in Gashoho, Gasorwe and a part of Muyinga communes (30,240 households) have exhausted coping mechanisms and started to eat wild herbs. The food insecurity in that zone was reported to be the result of drought and the socio-political crisis prevailing since 1993." (WFP 27 April 2001)

Study shows difficulty to resort to coping strategies for population in regroupment camps and other IDPs (2001)

- IDPs in regroupment camps had few means at their disposal to cope with their circumstances, and were often more dependent on external assistance than are other displaced persons

"[...] [F]orced relocation, also called regroupment, puts targeted individuals and communities into circumstances where it is particularly difficult for them to sustain themselves and their families. Forcibly relocated populations benefit from little or no access to social services or basic hygiene and sanitation. They are often forbidden to cultivate their land and are forced to leave in haste, often abandoning their belongings to do so. As a result, they have few means at their disposal to cope with their circumstances, and are often more dependent on external assistance than are other displaced persons. Given that it implies violations of human rights and international conventions, and has serious consequences for food security, forced relocation presents a special challenge to the international community.

In general, we have found that individuals devise numerous strategies to cope with the causes and circumstances of internal displacement. These are not self-help strategies in the strictest terms, i.e., where people act *on their own* determination and *without any form of external assistance*. Given that Burundi was already one of the poorest countries in the world prior to the latest crisis, and that there are few resources available to peasants in Burundi (little or no savings, little education, almost no access to information), it is clear that most individuals would not survive internal displacement without at least minimal assistance. What we found, however, was that once given limited assistance in the form of protection, shelter and food, people developed a large array of coping strategies. It is thus critical to understand the response mechanisms of communities and individuals so that any assistance provided to them can be targeted effectively and can reinforce, rather than discourage or counteract, the initiatives developed by the internally displaced." (Boutin & Nkurunziza 2001, p.50)

Displaced population has restricted access to fields (2000)

- As a result of the conflict, an estimated 120,000 rural households have limited access to land
- Population pressure has led to exploitation of marginal lands and replacement of grazing land with food cropland, with a detrimental effect on livestock and soil fertility
- Displaced farmers are allowed by military officers to work in their fields just a few hours a day
- Former regrouped persons reached their fields too late to plant the next crop (2000)

"Burundi's traditional agricultural system was self-sufficient before the crisis. However, structurally it is fragile and unable to withstand adverse social, climatic and phytosanitary conditions. This fragility became especially apparent after the 1993 crisis when agricultural production significantly decreased (20 percent decrease in cereal and vegetable production in 1999 compared to the period from 1988 to 1993). As a result of the conflict, an estimated number of 120,000 rural households have limited access to land due to displacement and lack of security rendering food accessibility difficult. This number changes depending on the security situation. In addition, population pressure has led to exploitation of marginal lands and

replacement of grazing land with food cropland, which has a detrimental effect on livestock and soil fertility. Twenty percent of the national livestock has been killed due to the conflict, and the environment has been seriously affected due to the devastation of forests and a decrease in soil fertility." (UN November 1999, p. 11)

"The severe disruptions to agriculture brought about by displacement/regroupment and other population movements have had and continue to have a strong adverse impact on rural livelihoods and it is estimated that, should peace be established, it would take several years to restore the agricultural sector to pre-crisis levels. (FAO/WFP 27 July 2000, "Economic situation")

"Some people who live in camps near Bujumbura work in the city and are ordinarily permitted to go down the hills to their jobs. But the vast majority are cultivators who need to keep working their fields in order to sustain themselves. It is they who suffer most from military regulations set up to control the movement of people on the hills. They are allowed to work only on those hills designated on a rotating schedule, usually only once or twice a week. They are ordinarily required to go to and from the hill along paths indicated by the soldiers and are permitted to be absent only for a limited number of hours per day. When time for walking to and from the fields is subtracted, there is little time left to do the necessary work. One woman said that she is not allowed to leave the camp before 9 a.m. and must be back by 4 p.m. She needs two hours to reach her land and another two hours to return. This leaves her only three hours to cultivate, too little to produce the food she needs to feed her family. Her four children are suffering from malnutrition and related diseases, a direct consequence she believes of the restrictions on access to her fields. Another woman, a widow with small children, cannot cultivate enough to feed them well; to leave more for them, she limits herself to one meal a day consisting usually of a piece of cassava and a few bananas.

In most camps, the abashingantahe, or representatives of the people, approach military officers in the morning and ask permission for cultivators to leave the camp for their fields. If there has been combat in the area, soldiers ordinarily refuse permission or delay the departure of cultivators. They may also refuse permission simply because camp residents have failed to deliver desired services." (HRW June 2000, "Life in the camps")

"Principle 22 [of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement] provides that displaced persons shall be able to seek employment and participate in economic activities. By the restrictions on their movements, many camp residents were prevented from cultivating the food necessary for their own subsistence or for sale. Others were kept from seeking employment, particularly those who would have otherwise cultivated the fields of others or who engaged in itinerant commerce." (HRW June 2000, "Guiding Principles")

"Most of the people who left the IDP camps in the first half of 2000 reached their fields too late for planting of the B crop season and could not contribute much to increase the planted areas." (FAO/WFP 27 July 2000, "B Season")

Example of Kabezi camp: Military authorities grant to displaced farmers limited access to fields, because of insecurity and distances (2000)

- Kabezi camp - with a population of 40,000 – is the largest camp in Bujumbura Rural
- Camp residents were usually permitted to go back to their fields once or twice a week, but too briefly to provide sufficient agricultural production

"Kabezi camp, about eighteen miles south of Bujumbura, was the largest camp in Bujumbura-rural, with a population of nearly 40,000 people. Located on a small hill with no trees or other cover, the camp was baked by the sun during the dry season and swept by storms in the rainy season. For more than nine months, people have lived in makeshift dwellings made from banana leaves, eucalyptus branches, and other locally foraged materials. The fortunate received plastic sheeting from international humanitarian agencies

which they used to cover the not very solid roofs. The dwellings, most of them about six by nine feet, were packed together, with narrow passages between the rows. Refuse littered the paths and small rivulets carried waste water and other garbage down the hillside. Each dwelling sheltered up to ten members of a family, all living together in a single, undivided space. Public latrines were hastily dug soon after the camp was established. By May 2000, many were filled to overflowing and no new ones had been dug.

According to residents of the camp, their lives had been very different when they were still in their own homes, free to come and go as they wished. Although there has been military activity in Bujumbura-rural for several years, families had been able to continue growing crops or doing other work to provide for themselves. Many raised chickens, rabbits, goats, or pigs to supplement their diet or to earn a little income. Most lived in small but solid three or four roomhouses, constructed with clay bricks and with sheet metal roofing. Families enjoyed a sense of privacy living in homes surrounded by fields and dispersed over the hillsides, a stark contrast to the indignities of the crowded, filthy camps.

After the first weeks, camp residents were ordinarily permitted to go back to their homes and fields for a few hours once or twice a week. They continued trying to cultivate their fields, but the time at home was too brief to provide for adequate agricultural production. People who were located in camps near roads were the most fortunate because they soon began receiving food to supplement their own produce, as well as clean water and medical help, from international humanitarian agencies. But whenever there was combat in the region, the road was closed and the delivery of these life-sustaining supplies was interrupted. Authorities suspended deliveries of aid for other reasons as well. At Kavumu camp, where thousands depended on food supplied by an international organization, local officials were slow in completing the requisite paperwork in January and early February 2000, so provincial authorities refused to permit deliveries. Residents, who had received their last supplies at the end of December 1999, were in desperate need by the time food was provided again in mid-February 2000." (HRW June 2000, "living in the camps")

"In Kabezi camp and generally, access to fields by the population relocated into the sites was reported to be a priority concern, especially during the current planting season in February to early March. Failure to ensure greater access for the displaced to their fields will inevitably have implications for the demands of food assistance on the international community in the coming months. In most cases, the relocated populations have access to their fields, but this was explained to be insufficient in terms of the number of days per week (FAO indicated that 4 full days a week is the minimum required). In Kabezi, displaced persons indicated (albeit amidst a considerable presence of civilian and military authorities) that they had permission to go to their fields under military escort. However, a number of the displaced indicated that they had not been able to access their fields for two weeks due to insecurity. Even when access is permitted, the number of hours in the fields may be limited due to time restrictions imposed by the authorities (for example, in Maramvya, the displaced had been required to return to the camp by 14.00) or owing to the distance of the fields from the *regroupement* sites." (UNRSG 6 March 2000)

Vulnerable Groups

Many children are the head of households and live in conditions of extreme poverty (August 2001)

"Since the crisis began, there has been an increase in the number of child-headed households, street children and children living in conditions of extreme poverty in slums areas. Many of these children enter into sexual relations at a young age and are therefore at risk of contracting HIV. They suffer from a lack of parental guidance, emotional trauma due to conflict, low literacy levels, restricted or non-existent employment opportunities, exploitation by adults and an inability to access health and social services." (SCF 16 August 2001)

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS AND CITIZENSHIP

General

People returning home after short-term displacement lost identification papers and documentation proving they own their homes (2001)

"Out of a total of 10,000 households living in Kinama, the district worst affected by fighting, 8,708 were counted to have returned. Local authorities are currently researching the households who were in Kinama before the war, and have not yet returned.

To analyze the situation and to coordinate assistance, two high level meetings, chaired by the Minister for the Reintegration and Reinstallation of Refugees and Displaced Populations (3R), were held during the reporting period. Main findings include:

Many residents of Kinama, who fled in a hurry, have lost their identification papers. The administration stated, that it will take some time until these cards would be reissued, as they can only be given out on an individual basis, and not en masse. It was suggested to issue temporary identification cards so that people could circulate with some level of security. Additionally, the lack of papers impedes economic stability and prevents mobility and security.

Some residents also complain of lack of documentation, that proves that they are owners of their homes. According to the local administration, this is a less pressing issue, as it is more than likely, that there will be copies of this documentation at the Mayor's office.

A variety of sources, including the Ministry of Health, indicate that parts of the population pay in order for their names to appear on distribution lists. The Minister 3R recommended that the administration investigate the situation." (UN OCHA 8 April 2001)

ISSUES OF FAMILY UNITY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Family unity

Children at high risk of abandonment and separation (1999)

- A child from a large, poor family headed by a single parent is more likely to be abandoned and more likely to be separated accidentally when the whole family is forced to flee

"The reasons that children become separated from their families are complex in Burundi. It is often assumed that children are always separated accidentally - lost when people are forced to flee their homes. Yet although war and population movements are responsible for many separations, children end up on their own for other reasons. For example, family breakdown 'the result of poverty and an environment of on-going violence' may force children to leave home. Very poor families may send their children onto the streets to beg. Or families who cannot afford to feed their children may leave them at feeding centres.

The children at highest risk of voluntary separation are also those most likely to be separated from their families accidentally. For example, a child from a large, poor family headed by a single parent is more likely to be abandoned and more likely to be separated accidentally when the whole family is forced to flee. Despite these factors, the actual number of unaccompanied children in Burundi is much lower than circumstances suggest should be the case, because separated children are absorbed into extended family networks. Currently it is estimated that around 1,500 children remain separated from their families." (SCF 1 November 1999)

See also "Vulnerable children in Burundi: more than 190,000 orphans and unaccompanied children as of November 2000" [Internal link]

Pivotal role of displaced women in the household (1995-1998)

- High rate of widows among displaced women
- Support must be provided to help women face their new responsibilities as heads of households

"A UNFPA study carried out in 1995 found that nearly one third of all the women living in sites were widows. Given the intensity of the conflict during the last three years that has led to many adult males fighting in armed groups, being killed or 'disappearing', it is safe to assume that the percentage has since risen significantly.

In these circumstances, women are often forced to take on a taxing role as sole providers, not only of food and shelter, but also of moral and physical strength for their families. Having assumed a largely subservient role in the past, many women are unaccustomed to standing up for themselves and are ill-equipped to exercise authority, with the result that they are subjected to harassment and abuse in the sites. They are further disadvantaged because, according to Burundian tradition, they are not legally allowed to own land." (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998, pp. 9-10)

"Investing in the social and psychological rehabilitation of the women affected by the crisis is an important factor to be taken into account by the international relief and development agencies. For instance, women have rarely participated in the perpetration of massacres and have been targets of killings less often; for

these reasons they remain the stable element of the nuclear family and the society. Women are furthermore the centre of subsistence activity in the camps and are playing a major role in the reconstruction of their homes. Since many women have become widows as a result of the violence, and displaced women heads-of-household are particularly numerous, their economic survival, and that of their children, will depend on their being able to earn a living and receive education and training if needed. Their being able to own and inherit land should also become a priority. Investment in the youth, which consists of over 50 per cent of the country, and not just the educated youth, appears to be a priority, if, for example, the formation of militias and guerrillas is to be curbed." (UN Commission on Human Rights 28 November 1998, para. 106)

PROPERTY ISSUES

General

Looting and destruction of the property of the displaced (1999-2001)

- Most of the destruction of houses took place in the provinces of Bubanza, Makamba, Bururi, Rutana and Bujumbura
- Property of the displaced looted despite government promises
- 50,000 people forced to flee because of fighting find houses and shops looted and burned upon their return (2001)
- Government contravened Principles 21 and 29 of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement by looting property left by the displaced and not help them to recover it
- Reports of looting and burning of houses of displaced by opposition groups

"During the crisis, houses were the main target of destruction. Most of the crisis affected people, internally displaced; refugees and families living in the hills have seen their houses destroyed. Most of the destruction took place in the provinces of Bubanza, Makamba, Bururi, Rutana and Bujumbura. Eighty percent of the population to be reinstalled originates from those provinces. There are 224,000 households which will need help to rebuild their houses." (UN November 2000, p.29)

"Recently, over 50,000 people were forced out of their homes with no more than what they could carry. Some have been able to return, but very little remains of what they call home. Churches have been blown apart. Houses and shops have been burnt. The looting has been ruthless and complete. In some cases, even the doors have been ripped from their hinges and used to remove stolen goods. Compounding the physical and psychological destruction is the constant fear of finding the unexploded mines that are scattered over the region." (CRS 11 April 2001)

Looting by government forces

"When the government forced people to leave home for the camp sites, most took little if any of their property with them. Just as the process was beginning, governmental authorities visited Kabezi camp on September 29 and promised the people that when they were allowed to return home they would find their houses in the same condition as when they left them.

But within days looters had stripped many houses of their sheet metal roofs and of the most valuable items inside. The people of Kabezi camp were allowed to go home to fetch food and other supplies after one week in the camp. They found that the promise of security for their belongings had already been violated and that the roofs and other property had been taken from their houses. While looting happened quickly in some areas, in others it took place only months later. Residents of Maramvya and Muberure reported that their roofs were stolen along with other property only in January, 2000. In some cases, soldiers also burned or otherwise destroyed houses so that they would not be used for shelter by FNL combatants.

As these areas had been emptied of people, there were few witnesses to the thefts, but camp residents accuse soldiers and their helpers of the pillage. They say that only the military could carry out such widespread pillaging of the countryside: they are the only ones with virtually uninterrupted access both to the area and to markets in the city, as well as the only ones with numerous vehicles available to transport the booty." (HRW June 2000, "Military abuses")

In 2001, "Civilians displaced by recent fierce fighting around Bujumbura between the Burundian army and the rebel Forces de la Libération (FNL) are returning to their homes. [...] An inter-agency assessment team, which visited Kinama [Bujumbura Mairie] on 14 March found most of the houses had been looted, but there was not widespread destruction. Sources said: 'Before letting the people return to the area, the army looted it. Some aid soldiers also eliminated any proof of massacre. The army organized markets in Mutakura and Kamenge to sell all the items they had looted.'" (JRS 22 March 2001)

"Principle 21 [of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement] prohibits pillage of the property of displaced persons and further requires the protection of property left behind at the time of their displacement. Members of the Burundian armed forces contravened this principle and looted and pillaged the goods of displaced persons. In addition, Burundian authorities failed to protect their property against theft by their own soldiers and national policemen or by insurgents. [...]

According to principle 29, authorities have the responsibility of helping displaced persons to recover their pillaged property. In the case of the May 7 raid on Kavumu camp, authorities have supposedly begun creating a list of looted goods with the aim of restoring as much as possible to camp residents, but they have not otherwise indicated any readiness to aid in the recovery of pillaged property or to provide just reparation for it." (HRW June 2000, "Guiding Principles")

Looting by rebel forces

"Rebels [...] helped themselves to food and other goods found in vacant homes after the country side had been emptied of its usual population. Many camp residents said that when they went back to work in their fields, they often found that others – presumably the rebels – had been living in their houses and eating their crops." (HRW June 2000, "Abuses by rebels")

"Between 13 and 22 January 1999 a series of attacks were carried out by members of the armed opposition, believed to be the FDD, in the communes of Kibago, Mabanda, Kayogoro and Makamba in the southern province of Makamba. The FDD reportedly attacked from Tanzania, coming in at least two waves; a first group all in military uniform, and a second group in military uniform accompanied by civilians. Following the passage of the two groups, groups of people in civilian clothes are also reported to have passed through. The latter group was reportedly responsible for looting. It is unclear to Amnesty International whether this last group was actually linked to the FDD or was made up of civilians spontaneously profiting from the insecurity.

