

PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : BURUNDI

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PROFILE SUMMARY

Large-scale political and communal violence has plagued Burundi since 1993, following the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye. The current President, Major Buyoya, took power in a military coup in 1996. In response to the coup, governments of neighboring states imposed an economic embargo. The embargo was lifted in January 1999, after Buyoya agreed to a power sharing agreement in the National Assembly and began negotiations for a peace settlement with opposing parties and armed opposition groups (HRW June 2000). Peace negotiations began to show progress when Nelson Mandela assumed the role of facilitator at the end of 1999 and on 28 August 2000 a peace agreement was signed between 19 parties, both Hutu and Tutsi. Two armed rebel groups did not take part in the Arusha peace process and continue to fight government forces. Both UN and international experts warned that the situation in Burundi is explosive and could lead to even larger-scale violence (IRIN 31 May 2001 & ICG 14 May 2001).

There are about 580,000 internally displaced persons in the country, but it should be noted that chronic insecurity and problems of access make compilation of exact figures difficult. UN sources reported that 379,779 internally displaced persons were recorded in 210 sites within Burundi as of May 2001. In addition, following the dismantlement of the regroupment sites, over 200,000 persons may be dispersed in other areas of the countryside. The largest number of internally displaced now reside in sites of the southern provinces of Makamba (103,656 persons), Bururi (87,581 persons) and Rutana (77,901 persons) (UN OCHA 22 May 2001). The number of displaced in Rutana has greatly increased since last September due to conflict, from 2000 displaced to almost 78,000 today (UN Nov 2000, p.5 & UN OCHA 22 May 2001).

The above statistics only mirror long-term displacement, but significant temporary displacement took place this year, as well. In February 2001, 54,000 people fled their homes in the outskirts of Bujumbura when fighting between the Burundian army and rebel forces broke out. Fighting then spread to the southern and central provinces of Rutana, Ruyigi, Gitega, Mwaro and Muramvya, causing further temporary displacement (IRIN 26 April 2001).

While many people have had to flee their homes to escape violence, displacement in Burundi is not just a consequence of the conflict. It has been to a large extent the result of a planned action by the government, both in 1996-97 and in 1999-2000, which became known under the name of "regroupment policy". The declared aim of this policy was to ensure the security of the population (mostly Hutu) in areas subject to systematic destabilization by armed forces, by relocating them into camps guarded by armed forces. According to many observers, the principal aims of this policy were in fact to deprive the rebel forces from local support and to regain control of the territory (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998 & HRW June 2000). In September 1999,

the government forced nearly 350,000 civilians – most of them Hutu – to move into 53 regroupment camps in the province of Bujumbura Rural, as well as in Rutana, Muramvya and Bubanza Provinces (UN OCHA 24 December 1999). The displaced often suffered serious human rights violations during the regroupment process and then in the camps, such as forced labor, beatings and sexual abuse. Violations were both committed by government and rebel forces (HRW June 2000).

In 2000, as a result of international pressure, the government dismantled the regroupment camps, an action confirmed by the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Burundi (CHR 19 March 2001). In some cases, the camp population actually preferred to remain in the sites while others spontaneously returned to the sites because of persistent insecurity in their areas of origin, or went to live with relatives (WFP 23 June 2000 & AFP 26 September 2000). According to an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) assessment in April 2000, the government did not provide assistance during the resettlement process (UN OCHA 8 June 2000). Human Rights Watch reported that the government, by forcibly displacing people, failing to ensure their protection in the camps and then failing to provide the means for a voluntary return, has contravened several obligations of humanitarian law and human rights law (See Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 6, 9,10,11,12,14 & 28) (HRW June 2000). Since the closure of the regroupment camps, the government allegedly forcibly relocated populations in the south-east of Burundi (UN Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement 23 December 2000).

Because of bad climate conditions, insecurity and massive forced displacement, malnutrition and disease are starting to cause more victims than war (CHR 19 March 2001). Many internally displaced persons have been unable to grow food and live mostly on international assistance (U.S. DOS February 2001). An unprecedented malaria epidemic broke out at the end of 2000 (UN OCHA 4 April 2001). While the overall number of malaria patients declined in April 2001 with the dry season, the situation might worsen again in September 2001 (UN OCHA-Burundi 13 June 2001). HIV/AIDS has also 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 (WHO 31 January 2001).

Assessment needs conducted in various provinces at the end of 2000 and in 2001 show that:

- In Rutana province, people displaced by the conflict lacked water points and assistance (UN OCHA 5 April 2001);
- In Bubanza Province, Hutus and Batwa living in a site were severely malnourished and have been living in inadequate shelters for the past three years (CHR 19 March 2001);
- In Makamba Province, while food security improved in IDP sites, public infrastructures and buildings need to be rehabilitated, particularly in the education and health sectors (UN OCHA-Burundi 5 February 2001)

- In Bujumbura Mairie, some displaced live in inadequate shelters while hygienic and sanitary facilities are practically non-existent in the sites and many displaced have no access to land (UN OCHA-Burundi 29 December 2000); risk for the displaced and other vulnerable populations to get cholera, measles and malaria has increased, following the destruction of health facilities and of potable water sources during the fighting (WHO 23 March 2001)
- Displaced households and other vulnerable populations in Gitega, Muramvya, Mwaro, Muyinga and Muramvya have exhausted coping mechanisms and have started to eat wild herbs (WFP 27 April 2001).

The international community has had difficulty to assist the displaced, due to insecurity, lack of funding and coordination issues. Ongoing insecurity still severely limits access to the displaced. 200,000 IDPs, dispersed following the dismantlement of regroupment camps, are beyond the reach of humanitarian assistance (UN OCHA 22 May 2001). Recent attacks of humanitarian workers further reduced the possibility to reach displaced populations in need. Over the last six months, a British aid worker was killed by Hutu rebels, a WFP convoy attacked in April 2001 and NGO workers kidnapped (Reuters 30 December 2000 & WFP 18 May 2001).

The 2001 UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Burundi has a humanitarian program targeting the most vulnerable, including the internally displaced (UN November 2000). As of June 2001, the Appeal had only received 17% of requested funding, while only a quarter of last year's appeal was funded (UN OCHA 21 June 2001, "Burundi 2000" & "Burundi 2001").

In their reports in 2000 and 2001, the UN Representative of the Secretary-General on internal displacement, the Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Burundi and the Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement all highlighted the need to improve existing coordination mechanisms to better protect and assist the displaced. The Senior Network 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, particularly due to the limited operational capacity on the part of protection-specific mandate actors, such as OHCHR, UNHCR and ICRC (UNSGR 6 March 2000, CHR 19 March 2001 & Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement 23 Dec 2000).

Despite these difficulties, the Burundi government, UN Agencies, NGOs and donors are responding to ease the plight of the displaced. In February 2001, the Minister of Human Rights and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator signed a Framework for Consultation on Protection of Internally Displaced Persons. The aim was to establish "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). In April 2001, the government adopted a three-year rehabilitation action plan for the displaced and the returning refugees, aiming to build 200,000 houses (IRIN 10 April 2001).

Governments pledged assistance to the reconstruction of Burundi at international donor consultation conference on Burundi in December 2000 (UN OCHA 31 December 2000). Also, in April 2001, the European Union (EU) adopted a 20 million EURO intervention plan, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups, such as IDPs.

In addition to the activities planned for 2001, UN Agencies and NGOs responded to the crisis in Bujumbura Mairie in February and March 2001. They provided emergency aid to displaced populations in seven sites in Bujumbura Mairie and carried out rehabilitation activities when security improved (UN OCHA-Burundi 16 March 2001).
(June 2001)

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. [...]

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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)

"The national food deficit amounts to 178,000 MTs in cereals. National crop production has decreased by 34% in the year 2000 for food legumes, 15% for cereals and 40% for coffee. As a result, some 170,000 rural families, or about 850,000 individuals, face an uncertain food situation while another 1.5 million repatriated, dispersed or displaced individuals remain dependent on agricultural inputs. Malnutrition rates remain unacceptably high." (UN November 2000, p.1)

"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.

Although foreign assistance may resume gradually this year, economic recovery will remain modest. Foreign aid to Burundi totalled just FBU 17 bn in 1999, down from a high of FBU 230 bn (US\$ 947 million) in 1993. The real GDP growth in 2000 is forecast at only 2 percent, or below the population growth rate." (FAO/WFP 27 July 2000, "Economic situation")

Signing of Peace agreement in Arusha in 2000 and launching of committee to monitor peace deal (2000)

- Government initiated a series of political reforms during 1997-1998, known as the "internal partnership", which resulted in the suspension of the economic sanctions imposed on the country (January 1999)
- 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

"Following his nomination as facilitator of the Arusha Peace Process [replacing former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere who died in October 1999], the former South African

President Nelson Mandela has deployed immense efforts to bring about peace in Burundi.." (UN OCHA 8 June 2000)

"An agreement was due to be signed by all sides on 20 July, but the date has been put back to 28 August after concern that a hastily signed agreement would not be implementable. The main issues to be tackled include the terms of a possible ceasefire, who will lead the transition, and reform of the armed forces. The government wants a cessation of hostilities to be in place before any accord can be signed, while the opposition groups are seeking closure of all regroupment camps and the release of political prisoners." (ICRC 30 August 2000)

"Under Mandela's mediation, political parties in Burundi signed the Arusha accord but the country's two main Hutu rebel groups, the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) and the National Liberation Front (FLN) refused to do so, and have stepped up attacks in recent weeks.