During the attacks, over 200 homes are reported to have been burned in the Mabanda and Kibago areas. Many testimonies accuse FDD members of selectively burning homes of either people suspected of collaborating with the government or, in some cases, of Tutsi civilians on the basis of their ethnic origin. According to some testimonies, the FDD were accompanied by a number of local civilians, who were indicating which houses should be destroyed. Amnesty International is concerned that the FDD may have carried out large-scale destruction of houses and crops, possibly as a punishment for lack of support to the FDD or because of the ethnic affiliation of the victims. Other sources however indicate that government forces may also have been responsible for house destruction, in some cases to destroy possible shelter for the armed opposition, or as a punitive measure against a population potentially, in its view, supportive of the armed opposition. At least 20,000 people are reported to have been displaced by the attacks in Mabanda and Kibago communes." (AI 17 August 1999, section III)

Property inheritance practices complicate restitution process (1994-2002)

- UNCHR warned in 2002 that land and property disputes were increasingly common
- Women are not entitled to inherit land
- The Ministry of Justice is planning to draft a new law on land inheritance in 2001

- Few legal titles exist, which creates tensions when former land owners try to regain their land

"**Land and property disputes** are increasingly common, and the justice system is unable to cope, leading some to call for a revitalisation of the traditional *bashingantaha* system of local arbitration. Indeed, one of the monitoring missions undertaken by UNHCR warned of:

...The explosive mix between an uncontrolled increase in population (in 20 years the population of Burundi will double) and the traditional method of succession that divides among the male sons the property of the father. This means that land properties become smaller and smaller and insufficient to assure food security and subsistence to everybody. In a country where 90% of the population depends on agriculture, future conflicts for land ownership (even if hidden by ethnic reasons) become more and more probable." (Robarts, Oddo Aug 2002, p9)

"In the case of women in general, and women-headed households in particular, achieving a durable solution will be even more difficult than for other members of the society, since the general problem of lack of land is compounded by the fact that women do not inherit land either from their husbands or from parents." (UN Commission on Human Rights 28 November 1994, para. 76)

"Le projet de loi sur les successions et les régimes matrimoniaux figure toujours dans le programme de travail du Ministère de la justice pour 2001, mais il n'a même pas été encore soumis pour débat au Conseil des ministres. De plus, la sensibilisation des femmes, en particulier des femmes rurales, à l'adhésion de ce projet de loi, a été ralentie en raison du manque de moyens. Cependant, les femmes de l'Assemblée nationale et du secteur de la justice se sont donné pour objectif de faire adopter cette loi avant la fin de l'année 2001." (CHR 19 March 2001, para. 115)

According to the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi, "Many obstacles to the advancement of women still remain, however, such as the hold-up over the bill on inheritance and matrimonial property rights, which has still not been brought to the attention of the minister responsible, far less the Council of Ministers. The minister foresees the adoption of the bill some time in the coming year. It must be hoped that the bill will rise above all the difficulties and social constraints that have been brought to the Special Rapporteur's attention, becoming one day a law that all in Burundi, male and female, will accept." (CHR 7 March 2002, para.64)

"A critical issue with regard to both the causes of and the solutions to the problem of displacement is that of land. In Burundi, land holding is very fluid. Few legal titles to land exist, resulting in disagreements and confrontations when land is redistributed or changes hands. This was the case, for instance, following the redistribution to lower military officials and soldiers of land that had belonged to Hutus who left the country in 1972. Since then this land changed hands frequently, being passed on to others who would acquire legal title after a period of years if acquired in good faith from the previous occupier (*bona fide* occupier). The Government of Ndadaye tried to reinstall the returnees and former owners to their lands. This caused fear among the new owners that they would be evicted, and created unavoidable tensions." (UN Commission on Human Rights, 28 November 1994, para. 37)

Massive population displacement has exacerbated land disputes (2001)

"As a result of the civil war, the impact thereof and the resulting State dysfunction, disputes over land have worsened considerably in Burundi, where 85 to 90 per cent of the population supports itself through agriculture. The Tribunaux de résidence have always been inundated with such disputes, but the problem of massive population displacement, growing poverty and the anticipated return of the refugees have increased the competition for control of the land. These disputes over land do not necessarily mask a split between ethnic groups, but they could serve to spark social and inter-ethnic violence, particularly once the refugees return. Several ministries are involved in land management, but there does not appear to be any overall land

management policy, despite the fact that a combination of unfavourable political, economic and social factors has made coordination in that area urgent for the past eight years." (UN GA 17 Oct 2001)

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

General

Some returning refugees have now become IDPs (July-August 2002)

According to a DFID/Italian cooperation report:

"The Tanzania-Burundi **repatriation operation** began in late March 2002, under the auspices of a tripartite agreement. Despite strong pressure from both Governments [ie Burundi, GoB and Tanzania, GoT] [...], UNHCR's policy remains to assist (not promote) voluntary repatriation, only to those (Northern) provinces judged to be safe.

The operation itself appears well organised, and few serious, immediate problems have been reported to date. However, given the complexity of the political context, with widespread violent conflict, internal displacement and extreme poverty in Burundi, the mission had serious concerns about the voluntary nature and sustainability of return. In particular, we noted that:

Both Governments have 'national security' interests in the repatriation, which are not necessarily compatible with the best interests and rights of the refugees.

The surprising numbers of 'spontaneous' returns to conflict-affected provinces in the South (e.g. Makamba) are more easily explicable in terms of 'push factors' than 'pull factors'. Many refugees appear afraid of the possibility that they will be chased out of Tanzania if they don't go 'voluntarily'.

Little detailed, objective information on security conditions in places of return is available to refugees, leaving them to rely on word-of-mouth, news from relatives, radio reports and feedback from visits.

GoB/UNHCR/inter-agency plans for community-based activities to support reintegration were insufficiently advanced by the time assisted repatriation began, and implementation of key components has been limited or delayed.

Monitoring of conditions of return (including protection and human rights issues, access to food, land, shelter, justice, education and health care) has been limited to 'spot-checks' by four UNHCR staff, with little follow-up.

Some of these concerns may be partly explained or exacerbated by difficulties of access, a shortage of inter-agency expertise and awareness of refugee and IDP protection issues, and apparently limited cross-border, inter-agency communication.

Burundi is still in the midst of its own displacement crisis, estimated to affect at least 400,000 Burundians at any one time. Many returnees 'spontaneously' returning to conflict-affected areas become IDPs by default, along with the rest of the rural population.

In the continuing absence of a cease-fire, there is a small but significant risk of instability spreading to the Northern provinces. This would certainly result in further waves of displacement and rapid reversal of the repatriation process.[...]

The largest number of voluntary and assisted returns have been to the provinces of Muyinga, Ruyigi, Kirundo, Makamba, Bururi and Rutana (in that order)." (Robarts, Oddo August 2002, pp 2-3 and 8)

"Some of those who repatriate spontaneously in this way have been unable to reach their places of origin because of continuing fighting and, as a result, have joined displaced populations in established sites. The rationale for their return remains unclear, although it has been suggested that some no longer find life in the camps bearable, would prefer to come 'home', or fear mass, forced return and wish to claim land and possessions in Burundi before 'absorption capacity' is overwhelmed." (UN OCHA 31 July 2002, p10)

Of the estimated 70,000 Burundian refugees registered with UNHCR to repatriate, more than half originate from provinces still affected by war." (USCR 13 June 2002)

Landmines prevent the displaced to return home in Bujumbura Rural (2001)

"Landmines allegedly planted by the army are posing a threat to civilians in war-torn areas of Burundi, according to NGO sources. There has been no let-up in violence in Burundi as rebel and army activity, including looting and attacks against civilians, is reported in different parts of the country. 'Civilians have become once again victims of landmines, recently planted in the rural areas of Bujumbura frequented by the rebels,' reported NGO sources. It appears the zone surrounding the airport has also been mined following the shooting of the Sabena flight in early December. In the first week of January, a landmine exploded on the road from Bujumbura to the airport, wounding one person. One of the areas hit by conflict between the army and rebels is Tenga, 15 km north of Bujumbura. 'It seems the army has mined the area. More and more, mines are planted close to houses, so residents do not dare enter their own homes. They flee empty-handed. Some 10,000 people are isolated, without food, suffering continuous diarrhoea, lacking blankets.'" (JRS 17 January 2001)

Dismantlement of regroupment camps

Initial phases of dismantlement of regroupment camps occurred with little government assistance (January-April 2000)

- Following UN statement condemning forced relocation of population in Bujumbura Rural, government launched program of dismantlement (Feb 2000)
- Displaced returning from regroupment camps found their homes looted and destroyed and were exposed to food shortages
- Third phase of dismantlement in Bujumbura Rural during June 2000 reportedly allowed 111,695 people from seven sites to leave
- Population often regrouped in other locations fearing attacks during the night
- Government did not respect Principle 28 of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

"The Inter-Agency Standing Committee issued a statement in January condemning the forcible relocation of the population in Bujumbura Rural. On 7 February, the GoB launched its programme of dismantlement. It should be noted that no assistance was provided during the dismantling. In the first week of April, Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment teams evaluated phase one of dismantlement, in Bujumbura Rural. At the time, according to the Government of Burundi, a total of 23 sites had been dismantled. Out of the 23 sites only nine were regroupment sites. The findings from the assessment indicate only five sites [at Maramvya (Mutimbuzi), Gatumba, Kinonko, Gitaza, and Magara], were empty and two partially empty [Muberure and Maramvya (Mutambu)]. The dismantlement of the last two were not possible due to insecurity. The IDP population of the remaining 14 sites refused to return home. NFIs and healthcare remain a priority." (UN OCHA 8 June 2000)

"[T]he hardships faced by the regrouped population are far from over. A grim consequence of the government's regroupment policy is that food shortages - compounded by drought - have become a more pressing problem than ever. 'Some camps will be dismantled, but people returning home -if their houses have not been destroyed - will need to be provided with food for at least four months, until the next harvest,' one NGO worker said. OCHA has warned of an 'alarming nutritional situation' in Burundi. [...]

Meanwhile, thousands of civilians who left the first regroupment camp shut down by the Burundi government in February have found themselves without a roof over their heads as their homes have been destroyed. Sources said many people who had been held in the camp which shut down, Maramvya, have found their homes completely looted and destroyed. 'People are finding their homes burnt, without roofs, or empty inside as all their belongings have been looted,' sources said. The population is regrouping in other locations, fearing attacks during the night. Their fear is fuelled by rebels infiltrating the camps, who are reportedly threatening to launch attacks against the people if they return home, as a show of force." (JRS 8 March 2000)

"One of the 'protection sites' on the list of eleven [regroupment sites to be dismantled in phase one] was Gatumba in Mutimbuze commune, which sheltered displaced Hutu who fled Bujumbura during the fighting in 1995 and 1996. A small site of fewer than 500 residents, it contained poor urban residents who preferred to stay at Gatumba because they had no homes elsewhere. Many had been small traders or artisans who had rented rooms in homes that were now destroyed. Deprived of their source of income by disruptions in the economy caused by the war, they had no money to pay lodgings elsewhere. Authorities insisted, nonetheless, that they vacate the site by March 3 and transported them to the quarters of Kamenge, Kinama, and Buterere in Bujumbura city. There they installed them in vacant, badly damaged houses. Should the owners of these houses return, the displaced will be forced to move once again.

Matara in Mukike commune is another IDP camp that was to be closed in Phase I. Its residents are mostly displaced Tutsi who fled fighting in the hills of Bujumbura-rural. Like the residents of Gatumba, they prefer to stay in the camp. In this case, authorities allowed them to remain, apparently because continuing combat made their home region insecure." (HRW June 2000, "Dismantling the camps")

"The authorities in Burundi have carried out the third phase of dismantling regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural province, UN-OCHA reported. From 8 to 10 June, seven sites in three communes were dismantled and a total of 111,695 people were allowed to leave. The figure constitutes 39 percent of the regrouped population in Bujumbura Rural. In Kanyosha commune, the sites of Kavumu, Muyaga, Ruyaga, Mboza and Buhonga were dismantled, along with Kabezi site in Kabezi commune and Nyambuye site in Isale commune." (IRIN 12 June 2000)

"Those who have returned home continue to suffer from the war. Even more than the concerns of daily life, many former camp residents worry about the possibility that military activity will increase and that they will be forced to go back to the camps. Several who expressed concern about combat in their region made clear that they fear the Burundian military, not the rebels. One said, 'The rebels pass at night and everyone on the hill knows this. We are not afraid of their passing, only of the soldiers during the day.' (HRW June 2000, "Current conditions")

"Principle 28 [of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement] requires authorities to establish conditions and to provide the means for displaced persons to return voluntarily, 'in safety and with dignity' to their homes or to resettle voluntarily elsewhere. The government of Burundi seems to have sent the people home with as little concern for their welfare as it showed in displacing them at the start." (HRW June 2000, "Guiding Principles")

While many IDPs returned home following closure of regroupment camps, tens of thousands remained displaced (2001)

- Most regroupment camps closed as of August 2000
- Many of the displaced from these sites went back to the camps because of the insecurity in home areas
- Amnesty International warns that dismantlement of camps causes new displacement, since many returnees cannot go home because of insecurity

- Returnees fear to be forced to go back to the camps because of insecurity
- According to Amnesty International, the closure of the camps has caused a second cycle of displacement
- UN Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Burundi reports that forced regroupment camps are closed but that other IDP sites have been maintained because of insecurity

"Most regroupment camps in Burundi's Bujumbura Rural province have been closed, a humanitarian source told IRIN on Wednesday. "So far, 19 camps have been completely dismantled, nine partially dismantled and between five to eight still have a few people in them because of insecurity around their former villages," he said. [...] The government had said the camps in Bujumbura Rural would be dismantled by 31 July." (IRIN-CEA 4 August 2000, "Burundi")

"In addition to its concerns in those camps which remain in existence, Amnesty International is gravely concerned that the operation to close the camps is resulting in further violations of the human rights of the camps' populations. No provision is being made for the basic needs of the returning population and no protection is being given to the most vulnerable of the camps' inhabitants. Although many people wish to leave the camps, conditions in areas to which the regrouped population is being returned are unsafe: armed opposition groups are still active in the province and fighting is continuing. Poorly planned and managed, the closure of the camp is being conducted by the Burundian military with complete disregard for the humanitarian needs of the camps' inhabitants. As such, the closure of the camps represents a second cycle of forced displacement of a population already demoralized and weakened by the months spent in the camps. [...]

Little or no attempt is being made by the military and governmental authorities to consult with camp populations, relevant humanitarian and human rights organizations, or to coordinate the closures with them. In Amnesty International's view, the closures – made without provision for the basic needs of the camps' inhabitants or for their right to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity to their former homes – represent a second cycle of forced displacement of a population which has already been demoralized and weakened by the months already spent in the camps. [...]

In most cases, camp populations have been given a matter of days or even hours to leave the camps. In clearing the camps, no attempt appears to have been made to consult with the displaced population or to provide meaningful information on the closure process, or to verify that individuals were willing to leave voluntarily. No effort seems to have been made to ensure that adequate food or water was available to those leaving the camps or that vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly or the sick were protected and cared for." (AI June 2000)

"The abrupt closures [of the regroupment camps] caught many occupants and humanitarian agencies unprepared. Although many persons returned rapidly to their homes, tens of thousands were unable to go home immediately because of security concerns or because combatants and bandits had virtually destroyed their houses and looted their possessions.

For those reasons, 25,000 people remained at regroupment camps two months after the camps had officially closed, according to a WFP survey. Thousands of others merely moved to new locations, where they remained displaced." (USCR June 2001)

According to Amnesty International, "Although many people wish to leave the camps, conditions in areas to which the regrouped population is being returned are unsafe: armed opposition groups are still active in the province and fighting is continuing. Poorly planned and managed, the closure of the camps is being conducted by the Burundian military with complete disregard for the humanitarian needs of the camps' inhabitants. As such, the closure of the camps represents a second cycle of forced displacement of a population already demoralized and weakened by the months spent in the camps." (AI June 2000)

"[...] le Rapporteur special a pu noter avec satisfaction le démantèlement définitif des camps de regroupement forcés dans la province de Bujumbura-rural ainsi que dans le reste du pays. Cependant, l'insécurité qui règne dans certaines provinces explique la persistance des sites de personnes déplacées." (CHR 19 March 2001)

Return/resettlement policy

A controversial form of resettlement: the "villagization" of the regroupment camps (2000)

- Government plans to turn selected "regroupment" sites into permanent villages and proposes Rubiza site (Bujumbura Mairie) as a pilot case
- European Community recommends prior consultation of the population concerned
- Some 'displacement' sites in Bujumbura Mairie and Ngozi province already transformed into village-like settlements usually guarded by a military presence, in recognition of the fact many displaced would never return to their places of origin

"The President of Burundi, Pierre Buyoya visited the Ruziba regrouped site and officially announced the plans to turn Ruziba into a village. Ruziba will be an experiment and that if required by the security situation and feasible, it may be applied also in other regroupment sites. The International Community is unsure of the government's real objectives on villagization." (UN OCHA 8 June 2000)

"[External Affairs and Cooperation Minister Severin Ntahomvukye] said that 80,000 residents in five camps in Bujumbura Rural, 'who wanted to stay on there', would be facilitated when the camps were transformed into permanent villages. 'Ten years from now, Bujumbura will have expanded to reach the limits of the city.

The government thought it would give the population the chance to set up villages on the same sites, with roads and water systems,' he said. The first site to be transformed would be Ruziba, where 500 houses are to be built, the minister added. The European Commission delegate in Burundi, Geoffrey Rudd, said on Friday the EC was considering its position in relation to regroupment and the government's new villagisation policy, but was not in favour of forced villagisation.