A regional summit in February [2000] collapsed when the parties failed to agree on the make-up of the transitional government." (AFP 7 May 2001)

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)

However, according to the International Crisis Group (ICG), "the Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC) seems to be ineffective and incapable of fulfilling its mission." (ICG 14 May 2001, Executive Summary)

"Burundi's national assembly on Thursday [30 November 2000] formally ratified the Arusha peace accord aimed at ending a civil war which has ravaged the country since 1993." (AFP 30 November 2000)

For a chronology of key events in Burundi, see [BBC News' Timeline: Burundi \(9 May 2001\)](#) [[External Link](#)]

Fighting between government and rebel forces which did not sign Arush Agreement continued (2000-2001)

- Main provinces affected by armed clashes in the second half of 2000 are Makamba, Bujumbura Rural, Rutana, Ruyigi and Bururi provinces, where the rebels have strong bases
- Coup attempt against President Buyoya failed but highlighted the fragility of the situation (April 2001)
- Rebel group FLN invaded Bujumbura in February but government armed forces made the rebels retreat
- Rebel group FDD mainly active in southern Burundi
- In May 2001, confrontation between the rebels and the army reduced in intensity in Bujumbura Rural
- Media and NGO reports indicated that about 200,000 persons have been killed in ethnic violence between October 1993 and end 2000

"Hopes of a political settlement have not translated into stability on the ground. Hit-and-run armed incidents between the opposition and armed forces continue almost on a daily basis in Rutana, Ruyigi, Makamba and Bururi provinces in the south, and Cibitoke and Muramvya provinces in the north. In June, the central province of Gitega was targeted by the rebels and there were isolated incidents on the outskirts of the city. There has also been a recent increase in the number of armed attacks around the capital Bujumbura. The civilian population has often been caught in the middle of the fighting or has been targeted according to its communal identity. Civilians are also victimised for allegedly taking sides or refusing to do so, or in many cases for opposing the theft of their livestock and other property." (ICRC 30 August 2000)

"The attempted coup against President Buyoya by a group of young army officers on 18 April, and the speculation surrounding this, has vividly demonstrated both the complexity and the fragility of the current situation. Both before and after the coup attempt, intense diplomatic efforts have continued in an attempt to broker agreement on the key outstanding issues - a ceasefire, the nomination for the alternating role of president and vice-president for the proposed 3-year transition, and the finalisation of transitional structures. While two main presidential candidates have emerged - Epitace Bayaganakandi and Domitien Ndayizeye - the current Government continues to voice strong objections and it remains unclear how or if a majority decision, rather than complete consensus, might be implemented. Such issues are being discussed in a series of meetings in South Africa, in the hope that resolution might be possible during the next Regional Summit. However, serious doubts have been expressed that there is a real future for the Arusha Accord and negotiations based upon it. Parallel to the political negotiation, the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC) has met and made some progress in discussing the technical aspects of implementation.

The intensification of the fighting within Burundi raises considerable concern for progress in the separate ceasefire negotiations. Repeated attempts to bring representatives of the warring parties to the table have proved unproductive, and it is feared that rebel forces are determined to continue the armed struggle and are forging new alliances in order to do so." (UN OCHA 22 May 2001)

"The FLN [Forces nationales pour la libération] invaded Bujumbura in February, capturing the predominantly Hutu northern suburb of Kinama, shelling mainly Tutsi suburbs and attacking a military outpost near the presidential residence. More than 50,000 residents fled Kinama, with many ending up in makeshift camps.

Eventually the Burundian armed forces displaced the FLN, and it retreated to areas outlying the city. Many fighters appear then to have headed north-west to the Kibira forest in order to hide and regroup. FNL units also staged a major attack on Burundi's second city of Gitega earlier this month, and although the army appears to have gained the upper hand, a spate of attacks this week show that the rebels there remain a force to be reckoned with. However, the main aim of the Gitega fighters appears also to reach the Kibira forest, from where, it is rumoured, they are planning a major assault on the capital.

The FDD [Forces pour la défense de la démocratie] is mainly active in southern Burundi, but also in Congo, where it is allied to the Congolese armed forces (FAC). In South Kivu the FDD is fighting the Rwandan and Burundian armed forces, and those of the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD), Rwanda's ally, which nominally controls the region, as well as targeting Banyamulenge civilians in the hills, who are fleeing in increasing numbers to nearby towns." (Mail & Guardian 20 April 2001)

"Although security situation improved around Bujumbura, attacks and armed robbery are still reported in many areas, including Cankuzo, Makamba and Kayanza provinces. Confrontation between the army and the rebels reduced in intensity in Bujumbura Rural. The people from Nyabunyegeri are still displaced at Mubone site, Buterere zone, Bujumbura Mairie. Incursions continued in the eastern provinces (Ruyigi and Cankuzo) bordering with Tanzania. The security situation near the Kibira forest in the North West recently deteriorated." (WFP 18 May 2001)

"Media and NGO reports indicate that about 200,000 persons, mostly civilians, have been killed in ethnic violence between October 1993 and the end of the year; however, the source of this figure is unclear. No credible countrywide casualty figures were available. The Government and security forces frequently have prevented journalists and human rights observers from going to areas where casualties occurred, making it difficult to gather information about the perpetrators and the victims. Much of the extrajudicial killing and property destruction during the year was concentrated in the province around the capital and in the southern and eastern provinces of Bururi, Makamba, Rutana, and Ruyigi." (U.S. DOS February 2001, Sect.1.a.)

UN and other experts warn that civil war in Burundi could cause larger conflict (May 2001)

- UN SC Mission to the Great Lakes recognized complexity of situation in Burundi and potential for large-scale violence
- International Crisis Group (ICG) warned that rebels could undertake major offensive against Burundi

"The 12-member UN Security Council mission which visited the Great Lakes region earlier this month [May 2001] said it was struck by the 'complexity and intractability' of the situation in Burundi and its serious potential for large-scale violence. In a report on its mission from 15-26 May, the Security Council team detailed the discussions it had with the various sides in the Burundi conflict, stressing that it delivered a very strong message to all players – namely that there could be no military solution to the conflict and peace should be found within the framework of the Arusha peace agreement, signed last August." (IRIN 31 May 2001)

According to the UN SC mission, "[T]he tragedy in Burundi is closely linked with that in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While in Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam, Kigali and Kampala, the Security Council mission became increasingly aware that the movements of rebel fighters from the Democratic Republic of the Congo eastwards in order to evade being disarmed and demobilized might aggravate the Burundi crisis. It is clear to the Security Council mission that no action that damages Burundi can truly assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Security Council will continue to support a global solution that can assist in restoring peace to both countries, and to the entire Great Lakes region." (UN SC 29 May 2001, para. 136)

"In South Africa, Jan Van Eck of the Pretoria-based Centre for International Policy Studies told AFP Wednesday that the armed movements allied against Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi – Hutus in the case of Burundi and Rwanda, a mixture of tribes in the case of Uganda – considered Burundi the weakest of their enemies and an ideal base for their wars.

The temptation for Rwandan and Ugandan rebels to first assist the Burundian insurgents in toppling the Tutsi-led regime in Bujumbura, before moving on to Rwanda, 'cannot be ignored', he said in a report." (AFP 17 May 2001)

According to the International Crisis Group (ICG): "Nelson Mandela, in spite of receiving the support of regional heads of state and the international community, has failed persuade the rebel groups to renounce violence and accept the terms of the Arusha accord. Far from weakening their position, the death of Laurent Kabila appears to have convinced the rebels to go ahead with their long-planned offensive against Burundi, which remains the weakest link in the anti-Kinshasa alliance." (ICG 14 May 2001, Executive Summary)

See ICG Full report (in French), "Burundi: Breaking the deadlock; a new peace strategy is urgently needed, 14 May 2001 [[External link](#)]

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

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")

Fighting between rebel and government forces caused insecurity and displacement in 2001

- In Feb 2001, fighting causes short-term displacement of 50,000 in Bujumbura Mairie
- In March 2001, fighting between government troops and FDD rebels caused displacement of 7,000 in Rutana Province
- Latest wave of violence caused displacement of 20,000 near Bujumbura (May 2001)

"In early 2001, clashes between rebel and Government forces led to further displacement both within Burundi and over its borders and on 24 February 2001, fighting broke out in Kinama, in the northern outskirts of Bujumbura Mairie. This soon spread to neighbouring

districts and continued throughout the following two weeks. As a result, some 54,000 were displaced. By 5 April, however, 8,708 of the estimated 10,000 households displaced were once again in Kinama." (UN OCHA 22 May 2001)

"Two civilians were killed Tuesday in fighting between rebel and government forces near the Burundian capital Bujumbura which prompted some 20,000 people to flee the area, officials said. The fighting reached to within eight kilometers (five miles) of Bujumbura, which has been under pressure from rebels of the National Liberation Forces (FNL) positioned in nearby hills for the past two weeks. [...]