The EC would be seeking to discuss the policy with the government, and had been calling for some months for a government-donor coordinating committee in which to discuss just such emerging issues, Rudd told IRIN. There would also have to be discussion with the villagers themselves to make sure they were in agreement with the policy and that it fulfilled a real economic need, he said. 'Commission resources would not be available to the government for villagisation without prior dialogue with the villagers concerned,' he added." (IRIN 12 May 2000)

"During the course of his mission, the Representative visited a number of 'displacement' sites in Bujumbura Mairie and Ngozi province. In the framework of a resettlement programme, these camps have been transformed into village-like settlements of a permanent or semi-permanent character, usually guarded by a military presence. The resettlement was undertaken by the provincial authorities, in some cases with the support of the international community, in recognition of the fact that even if security conditions improve, many 'displaced' will not return to their places of origin as they remain fearful of former neighbors, who may have been the authors of atrocities against the returnees' ethnic group." (SGR 6 March 2000, para. 29)

Resettlement efforts by the Government target primarily the displaced Tutsi (2000)

"While the settlements visited by the Representative were mostly said to be ethnically mixed, it was reported that displacement camps were generally ethnically segregated and that among the earlier displaced persons, there continued to exist significant disparities in the treatment of predominantly Tutsi and Hutu settlements. Hutus living in camps were reported to be in more precarious conditions, having received little attention from the local authorities and in some cases being situated in inaccessible locations. Moreover, while a large number of displaced Tutsi have been resettled, there have been less efforts to resettle the displaced Hutu, as it is believed that this latter population is more likely to return to their places of origin, once security is restored." (UNSGR 6 March 2000, para. 30)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

Difficult access to IDPs in the context of armed conflict and of attacks of humanitarian workers (2001-2002)

- Since early 2002, security situation has become more precarious, mainly in Bujumbura province
- Hundreds of thousands of IDPs, dispersed following dismantlement of regroupment camps, are beyond the reach of humanitarian assistance
- Assassination of WHO Representative to Burundi end 2001 and administrative official of South African Protection force early 2002
- MSF suspended projects in Ruhigi following attack on UN staff in Feb 2002 and evacuated temporarily expatriate staff in July 2002; Action Contre la Faim (ACF) also pulled out expatriate staff
- In Nov 01 WFP estimated that less than 30 percent of targeted beneficiaries received WFP assistance to due insecurity
- WFP convoy attacked in April 2001 and NGO workers kidnapped in May 2001
- In December 2000, a British aid worker was killed by Hutu rebels
- Suspension of humanitarian activities in Bubanza following attack of vehicle of British NGO Children's Aid Direct (CAD), which killed one staff and took three hostages
- The U.N. has declared six out of sixteen provinces under Phase IV security (Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura Rurale, Bururi, Makamba, and Rutana)
- Humanitarian access is intermittently possible in approximately 70% of the country

"[S]ince early 2002, the security situation has become more precarious, mainly in Bujumbura province. Even Bujumbura town was shelled at the beginning of June 2002. Fighting in areas bordering Tanzania – Ruyigi, Bubanza and Cankuzo – has resulted in the displacement of populations and looting. Security throughout the country remains unpredictable, with ambushes on the roads, attacks and armed banditry, and six of the 17 provinces are graded at Security Phase IV. There has been some hostage-taking; the Bishop of Ruyigi province and his driver were kidnapped by an armed group at the end of May, although both were released a few days later, unharmed, after being held in Kibira forest." (UN OCHA 15 August 2002, p13)

"Insecurity increased in the provinces of Gitega, Muramvya and Bujumbura Rural as well as Bujumbura. It also affected Karuzi, Kayanza and Ngozi provinces that have been stable for more than five years." (WFP 9 Aug 2002)

"[F]ollowing the dismantlement of virtually all the regroupment sites by the Government in July 2000, over 200,000 IDPs may be dispersed in other areas of the countryside, beyond the reach of humanitarian assistance, and unable to return home as a result of continued insecurity. [...] The issue of access for all vulnerable populations, as well as specifically IDPs, remains of concern. Although access is sporadically possible to up to 70% of the country, both advance planning and armed escorts are required for the majority of travel for UN staff. 6 of the 17 provinces remain at Phase IV under the UN security classification, with the remaining 1 at Phase III. The problem of access was dramatically highlighted by the attack on a WFP food convoy, on 2 April [2001] at Muriza, in which four humanitarian staff were injured. The humanitarian

community has strongly condemned the attack, and called, once again, for all parties to the conflict to respect both humanitarian principles and human rights." (UN OCHA 22 May 2001)

In mid-2002, "Access to Rushubi [Bujumbura Rural] remains extremely difficult. [...] Security situation remained tense in Bujumbura Rural, the East and the South of Burundi." (WFP 26 April 2002)

"Access to some 33,790 displaced people in the Nyabitsinda, Kinynya and Muhwazi districts of Ruyigi was delayed for over a month, despite discussion on a possible humanitarian corridor, while the Government restricted movement to the area because of fighting between soldiers and rebels." (UN OCHA 31 July 2002, p9)

"The assassination of the WHO Representative to Burundi, Dr Kassi Manlan, on 20 November and the murder of an administrative official of the South African Protection force on 3 January, shocked the humanitarian community and further highlighted the risks to international staff as they go about their private and professional business in Burundi. On-going investigations have yet to reveal the actual circumstances or motivation for either death. The murders followed a period in which an increase in the number of attacks on the properties of UN Staff and international NGOs had been noted. In response, stringent security measures to protect international staff – the enforcement of the curfew, an increase in radio checks, additional installation of security devices at residences – have been implemented.

General insecurity within the country, as well the threat of ambush and kidnap, impacts upon humanitarian access, which remains only sporadic to some areas, and security procedures have been tightened, even though the grading of provinces (11 out of 17 are at UN Security Phase III and the remainder at Phase IV) remains the same." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, pp9-10)

"The MSF projects in Ruyigi province, Burundi, have been suspended after two incidents on Feb 16, 2002. Three Burundese UN-staff, who were traveling in an unmarked car, were attacked. One person was killed, the other two wounded.

In addition, a handgrenade was thrown at a UN-truck carrying refugees back from Tanzania." (MSF 24 Feb 2002)

"Two aid agencies [MSF and ACF] said Friday they were pulling their remaining expatriate staff out of a town in eastern Burundi [in Ruyigi province] after a grenade went off in one of their compounds overnight." (AFP 19 July 2002)

"For the month of November [2001], WFP estimated that less than 30 percent of the targeted beneficiaries effectively received WFP assistance due to the prevailing insecurity." (WFP 28 December 01)

"On 11 May [2001], six Memisa-Copedstaff members were kidnapped in Kibago commune, Makamba province and moved to Tanzania, before being released on 16 May. On 11 May, armed bandits attacked the MSF-F residence in Ngozi province and looted the radio communication equipment." (WFP 18 May 2001)

"A British aid worker killed by ethnic Hutu rebels in Burundi earlier this week was murdered in cold blood, a survivor of the attack said. Charlotte Wilson, 27, who was working with Britain's Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), was among 21 people killed after rebels opened fire on a tourist bus and two other vehicles on Burundi's main road near the capital Bujumbura on Thursday." (Reuters 30 December 2000)

"The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Burundi has strongly condemned an attack on an NGO vehicle in Bubanza Province last week, and called on all armed factions to adhere to international human rights and humanitarian law. In a statement, he urged the armed groups to stop targeting civilians and aid workers. "Humanitarian workers, often at great risk to themselves, are delivering much needed assistance to the most vulnerable populations throughout Burundi," the statement noted. It recalled that the vehicle belonging to the British NGO Children's Aid Direct (CAD) was stopped by a "man in uniform". The man opened fire on

the vehicle, killing the driver, and seven more "heavily armed men" emerged from the bushes and took the remaining three CAD workers hostage. They were released after one and a half hours. Three international NGOs who have been operating in Bubanza - CAD, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Action contre la faim (ACF) - have suspended their activities in the province until further notice." (IRIN-CEA 29 June 2001)

Government could ensure better access to IDPs (2000-2002)

- In some cases, local authorities contravened Principles 18 and 25 of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement by failing to ensure a safe access to basic services for the displaced
- Government lifted restriction on WFP operations after two months of additional customs formalities (July 2000)
- In June 2001 UN Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator encouraged the government of Burundi to ensure safe access of humanitarian workers to vulnerable populations, especially in Bujumbura Rural
- Bureaucratic hurdles also hinder access and the distribution of assistance (July 2002)

"During June and July, 2000 the government of Burundi dismantled most of the regroupment camps, but many former residents are now living in limbo between empty camps and insecurity in many of their home areas. The humanitarian community has been unable to consistently and safely provide assistance to the population in Bujumbura Rurale, whether or not they are in camps. [...]

"According to principle 18 [of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement], authorities are obliged to provide displaced persons with food, water, shelter, clothing and medical services or to ensure their access to these necessities. Burundian authorities generally permitted humanitarian agencies to deliver these necessary services, but in some cases, such as that of Kavumu in the first weeks of 2000, local authorities contravened this principle. The interruption of such services also contravened principle 25 which requires granting free passage to personnel of humanitarian agencies." (HRW June 2000, "Guiding Principles")

"While security remains a significant impediment to camp access, the Government of Burundi could take actions to assist the international community in its efforts to provide minimum, life-sustaining support to the tens of thousands of vulnerable people perched in the mountains surrounding Bujumbura." (RI 13 July 2000)

"The government has lifted the suspension of a special authorization permitting the WFP to offload its commodities before undergoing customs and clearing procedures. The suspension, which had lasted two months, had seriously affected the agency's operations, causing delivery and distribution delays and cancellations because its transport partners from Uganda and Tanzania had halted work during that period, WFP stated in its latest emergency report. In view of the problems with the food pipeline, WFP had cancelled distributions to regroupment sites in Bujumbura Rural province and to victims of the drought in the north, the report said. Security remained of major concern in different provinces throughout the country, it added." (IRIN-CEA 25 July 2000)

"Mr. Mountain [UN Assistant Relief Coordinator and Director of OCHA headquarters in Geneva] encouraged the Government to undertake all efforts to ensure safe and unhindered access of humanitarian workers to all vulnerable populations, with particular attention to Bujumbura Rural. He also underscored the need for all actors to the conflict to respect the principles of humanitarian action, including in particular those of impartiality, neutrality and non-discrimination. (UN OCHA 12 June 2001)

"Bureaucratic hurdles have also hindered access and the distribution of assistance. In early June, the supply of water was cut to almost 50,000 IDPs in Bujumbura Town and Rural when REGIDESO instituted charges for this. Following negotiations with the Ministry for Reinsertion and with REGIDESO, water was made available again at the end of June." (UN OCHA 31 July 2002, p9)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

National response

Government surveyed available land for returning IDPs and refugees (2002)

"To prepare for the reinstallation of over 432,000 internally displaced and 345,000 refugees that will return from Tanzania, the Government of Burundi conducted a full survey of available lands. The survey, which as released on 12 January 2002, identified over 570,142 hectares that could be made available to these returning populations and/or redistributed to populations who have a very small share of available land." (UNICEF 27 February 2002, p3)

Government submitted plan to reduce impact of AIDS (2002)

"The Government submitted a plan to the Geneva Conference last December consisting of three phases: preventing, coping with and reducing the impact of AIDS, plus strengthening institutional capacities, including local associations combating AIDS. The plan extends over five years (2002-2006) and embraces 16 programmes together costing US\$ 234 million. The institutions set up for the purpose are the Ministry of State to the Presidential Office, providing the muscle for the National Council, a consultative body bringing together representatives of all the ministries concerned, civil society and AIDS patients, and a permanent executive office." (CHR 7 March 2002)

Government has adopted rehabilitation action plans for the displaced and the returning refugees (2001)

- The Government plans to build 3,000 houses in 2002
- 200,000 houses should be built over the next few years
- 10,000 houses will be built in Kamenge, north of Bujumbura, for the displaced in the "Chez Legentil" and "Chez Johnson" camps, and for those who had fled west of Bujumbura

"More than 250,000 family homes have been destroyed since the outbreak of civil war in 1993. The Government of Burundi plans to build 3,000 houses in 2002. Others will need international assistance for the reconstruction of their homes." (UN 26 November 2001, p.27)

"The Burundi government has published an action plan for the next three years aimed at rehabilitating 1.2 million Burundians classified as 'disaster-stricken' due to the ongoing civil war, the Panafrikan News Agency (PANA) reported. It said the plan, drawn up by the rehabilitation and resettlement ministry, provides for 630,936 displaced people within the country and 448,371 refugees in neighbouring Tanzania who are expected to return home. In its projection from 2001 to 2003, the plan estimates that 100,000 houses will be needed in the first year, 60,000 in the second year and 40,000 in the third. The plan also provides for the establishment of a multi-sectoral commission in charge of preparing the repatriation of refugees." (IRIN 10 April 2001)

"Burundi is set to embark on a recovery path from the devastating civil war and construct about 10,000 houses in the Kamenge neighbourhood, north of the capital Bujumbura, officials in the area reported Monday.

Sources in the Ministry of Planning indicated that this construction scheme is part of the national reconstruction programme stipulated in the inter-Burundian peace accord following the year-long civil war.

Eye-witnesses who visited Kamenge told Deutsche Presse-Agentur, (dpa) that construction materials have been ferried to various sites in the area. Some brand new houses with corrugated iron roofs are already to be seen there.

The Kamenge area was the scene of some of the most violent clashes between the army and the rebel Palipehutu-FNL - the national liberation front.

A local official, Deogratias Bibaze, head of Kamenge zone, said the scheme will benefit the displaced from the refugee camps "Chez Legentil" and "Chez Johnson" and those who had fled to the Gatumba zone west of Bujumbura.

Some of the displaced are originally from the area and others fled in the wake of a Hutu rebel attack on Kinama and Kamenge.

The programme is expected to last from 2002 to 2004 and cost at least 4 million U.S. dollars, funded by the international community." (DPA 20 August 2001)

Rehabilitation needs of the displaced reviewed by the Committee IV on Reconstruction and Development (Arusha peace process) (2000)

- Peace negotiations in Arusha divided among various committees: Committee IV (reconstruction and development) deals with the rehabilitation and return/resettlement of the displaced population
- Only 650,000 of the internally displaced population will want to return home, Committee IV estimated
- Committee IV established a principle that "each refugee/internal victim must be able to recover his/her goods" and proposed a fund mechanism to ensure fair compensation or indemnity
- Between 150,000 and 200,000 houses will have to be rebuilt, along with at least fifteen per cent of hydraulic structures, a dozen hospitals and 120 schools
- Committee IV estimated that 60,000 soldiers would be demobilised at a cost at \$US 50 to 100 million, which would include a transitional salary and training for former soldiers

"Between June 1998 and January 2000, the different parties to Arusha have met thirteen times: in June, July, October and December 1998, in January, March, May, July, September and November 1999, and in January, February and March 2000. On 21 June 1998, the participants signed a ceasefire declaration, which was immediately denounced by one of the rebel factions. In July 1998, they agreed on the procedural rules for the negotiations; in October 1998, they set up various committees. These comprise Committee I on the nature of the conflict; Committee II on democracy and good governance; Committee III on the security forces; and Committee IV on reconstruction and development. In February 2000, they approved the creation of Committee V on the guarantees for the agreement." (ICG 18 April 2000)

"Committee IV has dealt with three chapters: the rehabilitation and reinstallation of the refugees and internally displaced, reconstruction, and economic and social development. It has practically finished its work, with the exception of a few questions dealing with the recovery of property by refugees and the displaced, and the social and professional reintegration of demobilised soldiers and rebels.

It has established that 345,000 refugees have crossed into Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, the DRC, Zambia, Angola, DRC-Brazzaville, Malawi and Cameroon since 1993. Around 200,000 have been living in Tanzania since 1972. The total number of internally displaced people is 808,000, of whom 44 per cent are in rural Bujumbura. Committee IV estimates that 650,000 of these will want to return home. It recommends that the UNHCR undertake a census among the refugees aimed at 'noting the wishes and grievances of these refugees concerning the recovery of their lands or alternative measures'. It also recommends that the national commission for the rehabilitation of the victims of war - to be created on the conclusion of the agreement - carry out a similar census with the same objectives.

The committee suggests that information sessions to raise awareness of the peace agreement should be organised, as well as visits to places of origin before any definitive return home. The participants agree on a series of measures aimed at repatriation, but not on the modalities and conditions regarding compensation for lost properties.

As regards land, Committee IV established a principle that 'each refugee/internal victim must be able to recover his/her goods. If recovery should prove impossible, each must receive a fair compensation and/or indemnity'. A national fund should be set up for victims. A calendar still has to be established for the return of the refugees, but this depends on the calendar for the transition itself, which is to be decided in Committee II.

As regards reconstruction, Committee IV estimated that between 150,000 and 200,000 houses will have to be rebuilt, along with at least fifteen per cent of hydraulic structures, a dozen hospitals and 120 schools. It established a series of measures for political reconstruction: a programme of national reconciliation, the promotion of human rights, education on peace, the role of women, reform of the judiciary, aid for democratisation and for parliament, promotion of civil society and the media, and support for political parties.

Regarding development, Committee IV proposes an economic reform plan, aimed particularly at reforming and privatising public enterprises, the reform of the coffee sector, reform in the education sector, and regional decentralisation and integration. An emergency reconstruction plan must be drawn up within six weeks of the agreement, followed by a more in-depth plan for the transition period, which should be worked out with the help of the World Bank, UNDP and the European Union. It concluded that a minimum of 80,000 jobs would have to be created to meet the employment needs of the demobilised, the repatriated and civil servants (unemployed after the reform of the administration). Committee IV estimated that 60,000 soldiers would be demobilised at a cost at \$US 50 to 100 million, which would include a transitional salary and training for former soldiers. Discussions on demobilisation will have to wait for the conclusion of work in Committee III." (ICG 18 April 2000)

Burundi has ratified principal international treaties on human rights and humanitarian law (2000-2001)

Human rights law

Treaty	Acronym	Date of accession/ratification
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	CCPR	9 May 1990
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	CESCR	9 May 1990
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	CAT	18 February 1993
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	CERD	27 October 1977

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	CEDA W	08 January 1992
Convention on the Rights of the Child	CRC	19 October 1990
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	MWC	--
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	OPT	--
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (to abolish death penalty)	OPT2	--

(UN HCHR 16 November 2000)

Humanitarian law

Ratifications/Accessions

Treaty	Date of Treaty	Date of ratification/Accession
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	9.12.1948	06.01.1997
Geneva Conventions	12.08.1949	27.12.1971
Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I)	08.06.1977	10.06.1993
Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)	08.06.1977	10.06.1993
Convention on the Rights of the Child	20.11.1989	19.10.1990
Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction	13.01.1993	04.09.1998

Signatures

Treaty	Date of Treaty	Date of signature
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction	10.04.1972	10.04.1972
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction	18.09.1997	13.12.1997
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	17.08.1998	13.01.1999

(ICRC 2000)

"The Government of Burundi passed law No. 1/12 on 20 June 2001 to ratify ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour and a call for immediate action for their elimination." (UNICEF 10 August 2001)

UN Response

UN Consolidated Appeal for 2002 focuses on IDPs

"The Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Burundi was launched on 27 November in Brussels, seeking a total of US\$ 107,865,224 to address immediate humanitarian needs and support a period of transition. The humanitarian community has pledged both to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches all vulnerable groups within Burundi, including where access is difficult, as well as to promote the peace process and develop self-sustainable livelihoods. The launch of the humanitarian Appeal was followed by a donor meeting in Geneva, 6-7 December at which it was reported that US\$830 million was pledged (including US\$440 million previously committed at the Paris donor conference in December 2000). The Government of Burundi had appealed for debt relief, money for a 'war on poverty' and economic recovery, support to priority development programmes and for the fight against HIV/AIDS." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, p12).

Common Humanitarian Action Plan-

Overall goals:

"Representatives of the Burundian Government, UN agencies, donors, international and national NGOs, Burundian civil societies, media, the private sector and beneficiaries, emphasized that all major stakeholders should join forces to create conditions conducive to the restoration and safeguarding of peace and security in Burundi. Goals for 2002 include:

Advocate for increased access to beneficiaries to ensure timely delivery of relief assistance;

Promote and support the national peace and reconciliation process;

Support the bridge from humanitarian relief to transitional programmes, security conditions permitting, with priority on enhanced food security;

Enable host communities to receive and reintegrate, in dignity and security, returning IDP or refugee populations;

Support local capacities at all levels through training of personnel and physical reconstruction of public infrastructures;

Mainstream gender issues and HIV/AIDS prevention in programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p11)

Framework of Consultation on Protection of IDPs include host government, UN and NGOs (2001-2002)

- Framework should help to solve issues of access and protection, facilitate assessment and rapid intervention mechanisms and support the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- The monitoring team reporting to the Follow up Technical Group of the Framework for Consultation on Protection of IDPs has extended its activities to Bujumbura Rural Province (Oct 01)
- UN OCHA regretted the lack of high-level representatives of government ministries and other actors such as civil society in meetings (Dec 01)
- UNICEF said in May 2002 that the absence of a National Commission for the Rehabilitation of Sinistrés (IDPs and Refugees) weakens coordination efforts
- Despite framework and training initiatives, awareness of legal and physical protection issues is low among agencies (Aug 2002)

"International concern about the position of IDPs prompted the signature, on 7 February 2001, of a Framework for Consultation on Protection of Internally Displaced Persons by the Minister of Human

Rights and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator. This established an open forum to discuss issues related to IDPs, particularly access and protection, to facilitate assessment and rapid intervention mechanisms and to support the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement." (UN OCHA 22 May 2001)

"The Framework will consist of two main bodies: a high-level Committee on the Protection of IDPs and a Follow-Up Technical Group. Membership of the Committee, which should come together on a monthly basis, includes the Burundian Minister of Human Rights (President), the Minister of Defense, the Minister of Interior, the Minister for Reinstallation and Reintegration of the Displaced and Returnees and the President of the Governmental Human Rights Commission, as well as the UN Humanitarian Coordinator (Co-President), the head of the OCHA Office, the country representatives of unhr and OHCHR, the president of RESO ["Rassemblement, Echange et Solutions entre ONG", i.e. association of 37 INGOs in Burundi] and the Burundian human rights NGO "Ligue Iteka", in representation of international and national NGOs respectively. UNICEF will participate in the work of the Follow-Up Technical Group." (UN OCHA-Burundi 5 February 2001)

In the context of Bujumbura Rural, the monitoring team reporting to the Follow up Technical Group of the Framework for Consultation on Protection of Internally Displaced Persons has extended its activities to this province. Rapid Evaluation and Assessment Teams (REACT) will increasingly assess primary needs. Preliminary contacts between the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and the governor of Bujumbura Rural have taken place to discuss strategies of humanitarian support." (UN OCHA 12 October 2001)

"The report of the Technical Follow-up Group describes the main problems of IDPs in the country, which include: insecurity and deplorable living conditions in many sites, temporary inaccessibility of sites, restricted or no access of the inhabitants of sites to education and health care, IDPs rarely participating in administration of sites, absence of a governmental plan of action to support and protect displaced populations. The report also formulates a number of practical recommendations, concerning the setting-up of small humanitarian corridors to allow distributions of food assistance and non-food items, particularly in troubled Bujumbura Rural.

With the aim to discuss the findings in the report of the Follow-up Technical Group, the High-level Committee on the Protection of IDPs convened a meeting on 14 December. Regrettably, only one Government Minister, (Human Rights) attended. Other Ministries (Defence, Interior, Education, 3R) were represented at lower level. One main issue raised during the discussions was the only minimal engagement shown by political groups and personalities (political parties, civil society representatives, members of parliament, high-level representatives of government ministries)." (UN OCHA 31 Dec 01)

"[...] the absence of a National Commission for the Rehabilitation of Sinistrés (IDPs and Refugees) weakens coordination efforts." (UNICEF 29 May 2002)

"Inter-agency coordination on IDP issues is said to have improved, in part thanks to a) the forum for dialogue known as the Permanent Framework for Consultation on the Protection of IDPs, b) the NRC Workshop on the Guiding Principles held in 2001 and c) official recognition of the Guiding Principles. However, in general, awareness of legal and physical protection issues is low among agencies (and refugees), and more training is required." (Robarts, Oddo Aug 2002, p9)

To view the minutes of the Contact Group Meetings, see OCHA-Burundi website, " Contact Group", [\[External Link\]](#)

Additional appeal to respond to ongoing crisis despite severe lack of funding for 2001 UN Consolidated Appeal for Burundi (2001)

"The Consolidated Appeal in 2001 originally sought US\$ 101,961,638. Following a review of the humanitarian situation in May, an additional US\$ 9,535,823 were requested to cover emergency needs ensuing from three major crises:

Severe malnutrition, affecting the northern and north-eastern provinces of the country;

An unprecedented outbreak of malaria, especially in rural areas;

Considerable population displacement in the suburbs of the capital Bujumbura, and in the southern and central provinces of Rutana, Ruyigi, Gitega, Mwaro and Muramvya. The displacement movements were a result of an offensive launched by armed opposition groups of the National Liberation Front (NLF) and Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD).

As of 5 November, response to the revised CA 2001 amounted to US\$ 50,098,943 representing 45% of the US\$ 111,497,461 requirements.

Donor response has been forthcoming for projects in food aid, nutrition and agricultural emergency interventions. However, resources for health, education, and peace-building programmes were lacking." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p3)

WFP strategy for food assistance to IDPs and other vulnerable populations (November 2001)

- WFP will increase geographical coverage of its program in 2002

"Strategy

Food distribution activities are coordinated by WFP and channeled through an important network of partners with competence in targeted distribution activities (CARE, World Vision, CRS), nutritional programmes (UNICEF and 13 NGOs) and over 104 social centres for aid programs to chronically vulnerable populations.

The identification of areas and groups of population at risk, as well as the determination of periods requiring higher assistance levels will be undertaken regularly through food security evaluations. A participatory approach will be promoted and strengthened through the use of beneficiaries committees, various partners involved in the targeting process, the setting lists of beneficiaries and aid management.

Food assistance partners will carry out the monitoring and evaluation activities jointly.

Decision-making on interventions will be based on information collected by Households Food Economic Assessment Teams (HFEA), Monitoring teams and through the Committee for Food Assistance (CFA)." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p17)

"For 2002 WFP will strive to increase the geographical coverage of its programme, reaching an average of 711,000 people per month. While the focus will remain on relief interventions, including selective feeding, refugee assistance and targeted feeding programmes to those identified as having an acute food deficit, WFP will attempt in more stable areas, to broaden the scope of its programme. A resumption of school feeding programme where security permits on a consistent basis is recommendable in preparation of a more economically productive youthful population, especially the girls. These projects will aim particularly at improving food security and mitigating against the effects of crises arising from man-made and natural disasters, thus putting in place a viable exit strategy for the organisation. As in the past, special emphasis will be given to women's associations in this domain." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p51)

Humanitarian organizations faced serious challenges when assisting IDPs in Bujumbura City (2002)

- Assistance in the form of food, non-food items, latrines, water, temporary health center and protection of vulnerable children
- Humanitarian community not permitted to install temporary shelter or build temporary schooling for two weeks

"Approximately 2,700 households, or 14,000 people, fled heavy fighting between the army and the rebels that began 8 January [2002] in Isale zone in Bujumbura Rural. From 13-30 January, the 14,000 people who fled to Bujumbura City stayed in the Mont Sion church area where they were provided with humanitarian assistance. On 31 January, these people were escorted back to their neighborhood, but were not able to stay there because of continuing fighting and so returned to abandoned houses surrounding Mont Sion. The church was no longer able to accommodate them. [...]

Humanitarian assistance: The humanitarian community responded immediately to the needs of this group with assistance in the form of food, non-food items, latrines, water, a temporary health center and protection of vulnerable children.

The dispersal of the population around the Mont Sion site has somewhat complicated the provision of assistance. Nonetheless, the population's nutritional, health, water and sanitation needs were taken care of, although the humanitarian community was not permitted to install temporary shelter or build temporary schooling until 15 February, when UNICEF began preparing to establish temporary classrooms. The Framework for Consultation on the Protection of Internally Displaced in Burundi is being used to address the challenges faced in providing assistance and protection to this and other displaced populations." (UNICEF 27 February 2002, pp3-4)

Assistance to the displaced and rehabilitation following crisis in Kinama (Bujumbura Mairie) (2001)

- During crisis, UN agencies and NGOs provided emergency aid to IDP populations in seven sites
- UNICEF and SCF-UK conducted family tracing and reunification activities in displaced sites
- UN Security Council condemned the attacks and stressed importance of assisting the displaced
- After crisis, UNICEF consultant worked with teachers and government officials in Kinama to develop awareness of mines
- Assessment mission conducted by UN Agencies, donors and NGOs evaluated the situation in Kinama in March 2001
- UNICEF provided school supplies to school children in Kinama, and committed to covering costs of school rehabilitation of the town
- Three mobile clinics run by MSF and Memisa/Coped have been established by MoH and WHO
- Coordination between humanitarian community and Burundi government to respond to crisis

Assistance during crisis

" UN agencies and NGOs continued to provide emergency aid to IDP populations in seven accessible sites in Bujumbura. Additional shelter was provided by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). International Red Cross (ICRC), and the NGOs Oxfam-UK, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) strengthened assistance in the water and sanitation sector.

MSF, Jesuite Refugee Services (JRS), MEMISA-COPED, ICRC, the Burundian Red Cross, the Federation of the Red Cross (FIRC) and the mobile teams of the Ministry of Health intensified efforts to provide health assistance to the displaced populations. However, heavy rains lead to a gradual deterioration of health conditions in the sites, particularly in terms of respiratory diseases, diarrhea and cholera. [...]

UNICEF, in tandem with Save the Children Fund-UK and other local partners, addressed the needs of unaccompanied and other vulnerable children in the displaced sites through tracing and reunification activities, as well as distribution of non-food items. UNICEF continues to work with these partners to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable throughout the crisis. In response to the general displacement crisis, UNICEF Water and Sanitation Program provided non-food items (such as blankets, jerry-cans and soaps) to 4,000 households belonging to the displaced and vulnerable groups in Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Gitega, Bururi and Muyinga. The distribution of these items was carried out by UNICEF partners: CRS, Caritas, International Medical Corps (IMC) and Children's Aid Direct (CAD). " (UN OCHA –Burundi 16 March 2001)

"The Council condemned the deliberate targeting of the civilian population by the armed groups and called upon all parties to refrain from any further military action that would endanger the civilian population. [...] The statement stressed the importance of providing urgent humanitarian assistance to civilians displaced by the hostilities, and called upon all parties to guarantee safe and unhindered access by humanitarian personnel to those in need." (UN SC 2 March 2001)

Evaluation and assistance following crisis

"The security situation in most communes in Bujumbura Rural bordering the capital [...] remains volatile. Out of a total of 10,000 households living in Kinama, the district worst affected by fighting, 8,708 were counted to have returned. [...]

Unexploded Ordinance

An expert consultant worked with UNICEF for two weeks to develop a mine awareness project, and train partners and UNICEF staff were trained in mine awareness and sensibilization activities. The UNICEF consultant worked with teachers and government officials in Kinama to develop awareness raising approaches for mines and unexploded ordinance (UXOs).

Inter-agency evaluation mission

In related developments, OCHA Burundi facilitated an Inter-Agency Structural Evaluation Mission to Kinama, 27 March 2001 with the aim to:

- Assess the level of destruction and necessary rehabilitation measures in buildings of public infrastructure in Kinama quarter (schools, health and administrative structures, market)
- Establish a common information basis for the formulation of commitments

The mission was attended by representatives of the Belgian and French Cooperation, the World Bank, UNESCO, UNDP, WHO and a representative of RESO, a network of 37 international NGOs working in Burundi.

Education /Schools

The mission visited two primary and three secondary schools, which displayed the same elements of destruction, destroyed roofing, due to stray bullets or due to heavier artillery after air raids. Partly dilapidated walls in some classrooms, blackboards with holes from ammunition, and bust windows, due to explosions in close proximity.

All schools had been looted heavily during and shortly after the battles. Seating and tables had been taken or destroyed, teaching equipments, like globes, sports equipments, and electric wiring were stolen. In one of the schools even the electric meter had been taken.

Based on an assessment of the needs by the Ministry of Education, UNICEF provided school supplies for 4,602 school children, and has committed to covering the costs of schoolbooks, desks and school rehabilitation in Kinama.

Health Facilities

Kinama had seven health centres before the outbreaks of fighting, six of which were run privately. In response to this crisis, three mobile clinics have been established by the Ministry of Health with the support of WHO. They are currently run by MSF and the Dutch NGO Memisa/Coped

The only public health centre is completely destroyed after heavy fighting. Fighting also took place inside of the building, as rebels are reported to have transported their wounded there. The roof of one part of the building has been totally destroyed after an air raid

Further destruction after heavy looting was observed. Items like wash basins, water taps, toilet facilities, and any kind of furniture had been taken

Market

The market has been partly destroyed and urgently needs rehabilitation. Currently no commercial activities can be carried out there. Although most of the market stands are more or less intact, roofing has been partly destroyed and vital equipment, like the cool room have been destroyed

The motor of the cool room's refrigeration equipment have been looted, as well as all sanitary facilities. [...]

Coordination with government

High level meetings, held regularly at the Ministry of 3R, to exchange information and coordinate assistance of the humanitarian community and the Burundian government authorities during the Bujumbura Mairie crisis are to continue on a monthly basis with a broader scope. It is hoped that these meetings, chaired by the Minister of 3R [Minister of Reinstallation and Reintegration of the Displaced and Returnees] and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator could be expanded to other regions and situations such as the current displacement crisis in Rutana. " (UN OCHA 8 April 2001)

"Working closely with the local administration, the humanitarian community supports returnees by ensuring sufficient water supply, establishment of sanitary facilities and health posts, provision of shelter materials, distribution of food and non-food items, as well as sensitisation campaigns on unexploded ordnances (UXOs).

The Monitoring Team, created in the past week to follow the return of displaced populations is observing these movements in daily field visits. The Monitoring Team is composed of representatives from OCHA, OHCHR, UNHCR, the Burundian Ministry of Human Rights and RESO (a group of 37 international NGOs working in Burundi). Findings of the Monitoring Team are to be submitted to the Follow-Up Technical Group of the Framework for Consultation on Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (the relevant protocol for this framework was signed by Burundi's Minister of Human Rights and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator on 07 February). The establishment of the Monitoring Team is an initiative suggested by the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Minister of Human Rights and was agreed upon by the humanitarian community active in the Bujumbura Mairie crisis." (UN OCHA 25 Mar 2001)

UN is determining strategies to improve assistance to IDPs (November 2001)

"The United Nations country team in Burundi is preparing a nationwide study on conditions at internally displaced person sites to determine strategies for improved assistance. The follow-up technical group within the framework for the consultation and protection of internally displaced persons is developing strategies for assisting internally displaced persons who are dispersed, particularly in the province of Bujumbura-Rural. To improve follow-up on the internally displaced person situation at the communal level, communal focal points are to be appointed who will regularly provide this information. To ensure that humanitarian assistance will also be provided to populations who dwell in zones with limited or no access, strategic distribution points are being identified in each commune." (UN SC 14 Nov 2001, para.36)

WFP provided emergency assistance to displaced population (2001-2002)

- WFP provided food the displaced with little or no access to farm land and doubled support to nutritional centers following malaria outbreak
- WFP also provided food to temporary displaced populations
- WFP supported the establishment of structures which include beneficiaries when assessing food needs

"The needs in Burundi form a large part of WFP's regional operation. An estimated 380,000 Burundians are displaced inside their own country, with little or no access to farm land. WFP plans to assist 1.3 million people who have seen their lives disrupted because of war, drought and disease.

Some regions of Burundi are experiencing their third consecutive year of drought. Recently, a severe malaria epidemic has contributed to a dangerous deterioration in nutritional levels. In response, WFP has more than doubled its support to nutritional centers, where over 100,000 malnourished people, many of them children, are being fed." (WFP 27 March 2001)

"Following displacement of the population in Muramvya province, WFP food was distributed by the NGO Solidarité as emergency assistance to 721 families that sought refuge at Muramvya town centre." (WFP 27 April 2001)

"Following displacements of populations in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, in early April, caused by insecurity, WFP supplied 9 tons of food to 436 IDP households in Ruyigi town centre." (WFP 18 May 2001)

"In Burundi, WFP said, it was also continuing with targeting distributions to populations displaced as a result of insecurity. It noted that more than 23,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Isale commune in Bujumbura Rural province, now located in Bujumbura Mairie, had been assisted." (IRIN-CEA 20 March 2002)

Specific programs:
Great Lakes PRRO 6077.01

"The broad objectives of this regional operation are to:

- Assist the governments and humanitarian partners in the Great Lakes Region to save the lives and restore the livelihoods of populations made vulnerable by civil conflict
- Contribute to sustaining registered refugees and internally displaced persons and encourage long term solutions such as repatriation and resettlement
- Improve the health and nutritional status of malnourished vulnerable populations, especially women and children
- Assist in the recovery process among the poor and hungry, in targeted food insecure areas, by contributing to agricultural production and social /economic infrastructure rehabilitation

In Burundi, beneficiaries under this PRRO include longer-term displaced persons as well as people who were recently forced to flee their homes as a result of fighting, especially women and children suffering from high levels of malnutrition. [...]

Great Lakes PRRO 6077.01

Duration:	Eighteen months (1 August 2001–31 January 2003)
Total commitment:	297 950 tons
Planned beneficiaries:	1.12 million persons

(WFP 2001)

"In recent months, WFP has encouraged the establishment of 115 provincial and communal beneficiary committees throughout the country. It is partially in response to a recommendation to include beneficiaries in the determination of target populations made in the final report of a joint crop assessment (FAO, WFP, UNICEF and the Ministries of Agriculture and Health in May/June), which included analysis of the overall food security and nutritional situation." (UN OCHA 12 October 2001)

"Food Distributions WFP distributed 1,856.566Mt of food to 210,949 Burundians in July. The majority of the targeted assistance (1,647.292 Mt) was distributed to 100,230 people displaced by hostilities in Bujumbura Rural province. These quantities do not include food deliveries to Quick Action Projects and nutritional programmes. Insecurity in Ruyigi Province prevented WFP from supplying food to 26,040 temporary IDPs." (UN OCHA 6 Aug 2002)

UNFPA will undertake exhaustive census of IDPs by June 2003 (August 2002)

"UNFPA will undertake a demographic and reproductive health survey starting at the end of August for 6 weeks. The first results will be made available at the end of 2002. The complete report will be published in June 2003. The objective is collect new data on:

Population statistics (inc. IDPs) sex, age, education, income source.

Reproductive health - contraception, abortion, maternal mortality, pregnancy and delivery conditions.

Evolution of mortality due to HIV/AIDS over 10 years.

Exhaustive census of IDPs.

History of recent migrations and impact of the crisis on them.

Rural and urban socio-economic and demographic characteristics.

Household characteristics and structure.

Demographic behavior in terms of fecundity, mortality and marriage.

Violence against women." (UN OCHA 6 Aug 2002)

UNFPA and UNIFEM plan to support victims of rape and of other physical violence in IDP camps (2002)

"Sexual violence is common in IDP camps and surrounding areas. The project will assist in setting up appropriate mechanisms to identify the victims of sexual violence in the three provinces with the highest displacement rates (Makamba, Rutana and Bururi) and bring them assistance. The number of IDPs in the three provinces is presently 290,000; 80,000 of whom are girls and women aged 10 years and above. Bujumbura Mairie is targeted, because physical and sexual violence in the capital is extremely high.

According to a study conducted by the national human rights NGO *Ligue Iteka* and UNIFEM, 91% of women in Bujumbura get beaten, 49 % of girls were raped, and 47 % of women and girls have suffered from acts of mortification. More than 98 cases of rape have been reported in Bujumbura during the last six months of 2000, but only ¼ of those cases have been followed up with appropriate medical assistance and psycho-social support.