The fighting is part of a government operation to dislodge the rebels from the hills, a military source told AFP on Tuesday." (AFP 29 May 2001)

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 progroms 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 commit 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

About 580,000 IDPs (in sites and dispersed) as of May 2001

"379,779 IDPs are recorded in 210 sites within Burundi. In addition, following 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." (UN OCHA 22 May 2001)

"Children and women are the worst affected, constituting approximately half of the 500,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs)." (UNICEF 1 March 2001)

327,506 internally displaced in camps by September 2000 compared to over 800,000 in December 1999

- After the dismantlement of regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural, 327,506 persons remained displaced, including some Tutsi displaced since 1993
- Many of the almost 500,000 people who left the camps have not been able to return to their former home and are in a precarious situation but are no longer counted as internally displaced by the UN
- Over 800,000 people were displaced at the end of 1999, half of them children

"The number of displaced people in the country, which had increased dramatically in late 1999, fell steadily over the first half of 2000, with the dismantling of many of the regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural and the return of populations in Bubanza to their hills in view of an improved security situation. To offset these positive developments, towards the middle of the year, instability worsened considerably in eastern provinces bordering Tanzania, bringing increased displacement and heightening problems of access for the humanitarian community." (UN November 2000, p.18)

"An assessment conducted by the Community Assistance Umbrella Programme and the Government estimated that 327,506 people were still internally displaced within Burundi, living in camps, similar sites or host families (as of end of August). The number included some people displaced in 1993. An evaluation of the dismantling process for regroupment sites, conducted by OCHA and NGOs operating in Bujumbura Rural province, found that the sites created in 1999 were mostly dismantled, but the seven sites created in 1993 were not. Some 26,000 people remain in Bujumbura Rural province regroupment sites (6,000 since September 1999 and 20,000 since 1993)." (WFP 15 September 2000, "Burundi")

"More than half of those living in camps for the displaced in war-torn Burundi at the start of the year have now left, but their lot has barely improved, the United Nations said here Tuesday. The UN's office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said there were 324,000 people living in camps for the displaced in September, against more than 800,000 in January. 'Nevertheless, these figures are not good news, because the almost 500,000 people who have left the camps are still in an extremely vulnerable position,' cautioned OCHA spokeswoman Caroline Stiebler. 'Most of them are living with relatives and have not been able to return to their own home districts, or to restart work or normal activity. Their humanitarian situation has not changed,' Stiebler said.

The dramatic fall is largely explained by the gradual closure since July of so-called regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural, the province that surrounds the capital. In the face of widespread international criticism, the army obliged mainly Hutu residents of this province to move into the camps, saying this would allow security forces to better deal with the extremist rebel groups they have been fighting since 1993.

Recent months have also seen many people return to their homes in Bubanza province. According to the OCHA, people living in regroupment camps, as opposed to other camps for the displaced, account for only a small proportion of the new figure. These other camps were set up at the beginning of the war in 1993, when many Tutsis willingly placed themselves under the protection of the soldiers." (AFP 26 September 2000)

[There are] "30,000 new internally displaced in southern Makamba Province. [There is also] new internal displacement in eastern provinces where violence is ongoing [and new] displacement caused by violence and government policies near Bujumbura, the capital." (USCR 6 September 2000)

"[...] Up to half a million people displaced by the civil war remain in camps across the country. Roughly half are children." (SCF-UK October 2000)

"Il ne fait aucun doute que la moitié des 800 000 déplacés intérieurs sont des enfants [...]" (CHR 19 March 2001, para. 120)

December 1999: OCHA's estimates

Number of IDPs	808,004 (incl. 382,513 in regroupment camps)
Number of sites	346 (incl. 52 regroupment camps)
Percentage of IDPs	12%

(UN OCHA Burundi January 2000, UN OCHA 24 December 1999)

According to USCR, an estimated 800,000 or more Burundians were internally displaced at the end of 1999 (USCR 2000, para.2)

Insecurity and logistical constraints hinder collection of information on displaced populations not living in sites or displaced for short periods (2000)

- Governmental figures for the newly displaced population are below UN estimates
- Need of independent census on the displaced population

"It must [...] be noted that displacement due to reasons other than *regroupement* is ongoing. 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)

"An estimated 150,000 people remain in regroupment camps in Burundi's Bujumbura Rural province. Ten camps have recently been either partially or completely closed. However, the exact number of those remaining in regroupment camps is in question because there has never been an independent census on the displaced populations by international aid agencies or the UN. [...]

An independent registration of the regroupment camps is essential. Current camp population estimates provided by local Burundian officials and camp administrators have not been verified. Due to the highly sensitive nature of the regroupment question within the international community and in Burundi itself, the use of unverified counts by local government officials is problematic." (RI 13 July 2000)

"At the end of June, about 100,000 persons had returned home from the camps, somewhat less than one third of the total number of persons forcibly displaced from their homes since September 1999. Statistics on the number displaced may be incomplete. The camp at Muchungwe, established in April [2000], is generally included in the list of 'protection sites,' nor is a camp in central Mugere (population 3,200) which has been in existence since September 1999." (HRW June 2000, "Dismantling the camps")

Increase of total internally displaced population between 1997 and 1999

- 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

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)