This project of UNFPA, UNIFEM and their national partner NGOs will conduct a survey to identify the magnitude and nature of the phenomenon in the four target provinces, and implement a systematic reporting system on cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence. At the same time, medical staff will be trained to provide medical and psychological assistance to women-victims of violence in IDP sites. Adequate medical and counselling kits will also be provided to field workers, who will also be trained to

identify and address women- victims of violence. Victims will receive a medical report upon request for use in court." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p.65)

FAO provides support to IDPs to grow food in urban areas (2002)

- Objective is to help war-affected urban and peri-urban households to increase both the quantity and quality of food production by producing vegetables

"The traditional coping mechanisms of the rural and peri-urban populations have been considerably weakened by massive population displacements, food production constraints induced by the civil war and structural factors such as high population pressure and limited land resources. An increasing number of people from rural areas are shifting to the outskirts of towns, thereby intensifying pressure on the limited land available. Consequently, the food security situation in these areas has dramatically worsened. The populations displaced to urban and peri-urban areas live in camps or with relatives and continue to depend on agriculture as a key source of income. As their access is limited to very small plots of land, they tend to favour the cultivation of root crops, which gives higher yields although such crops are low in nutritional value.

The project's main objective is to help war-affected urban and peri-urban households increase both the quantity and quality of food production by providing them with the means to engage in vegetable production. Vegetable gardening is a sound income generating activity for women's associations. The vegetables produced can be used for household consumption and the surplus can be sold in the markets of the main target areas - Bujumbura, Gitega, Cibitoke and Ngozi. Proceeds from the sale of vegetables will enable beneficiary households with to buy other food items. Vegetable production would also improve the nutritional content of the normal household diet, which is usually deficient in vegetable, fruit and lipids.

Each of the 18,000 target beneficiary households will be provided with vegetable seeds (cabbage, carrot, tomatoes, pepper, leek etc.) as well as gardening tools and fertiliser, subject to their needs. These inputs would enable each household to cultivate 0.1 to 0.2 ha of land. Support to fruit tree distribution is also envisaged.

Training will be given at every stage of project implementation, especially to women's groups, young IDPs and displaced Batwa population groups." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p54)

FAO targeted vulnerable populations including the displaced, in its seeds and tools distribution (2000-2001)

"FAO, through its emergency coordination unit, launched a six-week countrywide 'seeds and tools' distribution in Burundi for the season 2001 A on 11 September. Starting with the province of Bujumbura rural, the US\$2 million campaign, in coordination with 11 NGOs and the Red Cross of Burundi with support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Crescent (IFRC), targeted more than 300,000 vulnerable households throughout the country with more than 3,000 mt bean seeds, 187,000 hoes and one mt of vegetable seeds. The FAO announcement said target beneficiaries were principally farmers badly affected by the latest drought which struck the country and farmers suffering from insecurity in their provinces as well as the displaced." (IRIN-CEA 14 September 2000)

UNCHR will assist IDPs in provinces where there is a high return of refugees (2002)

"Where possible, UNHCR will extend the scope of activities to an estimated 50,000 IDPs living in communes directly affected by repatriation activities, located in close proximity to the border areas, mainly in the provinces of Kirundo, Muyinga, Ruyigi, Cankuzo, Rutana, Makamba and Bururi. Communities receiving those who return home will be assisted through construction or reinforcement of their public infrastructures, to ensure the equitable living conditions and peaceful coexistence between the returnees and communities." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p.43)

"On 28 March, UNHCR began the repatriation of Burundi refugees, living in camps in western Tanzania, as part of a tripartite agreement between the UN agency and the governments of both countries. As of 4 April, almost 900 refugees had been repatriated, with over 50,000 refugees signed up with UNHCR for future transfer. The agency hopes to continue the process at a rate of 500 per week to the northern provinces of the country, where the security situation is deemed safe enough for returnees. [...]

According to UNHCR Representative in Burundi, "[...] at this stage is that we will accompany those who wish to go home, provided that they do so voluntarily, and that they do so in an informed manner. In order to make sure they are informed, the refugees are being given information in writing, which clearly states that there are areas in Burundi that are not safe yet, and that some of them may end up in camps for internally displaced people (IDPs). Therefore we do not encourage any return to such areas. [...]

UNHCR has agreed to start some assistance programmes for IDPs in the provinces where there is high return of refugees so that precisely those fears you have expressed can be mitigated. Obviously there will have to be some programmes for the IDPs, because they are also very deprived and they suffer from the same poor conditions." (IRIN 12 April 2002)

UNDP plans to support reconstruct homes and infrastructure through the Community Assistance Umbrella Project (2002)

- UNDP and Burundi government signed agreement for projects to support long-term reintegration of refugees and IDPs in 2002
- UNDP will support reconstruction of 5,000 homes in 2002
- Planned rehabilitation of 40 schools, 30 health centres, ten communal markets and 200 km of water distribution systems in 2002

"The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the government of Burundi have signed three agreements on the disbursement of US \$6.5 million for projects in the domains of community support, good governance, and HIV/AIDS. The contributions are part of some \$830 million pledged to Burundi at a donor conference held in December in Geneva, the total of which includes funds pledged at the Paris conference in 2000.

Projects in support of the long-term reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) will benefit from a contribution of \$2,746,000 from UNDP. As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacities of communities to re-establish their means of earning a living, the programme will support the reconstruction and rehabilitation of economic and social infrastructure, agricultural production, and revenue generation." (IRIN 6 March 2002)

"Reconstruction of homes (Habitat)

Rural dwellings have been a main target of destruction during the past years of strife. The worst affected provinces include Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi, Makamba, and Rutana. Responding to urgent needs to provide appropriate living quarters, humanitarian actors and the Government of Burundi have focused on the reconstruction of habitat to ensure the resettlement of the displaced, returnees and other vulnerable groups. In 2002, UNDP aims to continue this important work and

to support the reconstruction of 5,000 family homes through the Community Assistance Umbrella Project (CAUP) and its partner organisations.

Social infrastructures

Since 1999, UNDP's CAUP has raised US\$ 8 million, which were successfully used for 17 reconstruction projects. Despite these great efforts to rehabilitate social infrastructures, more than half of Burundi's primary schools, health centres and communal markets, which were operational before 1993, remain in need of reconstruction or rehabilitation. In response, CAUP has programmed to rehabilitate 40 schools, 30 health centres, and ten communal markets as well as to reconstruct 200 km of water distribution systems in 2002." (UN 26 November 2001, p35)

"UNDP and the Government of Burundi have launched three community development projects costing US \$1.1 million in the provinces of Gitega, Muramvya and Mwaro.[...]

The projects will rehabilitate 12 primary schools, construct a new health centre and restore another, and build a two kilometer water supply system and 250 houses." (UNDP 14 Nov 2001)

UNICEF carries out several projects targeting specifically the IDPs in 2002

- Projects include malaria and AIDS prevention, promotion of basic reproductive health services, water and sanitation, primary education, children's and women's rights promotion

In the UN Consolidated Appeal for 2002, UNICEF following plans particularly target IDPs as a main target group:

- *Prevention of malaria (BDI-02/H02)*
 - *Management of endemic-epidemic diseases (BDI-02/H04)*
 - *Promotion of basic reproductive health services (BDI-02/H06)*
 - *HIV/AIDS prevention (BDI-02/H12)*
 - *Rehabilitation and / or reconstruction of water supply systems*
 - *Hygiene and sanitation for the displaced in temporary sites (BDI-02/WS02)*
 - *Hygiene and sanitation promotion in school and at the community level, especially displaced and repatriated persons who settle back in their regions and communes of origin (BDI-02/WS03)*
 - *Basic primary school education for peace(BDI-02/E02)*
 - *Children's and women's rights promotion (BDI-02/P/HR/RL08)*
- (UN OCHA 26 November 2001)

Assessment of displaced populations in Ruyigi and Makamba

"The Water and Environmental Sanitation and Education programs conducted missions to the provinces of Ruyigi and Musinga to identify the need for converging water, hygiene and education support for the displaced populations there. Following the evaluation, UNICEF submitted proposals to ECHO to increase the access to potable water for 120,000 displaced people in each province and establish latrines that will benefit 14 schools, comprised of 6,815 students. In addition, the Education program proposed the provision of school supplies and materials for 21,498 displaced children, the rehabilitation of 47 classrooms and training of 45 teachers." (UNICEF 27 February 2002, p9)

Food distribution

"UNICEF distributed 15 MT (950 cartons) of BP5 to meet the immediate emergency needs of to 7,800 children displaced to the Mont Sion area of Bujumbura City and to Rushubi in Bujumbura Rural." (UNICEF 29 May 2002, p2)

Water and Sanitation

"In collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), UNICEF is finalizing a project to rehabilitate 20 wells with mechanical pumps in Kirundo province, and raise the hygiene and sanitation awareness in internally displaced camps and in 7 primary schools in the Phase IV province of Bururi." (UNICEF 27 February 2002, p8)

"A new programme that includes the rehabilitation of 7 water distribution systems, maintenance of 340 protected springs will satisfy the needs of 127,500 people (including 36,000 IDPs, 7,500 students) and the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities for 6,800 students in 14 schools is under way in Ruyigi and Makamba. This programme is funded by ECHO." (UNICEF 29 May 2002, p3)

Education

"To ensure that returnee and displaced children attend primary school, 300 temporary classrooms will be constructed or rehabilitated. Educational materials for 150,000 children will be procured and distributed. About 3,000 unqualified teachers will receive a 45-day training course to alleviate the teacher shortage and to improve their performance. Teacher training and curriculum development workshops will be organised in various sites. Especially in regions most affected by ongoing combat, 1000 teachers will be trained on gender and life skills curricula, with a particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS and peace education and psychosocial support curricula. For children who have never attended primary school but are now too old to do so, UNICEF will support non-formal education programmes through training of 300 teachers and provision of didactic materials.

Peace education activities will also be promoted through the already well-established, non-formal education activities supported by UNICEF. In addition, special attention will be given to life skills and education for girls and women to support re-establishing their households and livelihoods. Wherever feasible, students, families and community members will be supported in the production of locally based supplies and materials." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p82)

To view UNICEF's humanitarian appeal for children and women Jan-Dec 2002, please see [\[Internet\]](#)

To view UNICEF Burundi Situation Report June-July 2002, see [\[Internet\]](#)

UNICEF responded to urgent humanitarian needs of the displaced (2001)

- Request of additional funds to respond to humanitarian needs
- UNICEF provides urgently needed malaria, malnutrition and measles interventions
- It is developing community AIDS prevention and is training some IDPs to become peer trainers, to conduct AIDS awareness raising activities toward youth and other displaced
- Its "Water and Environmental Sanitation" program provided emergency assistance to displaced populations, in cooperation with NGOs and ECHO
- It provides school supplies and equipment to rebuild schools destroyed in Bujumbura in March
- It distribution of non-food items to children in need of special protection

Malaria, malnutrition and measles interventions

"The humanitarian needs in Burundi are enormous. The current malaria epidemic, high malnutrition rates in the north and the threat of another measles outbreak place additional demands on the humanitarian community and government. These needs are in addition to an already precarious situation resulting from armed conflict and its consequent displacement, poverty and inadequate health and education systems. In response to the current humanitarian needs, the UN agencies in Burundi are releasing an updated Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for 2001. UNICEF is increasing its request from US\$ 10,200,072 to

US\$ 15,036,542 in order to cover the urgently needed malaria, malnutrition and measles interventions." (UNICEF 1 March 2001)

The government of Burundi and UNICEF signed a protocol according to which an additional 10 million US\$ would be used to finance public health projects. (PANA 18 May 2001)

AIDS prevention networks

"[...] UNICEF aims to develop community AIDS prevention networks in all 17 provinces by 2004. After successful completion in the pilot province of Muyinga in 1998, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and NGO partners, expanded this project to 6 other provinces (Gitega, Kirundo, Karuzi, Cibitoke, Mwaro and Muramvya) in 2000 and 2001. The establishment of community AIDS prevention networks involves a three-step process for each province: strategizing and planning meetings with provincial and community administrators, training of trainers (ToT) in HIV/AIDS sensibilization and prevention and the training of peer educators. In June, this project conducted a provincial planning and strategizing workshop in Karuzi and Cibitoke, held of training of trainers in Mwaro, Karuzi and Muramvya and will hold a peer educator training for the 6 targeted provinces in July. Internally displaced are included among the peer educators, all of whom are instructed to target AIDS awareness raising activities toward youth and internally displaced." (UNICEF 12 July 2001)

Water/Sanitation and non-food items

"In the first half of 2001, the Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) programme completed projects initiated in 2000 and provided emergency assistance to displaced populations. The projects completed include the rehabilitation of 7 water sources in Cibitoke, Gitega and Karuzi; construction of 13 water sources in Bubanza; support for the construction of latrines and hygiene education for 2,216 students in Bubanza; rehabilitation of sanitation facilities in four schools in Bubanza nad Gitega; support for construction of 79 family latrines and hygiene education for 1,478 households; and training of 180 community hygiene workers in sanitation. In response to the internal displacement in Bujumbura Mairie in March, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) distributed UNICEF stock of soap to 51,905 beneficiaries, plastic sheeting to 3,800 and jerricans to 27,072 in Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura rural. UNICEF also provided trucks to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to distribute water to these displaced populations. UNICEF has increased its target number of IDPs for 2001 from 50,000 to 100,000, and requested an additional US\$ 264,000 (total of US\$ 2,345,000) in the updated CAP to distribute non-food items to this population and build the capacity of hygiene committees and IDPs to construct 1,500 temporary latrines.

The WES programme is collaborating with the Ministry of Community Development to prepare the implementation of activities targeting the internally displaced population and returning refugees in Ruyigi with the support of ECHO, and in Bururi and Makamba with the support of the Belgian Government. [...]

In response to the destruction of schools from the fighting in Bujumbura in March, UNICEF provided school supplies and equipment for 4,602 students and is working with the Ministry of Education to ensure the reconstruction of damaged schools. [...]

"[...] UNICEF distributed 1,050 non-food items through local NGOs to CNSP [Children in Need of Special Protection] displaced by the fighting in Bujumbura in March, and conducted joint CNSP vulnerability assessments and project monitoring with the Government in the provinces of Cibitoke, Bubanza, Kayanza, Muyinga, Ngozi and Kirundo." (UNICEF 29 June 2001)

Education

"About 121,000 children of primary school age and 13,000 of high school are living in displacement sites. The continued insecurity in the country during the last two years has created more vulnerable children mainly in the East (Ruyigi) and South (Bururi, Makamba, Rutana). UNICEF alone assisted nearly 70,000 primary-school children in 2000/2001." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p82)

Burundi government, UN and NGOs pledged to respond to the needs of the Batwa displaced from Bujubura Mairie (2001)

- UNHCR will support the displaced Batwa of Bujumbura Mairie
- Interventions will to assist in covering existing needs in terms of food & non-food items, water, sanitation and shelter

"51 displaced families (approx. 255 individuals) belonging to the Batwa minority group, who have lived in Buterere in the northern outskirts of the capital under deplorable conditions in makeshift constructions for the past seven years are eligible to benefit from a UNHCR building program. After a joint visit from officials from the Ministry for Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and UNHCR first steps to ease their plight were taken.

Inhabitants of the site said their main problem was access to land for cultivation. The administration of Bujumbura mairie currently is in the process of identifying a suitable piece of land in the area, that they may use for house construction and cultivation.

According to the administration of Buterere a total of 200 vulnerable households of displaced Batwa in the area should be integrated into the program, exact numbers remain to be confirmed. " (UN OCHA-Burundi 12 January 2001)

"WFP Household Food Economy Assessment teams visited Buterere Zone (Bujumbura town). The teams reported that the Batwa community and other families displaced from Bujumbura Rural province were facing a precarious food security situation resulting from the lack of access to land for farming activities." (WFP 21 September 2001)

"On 14 September, OCHA facilitated a meeting to coordinate the response to the needs of the Batwa community living in Buterere site (Bujumbura Mairie). The discussion focused on the issue of 170 households who have recently joined the 78 ones to which the local authorities had provided 4 hectares of land. Additional public land is therefore needed to accommodate these new arrivals. The Burundian Ministry for the Reintegration and Reinstallation of Refugees and Displaced Populations (Ministry of 3Rs), UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, and the international NGOs International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), have pledged to intervene to assist in covering existing needs in terms of food, non-food items (NFI), water, sanitation and shelter." (UN OCHA 17 September 2001)

WHO's activities against AIDS also target internally displaced persons (2001)

"HIV/AIDS has been increasing dramatically in Burundi over the last years. The current estimates are that 20% of the country's urban population and 6% of the rural population are HIV-positive. Blood transfusions do often not adhere to safety standards. This problem is further compounded by lack of resources, lack of trained health workers and difficult access to vulnerable populations. WHO has prepared a new project, which is being included in the consolidated appeal for Burundi, targeting the general population, refugees and IDPs. The proposal complements the existing HIV/AIDS programs and focus on safe blood transfusion, laboratory strengthening for early detection and capacity building for management. Health education will be carried out in cooperation with UNICEF. WHO's total requirement for this project amount to US\$ 826,800." (WHO 31 January 2001)

Coordination by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator with the support of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (1999-2002)

- OCHA supports the Humanitarian Coordinator by collecting, analysing and disseminating information, maintaining contact with more than 50 international and national NGOs, and facilitating coordinated planning
- In July 2001, UN OCHA finalized an IDP Plan of Action

"The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Burundi supports the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in leading coordination activities. Weekly Contact Group meetings bring together the Humanitarian Coordinator, UN agencies, donors and NGOs to exchange information and initiate joint activities. Coordination by province and sector has been further strengthened; with activities' maps being compiled and regularly updated by OCHA and/or sector lead agencies. OCHA supports the Humanitarian Coordinator by collecting, analysing and disseminating information, maintaining contact with Burundi authorities, donors, UN agencies as well as more than 50 international and national NGOs. OCHA provides information to the Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) and coordinates the CAP. In addition, OCHA has developed additional coordination tools:

Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: Providing humanitarian assistance and protecting DPs remain a priority for the humanitarian community in Burundi. To provide a comprehensive forum to discuss issues related to access and protection of IDPs, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and the Burundian Minister of Human Rights created a Permanent Framework for the Protection of IDPs in February 2001. The Framework consists of a high-level Committee for the Protection of IDPs, which brings together members of the government, UN agencies and national and international NGOs. The Follow-Up Technical Group analyses issues of concern and makes recommendations for their resolution. OCHA Burundi participated substantially in the formulation of the Framework and acts as secretariat to the Follow-Up Technical Group.

IDP Plan of Action: During 2001, OCHA Burundi drafted an "IDP Plan of Action". The Plan gives an overview of the conditions of the displaced in Burundi, analyses strategic and operational coordination regarding IDPs, examines the issues of protection, access and security and advocates for the revitalisation of a comprehensive humanitarian dialogue.