"The overall number of displaced persons in Burundi has not decreased during [1998]. Nearly 560,000 continue to live outside their homes, leaving them extremely vulnerable. The security situation remains fluid; new people are being forced to flee even while others are able to return home. The Government has ended its policy of large scale regroupment camps, and the people who populated these camps in 1996 and 1997 were able to return home by the end of 1997. In other regions, however, episodic insecurity continues to force people to flee their homes, keeping the total number of vulnerable people very high." (UN December 1998, p. 1)

"10 % of the population lives in camps and more are hiding in the forest and marshes." (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998, p. 10)

No precise estimates for the displaced population between 1993 and 1996

- The armed conflict made large parts of the country inaccessible to international agencies; figures provided by local authorities likely to be inflated
- Many people displaced for a short period of time only were able to return rapidly to their place of origin; other displaced were not in designated camps but were hiding in the hills
- It is believed that some 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

1996

"It is believed that about 400,000 persons in Burundi were internally displaced. A more precise estimate of internal displacement was difficult because ongoing civil war made large parts of the country inaccessible to outsiders." (USCR 1997, p. 60)

"An estimated 400,000 Burundians were internally displaced at the end of 1996, but that figure masks the true extent of population displacement during the year.

Tens of thousands of families became newly displaced, while thousands of uprooted households managed to return to their homes when safety permitted. Although exact estimates are impossible, it is probable that far more than a half-million Burundians were internally displaced at different times during 1996." (USCR 1997, pp. 61-62)

1995

"It is believed that about 300,000 Burundians were internally displaced, although various estimates placed the number much higher or lower. [...]

Violence in Burundi continued to spiral seemingly out of control throughout the year, resulting in some 5,000 to 10,000 deaths, according to various estimates. The number of internally displaced persons was a particularly sensitive issue, as extremist leaders competed to portray their respective ethnic group as a victim rather than an instigator of violence." (USCR 1996, p. 40)

"It is believed that some 500,000 to 700,000 persons were internally displaced in late 1993 by the violence that erupted in October of that year. Violence persisted at lower levels in 1994, creating more displacement even as some uprooted Burundians cautiously returned home. Uncertainty about the actual number of internally displaced people in Burundi remained a prime issue of discussion among relief officials and Burundians authorities throughout 1994-95 and made disputes over the number of beneficiaries who should receive food aid all the more complicated. Relief workers estimated that a quarter-million displaced persons were located in the four northern provinces of Kirundo, Ngozi, Kayanza, and Muyinga; the four western provinces of Bujumbura, Muramvya, Bubanza, and Cibitoke contained an estimated 150,000; and the four central provinces of Gitega, Ruyigi, Karuzi, and Rutana contained as estimated 60,000 displaced.[...]

By mid-1996, a report by UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali offered 'a conservative guess' that at least 300,000 Burundians remained internally displaced. The U.S. Committee for Refugees also estimated that 300,000 were displaced in early 1996, noting that 'tens of thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands, became newly displaced during 1995, but many were able to return home shortly afterwards.' Amnesty International put the total of internally displaced Tutsi residing in camps in late 1995 at 200,000 in addition to the more than 200,000 Hutu estimated to be internally dispersed around the country 'moving from place to place to evade attacks.'"(USCR 1998a, pp. 34-35)

1994-1993

"About 400,000 Burundians were internally displaced [at the end of 1994]. (USCR 1995, p. 51)

"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 1998a, pp. 34-35)