Emergency Assessments: With the aim to reach new victims of displacement and other vulnerable groups as quickly as possible, Rapid Emergency Assessment Teams (REACT) lead by OCHA have conducted joint missions to assess the overall situation and the primary needs of these groups within 24 hours notice.

Contingency Preparedness: Inter-agency contingency plans for UN agencies, donors, and NGOs are regularly updated. OCHA facilitated the review of possible scenarios of the humanitarian situation to further develop strategies and objectives, as well as to define roles and responsibilities of humanitarian partners for the most likely contingency scenario. Logistical contingency was also considered to provide assistance if located outside of the country. The contingency plan is regularly updated into regional contingency planning.

Response Coordination: In response to the malnutrition crisis, OCHA has actively participated in improving a variety of early warning, monitoring and response mechanisms in the sectors of food security, nutrition and health to enhance self-sustainability and to support existing coping mechanisms among local populations.

Publicising Humanitarian Principles: To promote peace and reconciliation OCHA and partner organisations have begun developing a Humanitarian Principles Campaign, which aims to reach important stakeholders on the governmental, provincial and community level, as well as the general public." (UN 26 November 2001, p37)

Draft document on IDP Action Plan

"This first comprehensive study on Internally Displaced People drafted by OCHA Burundi, titled 'Elements for an IDP Plan of Action in Burundi':

Gives an overview of the conditions of the displaced in Burundi - including a critical assessment of existing information tools on IDPs

Analyses the status of strategic and operational coordination regarding IDPs, with a special focus on the challenges posed by selected policy issues ('regroupment' and 'villagisation')

Examines the overall issue of protection of IDPs

Touches on the longstanding problem of access to the displaced in need and security of humanitarian workers

Advocates for the revitalization of a comprehensive humanitarian dialogue.

The document was compiled on the initiative of the OCHA Emergency Relief Coordinator a.i., Ms. Carolyn McAskie, who openly encouraged the UN Country Team to start working on the preparation of a UN Plan of Action for IDPs in Burundi when visiting Burundi in July 2000. Five months later, the mission of the Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement provided crucial inputs to the search for an organic approach to the longstanding IDP crisis in Burundi. The mission also encouraged OCHA 'to actively assume the role of UN focal point on internal displacement'. (UN OCHA 31 July 2001)

For more information on the Burundi Plan of Action on IDPs, please see **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 12 December 2000, Burundi Plan of Action on IDPs [See below]

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights maintains an observation mission (1999-2001)

- The observer mission monitors the human rights situation, including the situation of the internally displaced population
- The mission oversees the incorporation of human rights/social cohesion activities into reintegration programmes for internally displaced persons and returning refugees
- OHCHR has never received the adequate funding for the observers necessary to cover efficiently all provinces
- End 2001, OHCHR signed agreement to reinforce capacities of 28 local human rights associations

Background

"The High Commissioner and the Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 22 June 1995, setting in motion a three-year technical cooperation project. Five months later, a framework agreement was signed permitting the deployment of five observers from the human rights monitoring mission in May 1996. In February 1997, the High Commissioner launched a legal assistance programme through which six international lawyers participate in the sessions of the three Criminal Chambers every two or three months. OHCHR Burundi opened two sub-offices, in Ngozi and in Gitega, in June 1998. Two evaluation missions, one internal, one independent, were conducted in July 1998 and February 1999, respectively; an administrative audit was conducted in May 1999." (OHCHR 2000, p. 79)

Planned IDP-related activities for 2000

"OHCHR has identified national capacity building and the strengthening of the rule of law as its main contributions to Burundi's development. These activities, whose primary objective is to ensure respect for human rights, target both the institutional sector (justice, security, administration, education) and the non-institutional sector (civil society, the media, etc.). In this framework, OHCHR will carry out three main activities: human rights monitoring; human rights promotion, education and training; and assistance to the administration of justice.

[...]

Beneficiaries: State institutions, educators, security forces, civil society, the media, internally displaced persons, women, children and the general public will benefit. (OHCHR 2000, pp. 79-80)

Financial constraints

"Monitoring requires an increased number of observers; however, OHCHR has never received the adequate funding for the observers necessary to cover efficiently all provinces." (UN November 1999, p. 58)

Promotion of Human Rights (2001-2002)

"Establishing a human rights culture and the rule of law requires a general awareness on human rights within the general public. In the case of Burundi human rights violations are reported daily. In a 70% illiterate population, OHCHR will disseminate human rights instruments using the most appropriate means, mainly local media. It will also promote those rights within national institutions, and schools; reinforcing capacities of those institutions through training programs. In addition, OHCHR-B will contribute to the event of free media, the dissemination of women and children's rights and the promotion of a friendly environment for the return and resettlement of IDPs and refugees. Good practices of people who defended human rights and life amid general violence will be published and prized to serve as examples to the rest of the society. A large campaign for human rights will be organised, in partnership with relevant international and local NGO's, through radio and TV commercials, songs, leaflets, poetry, theatre plays and essays. A human rights library will be set up and operated to provide human rights associations with a framework for information and training. These activities will contribute to the restoring of human rights respect to sustain lasting peace and national reconciliation." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p87)

International NGOs response

ICRC and IFRC's programs support rehabilitation and resettlement activities towards the displaced (2001-2002)

- ICRC provided food to vulnerable households, including displaced persons, in the northeast of Burundi in coordination with WFP
- Major US contribution will allow ICRC to augment assistance to the displaced and other vulnerable groups in the northeast (2001)
- IFRC gives support to Burundi Red Cross for rehabilitation and resettlement programmes
- IFRC's areas of activities benefiting internally displaced persons include: food and non food items distribution, rehabilitation of schools and infrastructure, community health interventions

ICRC (2001)

"Some 100,000 families, both local and displaced, received more than 5,300 tonnes of food aid during an emergency operation conducted by the ICRC in two provinces in northern Burundi in mid-April. The operation was intended to supplement the assistance provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) elsewhere in the north. The emergency rations – consisting of beans, maize, oil and salt – enabled vulnerable communities to survive until the harvest began in June. The distributions, carried out in Ngozi and Kayanza provinces, have now ended.

Set up in record time, the emergency operation was designed to mitigate the consequences of a severe food shortage in these provinces and the areas receiving WFP assistance." (ICRC 21 June 2001)

"At least US \$2.1 million US fund to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will be used in Burundi [...]. [...] an ICRC official [...] said that the US contribution will augment in providing the assistance of both food and non food items needed by ICRC in coordination with other agencies like the WFP. [...] The organization hopes to carry out the second phase of the assistance in Ngozi starting

September to some 6,000 residents and the displaced to enable 'the vulnerable communities to survive until the next harvest' [...]." (IRIN-CEA 1 August 2001)

IFRC's objectives and activities focusing on the internally displaced (2001-2002)

Disaster Response component

"Since 1996, disaster response activities of the national society have included the distribution of non-food items for IDPs, and lately the assistance to vulnerable groups in the hills and resettled persons. In 2001, distributions have continued in a number of provinces, and by mid-year some 14,000 families (70,000 people) have been directly assisted. The national society distributed blankets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, soap, clothes, kitchen kits, sauce pans and mats.[...]

Expected results by 2003

A total of 300,000 people will have been assisted with non-food items each year (tarpaulins, blankets, water-bottles, kitchen sets and clothes).

A total of 30,000 repatriated families will have received food assistance from WFP and a return package of non-food items from UNHCR and ECHO.

A total of 300,000 families in the provinces of Kirundo, Ngozi, Makamba and Bururi will have been provided with seeds in the framework of the FAO emergency programme.[...]

Goal of Disaster Preparedness

To contribute to further improvement of disaster preparedness in the country in case of natural and man-made disaster.[...]

Goal of Health & Care

To improve social and health conditions of the vulnerable populations by preventing disease and alleviating the suffering of persons with HIV/AIDS." (IFRC 1 Jan 2002)

CRS has lead role to provide non-food emergency assistance to the displaced (2000-2002)

- CRS will provide material to build temporary shelter for IDPs and other vulnerable populations
- CRS provided in collaboration with other NGOs nearly 10,000 families with blankets, jerry cans and soap in 2001
- In 2000, CRS provided food and non-food items to people in regroupment camps and prepared return packages for people when camps were dismantled

"Catholic Relief Services has been working in Burundi since 1963. The country program since the outbreak of civil war [in 1993] has focused on peace-building, agricultural and economic development as well as health and soil conservation projects." (CRS 1 March 2001)

Project for 2002: *'Distribution of emergency non-food items to victims of recent violence caused by the war.'*

"The project aims at providing the basic human necessities of shelter (the rainy season is cold) by providing sheeting-materials for temporary shelters and urgently needed Non Food Items as a return package. Each household receives one piece of plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, two blankets, two cooking pots, five pieces of soap, and a 20-litre jerry can. For the distribution of Non Food Items and shelter materials the NGO Catholic Relief Services acts as coordination focal point of the humanitarian community in Burundi." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p79)

Lead role to provide non-food emergency assistance and shelter material to IDPs

"As the non-food coordinator for all Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and United Nations Organizations (UNO), Catholic Relief Services is stepping into the lead role of providing emergency assistance to those that have been forced from their homes. Many fleeing Burundians are living in temporary sites without access to water, food or sanitary supplies and without adequate protection from Burundi's rainy season. The Agency's Emergency Department has constructed more than 20 temporary shelters each housing up to 300 people. In collaboration with other NGOs, Catholic Relief Services has provided nearly 10,000 families with necessities such as blankets, jerry cans and soap, and 450 families with plastic sheeting to help them rebuild their homes. In addition, CRS is raising funds to supply each of the 10,000 families with kitchen sets." (CRS 11 April 2001)

[When people were displaced due to fighting in Bujumbura Rural], "Catholic Relief Services acted immediately, with CARITAS and other NGOs, in providing water, latrines and shelters to those unable to find accommodation with friends or family. CRS is also distributing soap and water buckets to help sustain hygiene practices. CRS, along with its local partners, has also constructed eight temporary shelters, accommodating approximately 3000 people, for the displaced population." (CRS 1 March 2001)

"Last November [2001], CRS conducted non-food item distributions for over 2,000 families who were temporarily displaced as a result of fighting. [...]

Often, to escape fighting, local residents will flee their homes and usually won't return for days or weeks. While they are in hiding, it's crucial that they receive aid such as blankets, soap and clothes." (CRS 18 Jan 2002)

Helping to meet basic needs in the camps

"To meet the needs [of the populations in the camps], Catholic Relief Services has been distributing both food and other supplies to those in the camps. In a three month period after the camps were established, Catholic Relief Services distributed plastic tarps, soap, water buckets and blankets to 219,000 people. As food shortages became increasingly critical, Catholic Relief Services distributed 420 metric tons of World Food Program cereal, salt, beans and cooking oil.

Another distribution, in mid-January, reached an additional 47,000 people. 'Food has really become a critical need in many of the camps,' explained David Rothrock, Country Representative for Catholic Relief Services in Burundi. 'We're the lead agency for non-food distribution, but we've taken on some food distributions to expand the reach of World Food Program commodities.'

Still, conditions in the camps continue to deteriorate. [...] With the harvest season now ending, food shortages promise to remain a critical concern. In response, Catholic Relief Services began a seed distribution in late January, just in time for the next planting season. Even if the growing season is successful, however, it will be months before those in the camps are able to harvest their own food. (CRS 30 June 2000)

Many other NGOs focus on rehabilitation activities to meet basic needs and to support the return of the internally displaced (1999-2002)

- Rehabilitation activities include construction of houses and latrines, rehabilitation of classrooms, water systems
- Other activities included distribution of food and other supplies to displaced and former displaced persons, family tracing, responses to HIV/AIDS and education
- NGOs provided assistance to the displaced during fighting in Bujumbura Rural in February-March 2001 and when they returned home

Care

"Care International is one of the key NGOs working in Burundi and is active in various sectors. CARE has recently completed a water project in Muramvya province, consisting of the construction of 92 water collection points and the rehabilitation of 9 water-pipe systems. In Ngozi province CARE has assisted with the construction of 700 houses and the rehabilitation of a primary school in Ruhoro commune, while in Kayanza province the construction 250 houses was recently completed." (UN OCHA 25 March 1999)

"WFP implementing partner, CARE, started food distribution to people returning in Kinama zone, Bujumbura Mairie. Following an outbreak in insecurity in this area, at the end of February, the people left their homes. Upon their return, they found improved security situation, but all their belongings looted." (WFP 12 April 2001)

Christian Aid (and implementing partners part of ACT)

Appeal for contribution to program consisting of :

- Non food items distribution
- Distribution of seeds and tools
- Small Scale Livestock Programs
- School rehabilitation
- Capacity Building

IDPs will be among the beneficiaries. (ACT 21 November 2001)

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Project purpose: "To provide water, sanitation, rehabilitation, and resettlement assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and former refugees in seven provinces of Burundi: Muyinga, Karzi, Kirundo, Makamba, Bururi, Bubanza, and Bujumbura. [...]"

IRC is also the lead partner of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) in the distribution of seeds and tools to the most vulnerable populations in Muyinga and Karuzi provinces." (IRC 2001)

IRC began to work in Burundi in 1996, by providing emergency water and sanitation services to displaced and regrouped populations in the northeast.

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

"Le JRS a commencé ses activités au Burundi en 1997 et spécifiquement dans la province de Kirundo. [...] Aujourd'hui JRS développe deux projets à Kiyange (Mairie de Bujumbura), deux projets à Buterere (Mairie de Bujumbura) et avec le Ministère de la Réinsertion, Rapatriement, Réinstallation des réfugiés. JRS aide aussi les bénéficiaires dans la lutte contre le SIDA. Ainsi, des formations sur la lutte contre le SIDA ont été données aux populations déplacées de Kiyange et Buterere.

Avec les déplacés, le JRS encourage le retour des déplacés dans leurs régions d'origine. Dans ce sens, le JRS a organisé des visites dans la province de Cibitoke. Une pièce de théâtre a été jouée et quelques chansons ont été chantées. Le même jour, une des femmes déplacées a senti le courage de se réinstaller et ses anciennes l'ont rassurée de leur appui dans la reconstruction de sa maison." (OCHA 16 March 2001)

Norwegian Refugee Council

NRC's activities for 2001 in favor of the internally displaced include the construction of family houses and of health centers and the provision of water supply to construction sites in Kirundo, Ngozi and Muyinga provinces. NRC is also supporting a better access to education for the internally displaced in collaboration with local authorities. Its actions include: rehabilitation and construction of primary schools destroyed during the war, support to train new teachers and implementation of basic education program. NRC-Burundi's activities should benefit 3022 families of internally displaced in Kirundi, 1290 families in Ngozi and 3271 families in Muyinga.

NRC is also working in partnership with UNDP and the government of Burundi "in support of reconstruction efforts assisting 50,000 people in six communities affected by conflict in Ngozi Province in the northern part of the country." (UNDP 7 May 2001)

In Muyinga Province, "[...] NGO activities include a 'Teacher Emergency Package' (TEP) programme introduced by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) at 13 schools, which provides basic education to children over 10 years of age, who have never attended school. [...]

[In Kirundo Province], NRC continues with a large-scale 'Teacher Emergency Package' programme in the province." (UN OCHA 31 July 2001)

"The Norwegian Refugee Council's Teacher Emergency Program in the province of Kirundo has succeeded in increasing school enrollment and the number of trained teachers in the province in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Nonetheless, the number of classrooms available in the province is not sufficient to accommodate the increased school enrollment. UNICEF has therefore agreed to support the construction of 43 temporary primary school classrooms that enable approximately 4,300 children to attend school." (UNICEF 27 February 2002, p10)

For more information on NRC's activities, please see the following documents: [Construction activities](#) and [Education activities](#)

Oxfam

"Oxfam GB seeks to undertake, in partnership with ANSS, a project for the HIV/AIDS prevention for 60,000 displaced in Rutana, Makamba and Bujumbura Rural - provinces that account alone for 55 % of the internally displaced or 210,000 out of the 379,779 displaced recorded nation wide. The majority of the population in camps is composed of women, 26% among whom are widows.

Oxfam GB has adopted the strategic lines retained by the PNLS/UNDP for the displaced such as: prevention of HIV transmission, improvement of the well being of persons living with HIV, HIV/AIDS impact on families and communities, the promotion of local solutions, and prevention of HIV transmission. Oxfam GB focuses also on interpersonal communication and peer education through the creation of associations and training of targeted stakeholders." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p72)

Save the Children (UK)

"Save the Children (UK) has four main areas of programme work in Burundi: family tracing and the prevention of separation; assistance to vulnerable children, including children affected by HIV/AIDS; food security; and health. [...]

Bringing together the different groups involved in family tracing work has helped Save the Children to form a detailed picture of the complex causes of child separation in Burundi, and to implement prevention programmes. For example, Save the Children is working with the World Food Programme to ensure that young children in displaced camps receive food aid: some families who don't have enough to eat abandon their children at camp feeding centres. More generally, the current economic decline is undermining the ability of poor families to provide appropriate care for their children, leading to voluntary separation. [...]

In July 2001 Save the Children was delivering basic primary health care to 960,000 people living in displaced camps and local villages across the two provinces. [...]

Save the Children is an active member of RESO, an association of 37 INGOs who work in Burundi. Save the Children represents RESO as a member of the newly signed 'Permanent Concertation Framework for the Protection of IDPs', a body that pools together Ministries of Defence, Home Affairs and Human rights, UNHCR, UNOHR, OCHA, and the local Human Rights association Ligue Iteka and RESO. These

initiatives give Save the ChildrenC strong leverage with which to pursue advocacy on Children's Rights." (SCF 16 August 2001)

To view activities of NGOs per province, see OCHA-Burundi website, "Provincial and Sectorial Coordination"[\[External Link\]](#)

Other international NGOs currently assisting internally displaced persons in Burundi include:

Action contre la faim (France), Action Aid (Great Britain), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (United States), Austrian Help Program (Austria), Austrian Relief Program (Austria), Children's Aid Direct (Great Britain), Caritas Appui (Belgium), , Comunita Impregno Servizio Volontarito (Italy), Concern Worldwide (Ireland), Dorcas Aid International (Netherlands), Groupe de Volontariat Civil (Italy), International Medical Corps (United States), Intersos (Italy), Médecins sans Frontières (France, Netherlands), Oxfam (Canada), Relief International (United States), Solidarités (France), Tear Fund (Great Britain), Terre des Hommes (Suisse), Terre Sans Frontières (Canada) , World Vision International (United States).