Geographical distribution

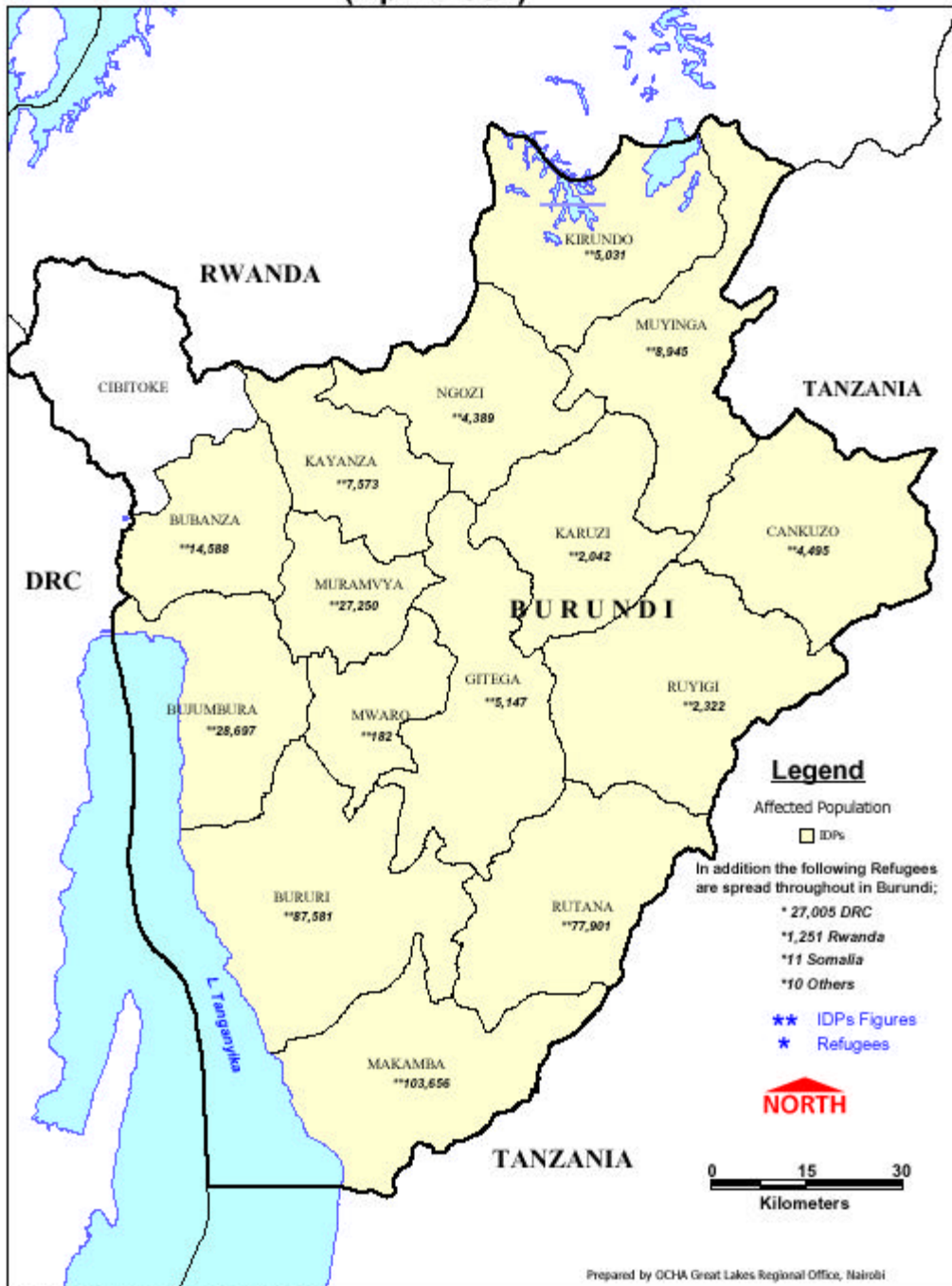
The majority of the displaced are in the southern provinces of Makamba, Bururi and Rutana (May 2001)

- Makamba province has the majority of internally displaced with over 100,000 persons in 43 sites
- Bururi and Rutana provinces have about 80,000 displaced each

LOCATION	ORIGIN	FIGURES	COMMENTS
Bubanza	Burundi	14,588	Estimated number of IDPs in 10 sites
Bujumbura Mairie	Burundi	257	Estimated number of IDPs in 2 sites
Bujumbura Rural	Burundi	28,420	Estimated number of IDPs in 13 sites
Bururi	Burundi	87,581	Estimated number of IDPs in 29 sites
Cankuzo	Burundi	4,495	Estimated number of IDPs in 4 sites
Gitega	Burundi	5,147	Estimated number of IDPs in 15 sites
Karuzi	Burundi	2,042	Estimated number of IDPs in 6 sites
Kayanza	Burundi	7,573	Estimated number of IDPs in 11 sites
Kirundo	Burundi	5,031	Estimated number of IDPs in 11 sites
Makamba	Burundi	103,656	Estimated number of IDPs in 43 sites
Muramvya	Burundi	27,250	Estimated number of IDPs in 15 sites
Muyinga	Burundi	8,945	Estimated number of IDPs in 20 sites
Mwaro	Burundi	182	Estimated number of IDPs in 1 site
Ngozi	Burundi	4,389	Estimated number of IDPs in 6 sites
Rutana	Burundi	77,901	Estimated number of IDPs in 19 sites
Ruyigi	Burundi	2,322	Estimated number of IDPs in 5 sites

(UN OCHA 22 May 2001)

Burundi Affected Populations by Province Refugees and Internally Displaced (April 2001)



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

(UN OCHA 30 April 2001)

Following the dismantlement of regroupment camps in Bujumbura rural, 52% of the displaced in sites were in Makamba and Bururi (October 2000)

- In Bujumbura Rural the number of internally displaced went from 317,000 in Oct 1999 to 30,889 in Sept 2000 following the closing of the regroupment camps
- The provinces with the most important internally displaced population in sites are now Bururi and Makamba (October 2000)

"While the total number of displaced persons living in sites decreased significantly this year, the drop did not lead to an improvement in either the situation of IDPs or the overall humanitarian conditions of the country. Since the beginning of the year, the total number of IDPs in sites dropped from approximately 800,000 to about 325,000. The most dramatic change occurred in Bujumbura Rural, where the IDP numbers went down from 317,000 to 30,889 due to the closure in July 2000 of virtually all of the regroupment camps established by the authorities since September 1999.