(NRC 2 October 2000)

Donor Response

UN Security Council calls on donor countries to honor pledges made (2002)

- It warned that peace process might collapse if further assistance was not forthcoming in the near future

Following a mission to the Great Lakes region in May 2002, the UN SC reported:

"The support of the international community will be critical. It will in particular be essential for donors to fulfil the commitments they made at the Paris conference of December 2000 and the Geneva conference of December 2001. The mission will follow up with the international financial institutions on this point. There is a risk that the peace process, and all the gains made with it so far, might collapse if further assistance, including direct aid, is not forthcoming in the near future." (UN SC 13 May 2002)

"The Security Council fully supported the transitional Government of Burundi set up on the basis of the Arusha Agreement, the Council's President said in a statement read during a meeting this afternoon. The statement was issued after Burundi's transitional President, Pierre Buyoya, had addressed the Council on 5 February.

The Council reaffirmed that continued fighting against the legitimate transitional Government was totally unjustifiable and unacceptable, and threatened implementation of the peace process. It called on the rebel groups immediately to lay down arms and emphasized that, while the transition was moving ahead according to the established time-frame, time was of the essence for the rebels to join the peace process.

The Council welcomed the steps taken by the Governments of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to normalize their relations. It called on those Governments to ensure that the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo would not be used for armed attacks against Burundi, and to proceed to the effective withdrawal of Burundi troops from Congolese territory.

The Council further called on donor countries to honour as soon as possible the pledges they had made, and on the United Nations system as a whole to support the transitional Government for the reconstruction of the country." (UN SC 7 Feb 2002)

Germany resumed aid to Burundi (2002)

"Germany is to resume aid to Burundi following a nine-year break, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development announced in a press release on Tuesday.

A total of 45.2 million euros (almost US \$40 million) has been earmarked for projects involving the reintegration of Burundi refugees, HIV/AIDS-related activities, and rural water-supply projects, which had also been financed by Germany prior to 1993, the statement said.

The decision put Germany "in harmony" with the rest of the international community, which committed itself to assisting Burundi at a Geneva conference held in December 2001, in support of the transitional government, the statement quoted Parliamentary State Secretary Uschi Eid as saying. It was to be hoped that the money allocated towards reintegration programmes for refugees would contribute to the stabilisation of the Great Lakes region in general." (IRIN 4 April 2002)

The European Union plans to provide reintegration assistance to the internally displaced (1999-2001)

- The European Union (EU) agreed in November 2001 to a 65 million euro cooperation program over three years
- The EU adopted in April 2001 a 20 million EURO intervention plan, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups, such as IDPs
- The EU strengthened its presence in the provinces by launching its Burundi Rehabilitation Programme, which provides reintegration assistance to the most vulnerable, including the displaced (November 2000)

"The European Commission has signed a 65-million-euro (US \$ 58 million) deal with Burundi, marking a resumption of development aid suspended in 1997 because of civil war. [...]

The programme focuses on poverty reduction and includes measures designed - together with other projects underway - to contribute to repair of the country's economic and social infrastructure such as roads and health facilities, economic recovery, support for the democratic transition process, initiatives to consolidate peace, conflict resolution and prevention initiatives, ECHO reported.

Resumption of development aid was made possible by the inauguration of Burundi's transitional government on 1 Nov., an ECHO official told IRIN on Monday. Despite the suspension of development aid, ECHO said it never stopped humanitarian assistance that exceeded 200 million euro (\$177 million) from 1993 to 2000. This included a 2.3-million-euro (\$2 million) contribution toward the Arusha peace talks between 1998 and 2000." (IRIN 19 Nov 2001)

"The European Commission has adopted a 20 million EURO intervention plan to help meet continuing humanitarian needs in Burundi. The funds will be channelled by the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) through 17 partner organisations working in the country. The main emphasis will be on vulnerable groups such as displaced and resettled people, drought victims, and women and children who are heads of households.

The Commission will support major humanitarian programmes in Burundi in the fields of food security, nutrition, health and water/sanitation. Funds have also being earmarked to provide displaced and regrouped people with essential everyday items and for logistical support, including air transport to reach areas not easily accessible by road for security reasons. A further component of the plan aims at helping specific

groups in need of protection, namely children separated from their families and prison inmates." (ECHO 20 April 2001)

"After the signing of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Arusha, the European Commission stated that it is "reinforcing the peace process by means of 'enhanced humanitarian aid, in addition to the important amounts of ECHO financed humanitarian aid (24 million Euro from 1994 up until now). The total funds for this 'enhanced' humanitarian aid are 55 million Euro. This includes our new Rehabilitation Programme for 8 Million Euro (to improve the poorest living conditions, to support the justice sector and future demobilisation programmes and reconciliation activities). The Commission believes that structural aid to Burundi should resume gradually once the following conditions are met: active engagement of all parties in the peace negotiations and improvements in human rights and in the security situation. The Commission is already preparing the resumption of this co-operation at the technical level and technical missions are currently assessing the health and rural economy sectors." (EU 29 August 2000)

"The European Union is currently strengthening its presence in the provinces in order to launch its Burundi Rehabilitation Programme (PREBU), which aims to promote the consolidation of the peace process and support national reconciliation. Reintegration assistance will be provided to the most vulnerable, war-affected groups -- primarily displaced, demobilised and detained persons. [...]

Both the French and Belgian programmes aim to strengthen communities in preparation for the return of displaced Burundians. Other donors already present in Burundi -- such as OFDA, ECHO, SIDA, the Italian Co-operation, the African Development Bank, the Red Cross, international and local NGOs -- are also developing their projects to support the return and reinstallation of the displaced." (UN November 2000, p.16)

USAID supports programmes for the displaced (2001-2002)

"Currently, USAID provides humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations in Burundi, including 500,000 refugees, 400,000 displaced persons, and 700,000 victims of the drought in." (USAID 9 August 2001)

"The US Agency for International Development (USAID) on Tuesday released details of the US government's assistance to Burundi of an estimated US \$28 million to date in fiscal year 2001. In a statement, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) said the aid included more than US \$6.2 million pledged in emergency non-food assistance to Burundi through various UN and NGO programmes. Additional resources will support further emergency activities in food security, coordination, and nutrition assistance. USAID has so far provided 11,900 mt of emergency commodities to WFP valued at US \$6.3 million to support comprehensive nutrition programmes and an assistance package to vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs), the statement said." (IRIN-CEA 4 July 2001)

"Some donors have geared their funding specifically towards the promotion of good governance and support to peace, such as the United States Agency for International Development - Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI)." (UN OCHA 31 July 2002)

"USAID will increase HIV/AIDS intervention through condom promotion and a sensitization campaign, with a particular emphasis on women in IDP sites." (UN OCHA 6 Aug 2002)

Donor funds pledged in Paris and Geneva in 2000 and 2001 have still not been disbursed (August 2002)

- In December 2001, donors pledged US\$ 832 million to the Burundi government to fight HIV/AIDS, reduced the debt service burden and support priority development total
- Part of this amount was pledged at a donor meeting in Paris in December 2000
- US government pledged \$70 million for 2001 to assist displaced children and others
- Belgium pledged \$27 million for the resettlement internally displaced persons and for other projects
- President Buyoya called on donors to fulfill their pledges to enable Burundi to reinstall IDPs (Feb 2002)

Geneva Meeting Dec 01

"Burundian government officials, lead by President Pierre Buyoya, attended a round-table meeting with development partners in Geneva on 06/07 December, during which Burundi's donor partners have promised the government US\$ 832 million to fight HIV/AIDS, reduce the debt service burden and support priority development programmes. The participants, from 16 industrialised nations and 20 international organisations, also evaluated the level of aid contributions received since the December 2000 Paris donor conference, during which development partners pledged US \$440 million for an economic recovery package. The European Community, the World Bank and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) are among Burundi's major development partners. The two-day meeting was held under the auspices of UNDP." (UN OCHA 31 December 2001)

Paris Meeting Dec 00

"A meeting of donors in Paris on 11 December, convened by Nelson Mandela, addressed key issues of concern, including aid for the budget and balance of payments, support for the resettlement and rehabilitation of genocide victims, debt cancellation or relief, measures to relieve poverty, economic recovery and the implementation of support measures. In response, donors pledged US\$440 million for the reconstruction of Burundi." (UN OCHA 31 December 2000)

"Derryck [Vivian Derryck, USAID assistant administrator for Africa] noted that U.S. assistance to Burundi will total about \$70 million in 2001 – 'double the level of assistance' provided this year. She added that \$30 million of the funding will be for new activities." (USAID 12 December 2000)

"Belgium has announced a financial grant of 1 billion Belgian francs (or 27 million US dollars) to Burundi. [...]"

The grant is primarily intended for programmes of resettlement of internally displaced people and Burundian refugees, as well as social rehabilitation.

It is targeted at the health, agriculture and justice sectors, while the Burundi national bank for economic development will also benefit from part of the funding in support of the private sector." (PANA 11 December 2000)

"The disbursement of donor funds (pledged in Paris and Geneva) is still awaited (and may not be received as long as there is no peace)." (UN OCHA 15 August 2002)

"The Transitional Government itself points to a lack of economic support for Burundi as one of the real impediments to progress and, in a series of meetings, foreign tours and other forums, has called upon international donors to release the considerable funding pledged in two roundtable meetings - in Paris, December 2000 and Geneva 2001. Some, but not all, donors have, in fact, resumed cooperation. These include, inter alia, Germany after a suspension of over nine years. The World Bank has also approved a loan of US\$187 million for the Transitional Support Strategy for Burundi for 2002/3 and, at the end of April, the sixth Cooperation Framework, 2002-4, worth over US\$31 million was signed between the

Burundian Government and UNDP. Also in April, the Government undertook a 2-day consultation with international donors on its Strategic Plan to alleviate poverty." (UN OCHA 31 July 2002, p7)

"President Pierre Buyoya visited the United States and Europe 3-13 February, where he met with the UN Secretary General, UN Security Council, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and high-level US Government and European Union officials. In these discussions, President Buyoya emphasised the political progress made in Burundi and the need for continued international pressure on the Burundian rebel groups to negotiate a cease-fire. He also called on all international donors to fulfil the pledges for US\$ 830 million made at the Geneva donor conference in December 2001, which will enable Burundi to rebuild its economy, repatriate the 345,000 refugees from Tanzania, reinstall over 432,000 displaced people and reconstruct its social infrastructure. He also reiterated his government's commitment to the Arusha Peace Process, to the overall peace effort in the Great Lakes region and to taking responsibility for bringing peace to Burundi with the support of the international community." (UNICEF 27 February 2002, p2)

Policy and recommendations

United Nations encourage improved response to the plight of the internally displaced (2001)

- UN SC reiterate call to international community to alleviate plight of IDPs
- Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Burundi wishes greater coordination to help the internally displaced in the humanitarian and human rights fields, based on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- CEDAW recommended that the government give greater assistance to displaced women and girls

"Members of the Council [UN Security Council] reiterate their call to the international community to increase humanitarian, development and economic assistance to support the people of Burundi and the transitional Government and to alleviate the plight of the large number of internally displaced persons." (UN SC 10 October 2001)

"Le Rapporteur spécial souhaite une plus grande coordination de l'action dans les domaines humanitaires et des droits de l'homme pour venir en aide aux personnes déplacées, en se fondant sur les principes directeurs relatifs aux déplacements de personnes dans leur propre pays élaborés par le Représentant du Secrétaire général pour les personnes déplacées, Francis Deng." (CHR 19 March 2001, para. 199)

"The Committee [on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW] is concerned about the situation of refugee and displaced women and girls and their living conditions, including in refugee camps.

The Committee recommends that the Government give greater assistance to refugee and displaced women and girls and carry out rehabilitation efforts directed at such women and girls. It stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes of national and international assistance for displaced people." (CEDAW 2 February 2001, para. 21-22)

Humanitarian community in Burundi advocates for crisis prevention approach, short and rapid response (July 2001)

"The humanitarian community may soon find itself dealing with a nightmare situation of hundreds of thousands of returning refugees, displaced people scattered in all directions and ugly fights over land -

labelled as one of the most worrying aspects of the massive return of refugees. A contingency plan is being elaborated which takes into consideration the sudden and temporary displacement of people which Georg Charpentier, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Burundi, says is one of the most problematic consequences of the humanitarian crisis and one of the most difficult to plan for. The sudden displacement of some 60,000 people in the Bujumbura suburb of Kinama earlier this year - caused by rebel attacks and army intervention - required enormous resources that had to be taken from regular programmes, he explained.

The humanitarian community has urged donors to be more responsive. 'They respond in a full blown crisis, but the response should be to prevent such crises,' a UN official observed. For example, the recent massive malnutrition crisis in Karuzi province - due to malaria and poor harvests - could have been pre-empted. 'Karuzi could happen all over the country,' the official warned. [...]

An international NGO worker noted the need for short term or rapid response." (IRIN-CEA 28 June 2001)

Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement advocated for better coordination and leadership to respond to the needs of the displaced (Dec 2000)

- UN coordination structure should be strengthened
- OCHA should assume role of UN focal point on internal displacement
- UN Agencies were assigned follow up responsibilities regarding IDPs

"The Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement undertook a mission to Burundi from 18 to 22 October 2000. The mission, led by the UN Special Coordinator on Internal Displacement, was composed of representatives of FAO, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO as well as an NGO representative. The main objectives of the mission were to assess the nature and magnitude of the assistance and protection needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), particularly with regard to displaced women and children; to review the operational capacity of UN agencies and other humanitarian actors on the ground to respond to such needs, with a view to identifying any gaps in the humanitarian response to the assistance and protection needs; to review existing institutional arrangements within and between the UN agencies, the Red Cross Movement, NGOs and the Government, with a view to assessing whether these adequately address the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, and to make recommendations to concerned agencies, organisations and the Government for future action.

Coordination and Leadership

The need to strengthen the UN coordination structure, including with regard to OCHA's role, was obvious. Interlocutors underscored the need to identify a clear focal point within the UN for internal displacement. The Mission was informed of a number of fora established to discuss issues relating to internal displacement, including an IDP working group set up to prepare an inter-agency IDP plan. The effectiveness of such mechanisms was not clear. The Mission also noted the need to improve collaboration and cooperation between the UN System and NGOs, as well as the need for the NGOs to reinforce their internal coordination. The Government also lacks a clear inter-ministerial structure to deal with IDP issues which hampers coordination with the international community.

Action:

Given the acute humanitarian crisis in Burundi, it is imperative for the UN System to provide focused humanitarian leadership and coordination for all actors involved.

Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator (HC/RC) to strengthen its leadership role with regard to IDPs (as outlined in the IASC Supplementary Guidance to HC/RCs).

OCHA to actively assume the role of UN focal point on internal displacement, under the overall leadership of the HC/RC, including providing strong support to NGOs for their assistance and protection work. OCHA

to be urgently strengthened by additional experienced staff, on an immediate interim basis, including to support the finalisation of the Inter-Agency IDP Plan. OCHA Head of Unit to be fielded immediately. HC/RC, UN Country Team (UNCT) and OCHA to strengthen the coordination mechanism of provincial focal points as well as the sectoral coordination for the humanitarian response to displacement.

Government to be encouraged to establish a formal inter-departmental mechanism, possibly placed in the Office of the President, for dealing with operational issues relating to IDPs and to act as counterpart for international humanitarian actors."

(Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement 23 Dec 2000)

To view the designation of responsibility per agency following the mission of the Senior Network, please see below, **Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement**, December 2000, Follow up Matrix: Burundi

Humanitarian agencies should focus on the protection needs of the displaced and not only on providing assistance (December 2000)

- UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement should be used more actively to engage the government and non-State actors on their responsibility towards the displaced
- UN Agencies, such as OHCHR, UNICEF and UNHCR, as well as international NGOs should be more proactive to protect the displaced

"Despite the recommendations of various previous reports, the majority of humanitarian agencies focus their activities on the provision of assistance, while inadequate attention is given to the protection needs of the displaced. Serious violations are perpetrated by actors on both sides in an environment of near total impunity. This is compounded by the lack of safe access and the limited operational capacity on the part of protection-specific mandate actors, such as OHCHR, UNHCR and ICRC.

The Burundi Office of the HCHR has never received adequate funding to cover its monitoring activities. In particular it received no funding from the CAP 2000. Activities of the Office have also been constrained due to restricted access to vulnerable populations. The Mission also noted a need for improved collaboration and interaction between the OHCHR and other humanitarian and human rights actors, including UN agencies, ICRC and NGOs and welcomed the proposed establishment of an Inter-Agency Thematic Group on Human Rights.

To promote operational collaboration between humanitarian and human rights agencies and the Government of Burundi, the Mission discussed with relevant government officials, including the President and the Minister for Human Rights, the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee for the Protection of IDPs. The Committee would represent a forum for discussion and collaboration on issues relating to the provision of protection to displaced persons, including issues of access and follow-up on specific violations.

Action:

HC/RC, all protection-mandated actors as well the wider international community, to systematically engage the Government as well as non-state actors on the issue of protection of IDPs, including reiterating the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and their responsibilities in this regard.

Government and HC/RC to pursue the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Protection of IDPs, possibly under the overall leadership of the Minister for Human Rights, and comprised relevant governmental authorities, UN agencies, local and international NGOs and other international organizations, serviced by OCHA.

Humanitarian and development actors to incorporate basic human rights concerns into their work and to strengthen their efforts in the area of protection of IDPs. Training to be provided to non-traditional protection actors by agencies with expertise, including UNICEF.

HC/RC and UN agencies actively involved in protection, to facilitate NGOs in engaging in a protection role on behalf of IDPs.

Agencies with specific protection mandates, including OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF and ICRC urged to strengthen their activities with regard to the protection of displaced populations, including through monitoring and reporting and the active dissemination and promotion of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The Principles should be translated into Kirundi and widely distributed.

OHCHR to intensify and strengthen activities in the area of monitoring and reporting on the situation of the IDPs, in collaboration with UN agencies and especially NGOs. The Office to take the lead with the NGOs to devise a system for reporting violations of human rights and addressing these with the responsible authorities.

UNHCR to explore how to become more engaged in protection activities on behalf of displaced populations. ICRC also encouraged to review its possible increased role in this area.

All protection activities to emphasise needs of women and children, with special focus on the particular vulnerability of women and children to abuses such as sexual violence and military recruitment." (Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement 23 Dec 2000)

Call for action to improve the situation of the displaced regarding food security, incidence of HIV/Aids and education (Dec 2000)

- Government, UN agencies and NGOs should ensure that the displaced have safe and regular access to land and that host communities' food security is secured as well
- Issue of HIV/Aids should be addressed amongst the displaced and sexual violence prevented through protection efforts
- Education should be available to all displaced children, and not one in four as it is the case now

"Food Security

Agriculture is the main source of income for over 90% of the population in Burundi. Displaced living in sites have, in most cases, limited access to land, while the dispersed populations rely on host communities, heavily affecting their household food security.

Action:

Government encouraged to undertake efforts to resolve the issue of allocation of land, in particular in favour of the displaced, returning or reinstalled populations.

Government, appropriate UN agencies and NGOs to strengthen efforts to ensure food security for displaced populations, including by prioritizing the provision of agricultural inputs to IDPs, ensuring that populations in sites have safe and regular access to land, supporting local coping mechanisms and strengthening support to host communities.

HIV/Aids

The incidence of HIV/Aids in Burundi is increasing at a dramatic rate. It is estimated that 20% of the country's urban population and 6% of the rural population are HIV sero-positive. The issue has a serious impact on the well-being of displaced populations, including on their capacity to ensure their food security.

Action:

Based on the recently elaborated National Strategy to Combat Aids, the humanitarian community, including in particular WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, should develop in collaboration with the Government, a comprehensive plan of action to address the issue of HIV/Aids amongst the displaced, within the framework of UNAIDS.

Government and the international community to make all efforts, through protection efforts, to prevent sexual violence, including by holding perpetrators accountable.

Education

The education system in Burundi has been hard hit by the crisis. It is estimated that less than one out of four displaced children attends school.

Action:

Appropriate UN agencies and NGOs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, to develop a strategy and allocate resources for the provision of education for all IDP children without discrimination." (Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement 23 Dec 2000)

Need to improve data collection on internally displaced persons (December 2000)

- Situation of all internally displaced persons throughout the country should be reviewed in a comprehensive manner, including people scattered in the hills or with host communities
- System for collecting information on internal displacement should be thoroughly revised

"Semantic categories for displaced populations should be avoided to discourage political and ethnic discrimination in the provision of assistance. The issue of displacement should be addressed in a holistic manner solely on the basis of objective criteria of vulnerability.

The mission found that, despite the best efforts of a wide variety of organizations, including through the work of the IDP working group, there is a lack of a clear strategy and consensus amongst all actors over what should be their priorities and principles. This is compounded by the lack of detailed information available on the displaced. A number of initiatives have been undertaken to collect information on the displaced population settled in camps. However, there is little information on the dispersed population, scattered in the hills or residing with host communities, due to problems of access and security.

There is a need to review in a comprehensive manner the situation of all internally displaced persons throughout the country. Moreover, the system for collecting information on internal displacement should be thoroughly revised, including through the expansion of the sources used, and strengthening verification and updating of data. This should be disaggregated by sex and age so that specific needs of women and children can be identified.

Action:

Government and the humanitarian community to address the needs of all displaced populations equitably and systematically, on the basis of objective criteria of vulnerability.

HC/RC, UNCT and NGOs, to review and revise the overall strategy on the response to the needs of the displaced, including by undertaking, with the support of the Government, an assessment of number, location and needs of these populations. In particular, to undertake a census of the population through local authorities.

HC/RC, UNCT and other humanitarian agencies to explore ways and means to provide support to the dispersed population, including through increased assistance in support of local structures and host communities.

Government to ensure safe and unhindered access by humanitarian agencies to these populations in particular as provided for in Protocol IV of the Arusha Agreement." (Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement 23 Dec 2000)

Review of principles for humanitarian action in the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for 2002

- Affirmation of the right of the displaced to basic services, and to participate in economic activities, to move freely in and out camps
- Primary responsibility to provide humanitarian assistance to the internally displaced lies with national authorities
- State should consider in good faith international humanitarian organizations offering services in support of the internally displaced

"In 1999/2000, the humanitarian community in Burundi developed a Common Framework of Reference for Humanitarian Intervention, based the following elements:

The Review of a Common Humanitarian Strategy;
The Guiding Principles for Humanitarian Intervention;
The Principles of Engagement.

These elements, combined with the revised IASC policy paper on forced relocation (regroupment), which was finalised in February 2000, constitute the key reference points for a principled approach to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Burundi. The Common Framework of Reference also draws extensively on a number of relevant international conventions, protocols, resolutions and guidelines.

Among the Guiding Principles included in the Framework, the following deserve to be highlighted in the Burundian context:

All people have the right to live in complete security and dignity;
Displaced populations must have access to basic services (potable water, essential food, basic shelter and housing, health care, and education) and have the right to participate in economic and subsistence activities;
In particular, IDPs have the right to move freely in and out of camps or other settlements;
The primary duty and responsibility for providing humanitarian assistance to IDPs lies with national authorities;
All authorities concerned shall grant and facilitate the free passage of humanitarian assistance and grant persons engaged in the provision of such assistance rapid and unimpeded access to the internally displaced. Persons engaged in humanitarian assistance, as well as their transport and supplies, shall be respected and protected. They shall not be the object of attack or other acts of violence.
Humanitarian organisations must be granted the following by the authorities:
Free access to people affected by armed conflict;
The right to freely evaluate humanitarian needs of the affected population;
The right to undertake life-saving actions when the population suffers excessive deprivation due to the lack of basic goods and services necessary for survival;
The right to ensure the supply of aid based on the needs of the population without discrimination;
The right to care for the sick at all times and places according to the principle of medical ethics (and to be able to transfer these cases, if need be, to an appropriate medical facility).

The following are the Principles of Engagement agreed upon by the humanitarian actors in Burundi:
Impartiality: Humanitarian assistance shall only be provided according to needs, without any discrimination based on gender, race, as well as ethnic, religious or political affiliation.
Neutrality: Humanitarian agencies shall provide their assistance in a neutral fashion and ensure the 'non-political' character of their action.
Independence: The provision of assistance shall not be influenced by political, economic or military factors. It shall only be based on needs and address, as matter of priority, the most urgent and dramatic situations.

Assistance: International humanitarian organisations and actors have the right to offer their services in support of the vulnerable populations. Such an offer shall not be regarded as an unfriendly act or as interference in the State's internal affairs and shall be considered in good faith. Consent thereto shall not be arbitrarily withheld, particularly when authorities concerned are unable or unwilling to provide the required humanitarian assistance.

Human rights: The promotion of human rights shall be an integral part of humanitarian assistance. This may assume different forms, going from passive monitoring to more proactive promotion activities.

Protection: Humanitarian assistance cannot be dissociated from protection activities for civilian populations in conflict or crisis situations, in particular displaced populations, refugees and the most vulnerable.

Participation: For a long-term effect, the assessment of needs, the delivery of assistance and the supervision of the humanitarian intervention shall be carried out in cooperation with the beneficiaries, as well as local partners and structures.

Coordination: All humanitarian actors shall commit themselves to a close coordination and mutual support, through the establishment of appropriate coordination mechanisms.

Transparency: Humanitarian agencies operating in the country shall be fully transparent with regard to their programmes and their contacts with the authorities. Such transparency shall be made effective through a regular sharing of information with the authorities. This principle should be implemented without any prejudice for the security of beneficiaries.

Responsibility: The duty and responsibility to provide humanitarian assistance to the citizens of a given country lies primarily with the national authorities of that country.

(UN OCHA 26 November 2001, pp.12-13)

Second visit to Burundi by the UN Secretary-General's Representative on Internally Displaced Persons (February 2000)

- First visit to Burundi undertaken in 1994
- Dialogue engaged with the President, relevant Minister and the international community
- Meetings with regional and zone authorities in Bujumbura Rural, Bujumbura Mairis and Ngozi provinces
- The Representative encouraged the Government to pursue and implement the decision to dismantle the "regroupment" camps and for the international community to provide appropriate international assistance to that end
- The Representative noticed improvement of conditions in settlements since his last visit

"At the conclusion of his six day visit to Burundi [6-11 February 2000], the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Francis Deng, took the opportunity today to share the findings of his visits to the country.

This is the second official mission to Burundi undertaken by the Representative, whose first such mission was in 1994. He undertook this current visit at the invitation of the Government of Burundi and at the request of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), comprised of the United Nations and other international and development agencies.

During the course of the visit, the Representative engaged in constructive and candid dialogue with President Buyoya, the Minister of External Affairs, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Defense, the Minister of Reinsertion and Reinstallation of Displaced Persons and Returnees and the Minister of Human Rights. He also met with UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations and representatives of the diplomatic community. During his visits to Bujumbura Rurale, Bujumbura Mairie and Ngozi he met with the provincial and zone authorities.

The visit came at an opportune time as the Government had announced on Monday 7 February 2000], the first day of official meetings for the Representative, that it would proceed with the dismantling of regroupment sites, beginning with 11 followed by a further 13 and eventually all sites, depending upon security. The Representative welcomed this announcement as well as the initiation of the dismantling process on Monday in Maramvya. He encourages the Government to pursue and implement the decision to dismantle the camps and for the international community to provide appropriate international assistance to that end. He is particularly pleased that prior to his departure a meeting was convened by the Government with representatives of the international community with a view to jointly planning and preparing support to persons returning during the dismantling process.

Today the Representative visited Maramvya site as well as the area to which its inhabitants returned but are in need of reintegration assistance. He also visited Kabezi site, where problems of overcrowding, inadequate shelter and the need for medical care was evident. The Representative urges the Government and the international community to work together to ensure that, at a minimum, the basic humanitarian assistance and protection needs of the displaced are addressed. In particular, he encourages measures to be taken to ensure that they have regular access to their fields in time for the planting season this month.

Earlier this week, in Bujumbura Mairie and Ngozi he visited settlements of persons who had been internally displaced for several years. He was pleased to have seen that their conditions are significantly improved since his last visit, though continued support to enable them to become self-sufficiency is required." (UN HCHR 11 February 2000)

Lack of coordination within the international community: recommendations by the Representative of the Secretary-General, Dr. Francis Deng (February 2000)

- Existing coordination mechanisms need to be enhanced to ensure better assistance of protection to the internally displaced population
- Agreement reached between the humanitarian agencies and the Government for improving coordination on issues relating to internal displacement

"At the institutional level, no single UN agency has an overall mandate to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons. In Burundi, the needs of internally displaced persons are being addressed through a collaborative framework based on the comparative advantages of the various humanitarian and development agencies and NGOs. However, a number of steps need to be taken in order to ensure an effective response. Existing coordination mechanisms need to be enhanced to ensure comprehensive and coordinated planning and provision of protection and assistance for internally displaced persons in general and regrouped population in particular, whether still in the camps or returning home.

With regard to Bujumbura Rural, the Government and the humanitarian agencies agreed to use the existing coordination mechanism to come up with an overall plan outlining the needs of the populations returning home as well as those still remaining in the camps. It was also agreed that with regard to the broader internal displacement situation in the country, the coordination mechanism put into place within the Ministry of the Interior to address relations with the humanitarian community would be linked to existing UN and NGO mechanisms (OCHA and the NGO network RESO) to review needs and plan responses." (UNSGR 6 March 2000, paras. 44-45)

Policy of the international humanitarian community regarding provision assistance in the context of forced relocation (1999-2000)

- UN Agencies and donors repeatedly voiced concerns over regroupment policy

- In response to Government's commitment to work towards an end to forced relocation policy started in September 1999, the agencies of the IASC agreed to provide limited humanitarian aid to support the reintegration process and "life-sustaining" assistance to regroupment sites
- The Humanitarian Think Tank in Burundi recommends using the same criteria for the internally displaced as for the regrouped population, based on the IASC policy (June 2000)

Following the imposition of the embargo in 1996, most donors ended development aid to the Burundian government and hence could not make closing the camps a condition of further assistance. In 1998, however, France and Belgium again promised development aid for such sectors as health and education and in April 2000, the World Bank granted a credit of \$35 million to stabilize the economy and restore social services. On a visit to Burundi in April, Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel said that it was hard for Europeans to accept the regroupment policy, but rather than push for closing the camps, he stressed the need for better humanitarian access to improve conditions for those confined there.

Foreign diplomats did intervene effectively on one occasion, after looting by troops was reported at Kavumu camp on May 7. Following their protests, the minister of defense asked an inter-ministerial commission to investigate reports of military misconduct.

The U.N. Security Council repeatedly expressed concern about regroupment and asked that those affected be allowed to return home. Once the Burundian government had sent home a significant number of people in early June, the Security Council welcomed the closure of some camps and expressed the expectation that the government would complete the process. Leading spokespeople for the United Nations all condemned the inhumane conditions of regroupment. In January, Secretary-General Kofi Annan criticized the policy and warned of a potential "humanitarian catastrophe" in the camps. His Special Representative for Displaced Persons expressed concern about conditions in the camps and UNICEF Director Carol Bellamy urged that they be closed rapidly. The Special Rapporteur for Burundi of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Marie-Therese Keita-Bocoum, recommended that the government deal immediately with the issue of forced displacement of the population.

Mary Robinson, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights declared that regroupment "violates the civil and political, as well as the economic, social and cultural rights of the affected population." The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner inside the country, however, played no role in investigating or in publicizing the inhumane conditions under which residents lived. Throughout most of this period, U.N. staff were limited by security restrictions imposed following the murder of U.N. personnel in October 1999. Field officers could, nonetheless, have documented abuses by interviewing camp residents who came into the city and publicized them so as to increase pressure on the Burundian government to halt these abuses." (HRW June 2000, "International Response")

"In 1997, in response to [forced relocation or 'regroupment' implemented] by the Government of Burundi in other provinces, the IASC adopted the policy proposed in a memorandum of 27 February 1997 from Martin Griffiths to the then ERC, Mr. Akashi. This policy, while vigorously denouncing the Government's action, agreed to the provision of 'life-sustaining' assistance by the international community, subject to certain specified conditions.

Faced with a similar situation, the IASC reiterates its strong opposition to the policy of forced relocation, as implemented by the Government of Burundi. In the view of the IASC this policy cannot be justified and is being implemented without regard for the rights and well-being of those affected. The IASC holds the Government responsible for the humanitarian consequences of this action.

The IASC notes the pledge of the Government to start dismantling the relocation sites. It support an ordered dismantling of the camps and calls on the Government to engage in a dialogue with the United Nations and other humanitarian organisations with a view to progressively dismantling the policy of forced relocation and encouraging the development of durable solutions for those affected. These solutions should be

identified with the full consent of those affected and would involve either return to their homes, or, in exceptional cases, settlement in other permanent sites freely chosen by the communities concerned.

In response to a commitment by the Government to work towards an end to the forced relocation policy, the agencies of the IASC agree to seek resources from the international community for humanitarian aid to those affected by the policy, subject to the following conditions:

(i) Assistance in the relocation sites should be limited to what is considered “life-sustaining”, i.e. food, essential health services, water and sanitation. Exceptions would be (a) assistance in the form of seeds, tools and fertilisers for those with regular access to their land (access to the land for planting in February is particularly important); (b) assistance in the form of educational supplies where the communities are able to organise schooling for children.

(ii) Assistance should, to the extent possible, be provided in support of a planned reintegration process of the affected populations, i.e. the voluntary return of those relocated to their homes, or, in exceptional cases, the planned settlement of communities in new sites, when specifically requested by the individuals concerned. Assistance for returnees and those being resettled should be provided alongside support for host communities.

(iii) No assistance should be provided for the creation of permanent structures in the sites, except where required for efficient delivery of water and sanitation.

(iv) Emphasis should be placed on ensuring IDP access to, and assistance for existing local services which are still able to serve the needs of their communities, particularly, for example, assistance to local health centres and schools.

(v) No assistance should be provided to assist in the creation or administration of the camps.

(vi) Assistance should be provided on the basis of an independent assessment of needs, independent monitoring of distribution and unhindered access of humanitarian workers to the sites.

(vii) Assistance should be provided on a case by case basis, with each stage of assistance dependent on a fresh assessment of needs.

(viii) Full and free access of Human Rights Observers to the sites must be ensured, to allow them to monitor and report any abuses which may occur there. A forum in which these reports can be reviewed and action taken should be established by the Government.

(IASC 3 February 2000)

Note: The IASC is composed of the following bodies: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the World Food Programme(WFP); and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Standing Invitees to the IASC are: the International Committee of the Red Cross; the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; the International Organization for Migration InterAction; the International Council on Voluntary Agencies; the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons; the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response; and the World Bank.

See also [IASC Statement on forced relocation \(regroupment\) in Burundi, 19 January 2000 \[External link\]](#)

"A Humanitarian Think Tank meeting including UN Agencies, NGOs, donors and diplomats took place after the Inter-Agency mission [to Bujumbura Rural] to discuss the findings and agreed that the Humanitarian Agencies operating in Bujumbura Rural would continue to follow recommendations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for responding for the needs of the regrouped population remaining on site. This includes life sustaining assistance, planned reintegration process of the affected populations, support IDPs to access local services, access of Human Right Observers to the sites and basic education for displaced children. No assistance should be provided to the creation of permanent structures in the site, or administration of the sites. Rehabilitation and reinstallation assistance to the returnees is postponed due to the security situation. Inter-Agency assessment teams have recommended an in-depth assessment of the humanitarian situation of the IDP population. The Humanitarian Think Tank recommends using the same criteria for the IDP population as for the regrouped population, based on the IASC policy." (UN OCHA 8 June 2000)

References to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

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- Reference to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation
- Other References to the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)
- Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages
- Training on the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)

Reference to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation

None

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Documents: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 21 July 2002, OCHA-Burundi Situation Report 15-21 July 2002 [Internet]

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Training on the Guiding Principles

Technical Follow-up Group with the Framework for the Protection of IDPs: held several information exchange meetings to disseminate the Guiding Principles on internal displacement, for example with administrative staff of Bujumbura Rural; with local government and military officials in Cankuzo and Ruyigi provinces
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AI	Amnesty International
AFP	Agence France Press
ALIR	Army for the Liberation of Rwanda
ARCHI	African Red Cross Red Crescent Health Initiative
BRC	Burundi Red Cross
CAD	Children's Aid Direct
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EC	European Commission
ECHO	European Union Humanitarian Office
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EMOP	Emergency Operation
EU	European Union
FAC	Congolese Armed Forces (Forces Armées Congolaises)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAR	Forces Armées Rwandaises
FBU	Burundian Franc
FDD	Forces for the Defense of Democracy (Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie)
FNL	National Forces for Liberation (Forces Nationales pour la Libération)
FNUAP	Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population (see UNFPA)
FRODEBU	Front Démocratique du Burundi
FROLINA	Front for National Liberation (Front pour la Libération Nationale)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HC/RC	Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)
HRO	Human Rights Office
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICG	International Crisis Group
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMC	International Medical Corps
IMC	Implementation Monitoring Committee
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRIN	Integrated Regional Information Network
JRS	Jesuit Refugee Service
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OAU	Organization of African States
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PANA	Pan African News Agency
PREBU	Burundi Rehabilitation Programme
RDC	Rally for Congolese Democracy

RNIS	Report on the Nutrition Situation of Refugees and Displaced Populations
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SFC	Supplementary Feeding Center
TFC	Therapeutic Feeding Center
UPRONA	Party of Unity and National Progress
PALIPHEUTU	Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People (Parti pour la Liberation du Peuple Hutu
UAC	Unaccompanied Children
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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