However, these "dispersed" persons remain as vulnerable as ever. More often than not, they simply scattered into the surrounding areas and now survive by whatever means they can. As a result, they have become even more difficult to access because of the insecurity situation, while their needs have remained as pressing as ever." (UN November 2000, p.5)

Province	Total population	Displaced Sept 1997	Displaced August 1998	Displaced Oct 1999 ***	Displaced Sept 2000	Percentage of population	Increase/Decrease 1999/2000
Bubanza	299,051	73,087	132,641	172,408	14,588	7%	-157,820
Bujumbura mairie	330,142	40,734	9,350	14,902	565	0%	-14,337
Bujumbura rural*	436,894	0	57,637	317,384	30,889	7%	-286,495
Bururi	446,583	58,099	85,737	85,781	87,581	20%	1,800
Cankuzo	177,090	3,254	0	0	5,500	0%	5,500
Cibitoke	401,166	49,620	13,565	736	0	0%	-736
Gitega	639,560	20,997	18,316	21,050	5,147	1%	-15,903
Karuzi	366,682	134,540	34,360	12,106	2,042	1%	-10,064
Kayanza	485,187	70,164	28,879	26,269	7,573	2%	-18,696
Kirundo	517,627	20,072	27,852	5,886	5,031	1%	-855
Makamba	377,008	45,314	36,710	85,680	121,360	32%	35,680
Muramvya	256,509	40,436	27,063	22,506	27,250	11%	4,744
Muyinga	502,255	22,855	32,081	16,473	8,945	2%	-7,528
Mwaro**	232,340	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Ngozi	619,630	19,184	25,712	20,485	4,389	1%	-16,096
Rutana	252,452	3,675	2,576	16,279	2,127	1%	-14,152
Ruyigi	314,590	6,335	2,127	700	1,068	0%	368
Total	6,654,766	608,366	534,606	818,645	324,055	5%	-494,590

Source: OCHA/Burundi in UN November 2000, p.5

Remarks: total figures indicate IDP's on sites only; an additional 150,000/200,000 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 regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural were set up in September 1999, the number of internally displaced people in those sites was assessed accurately in October 1999

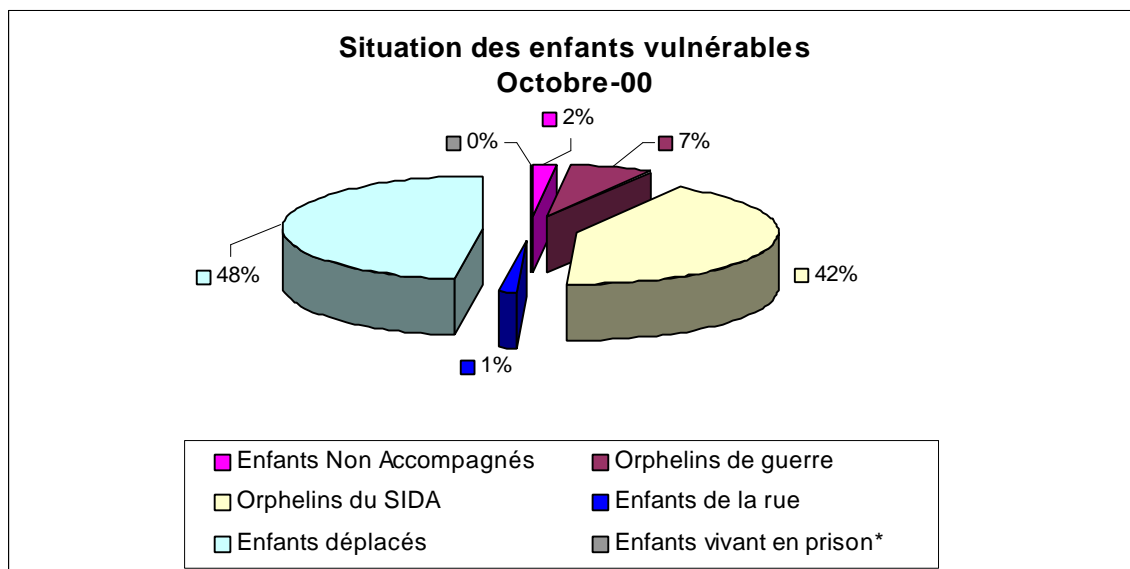
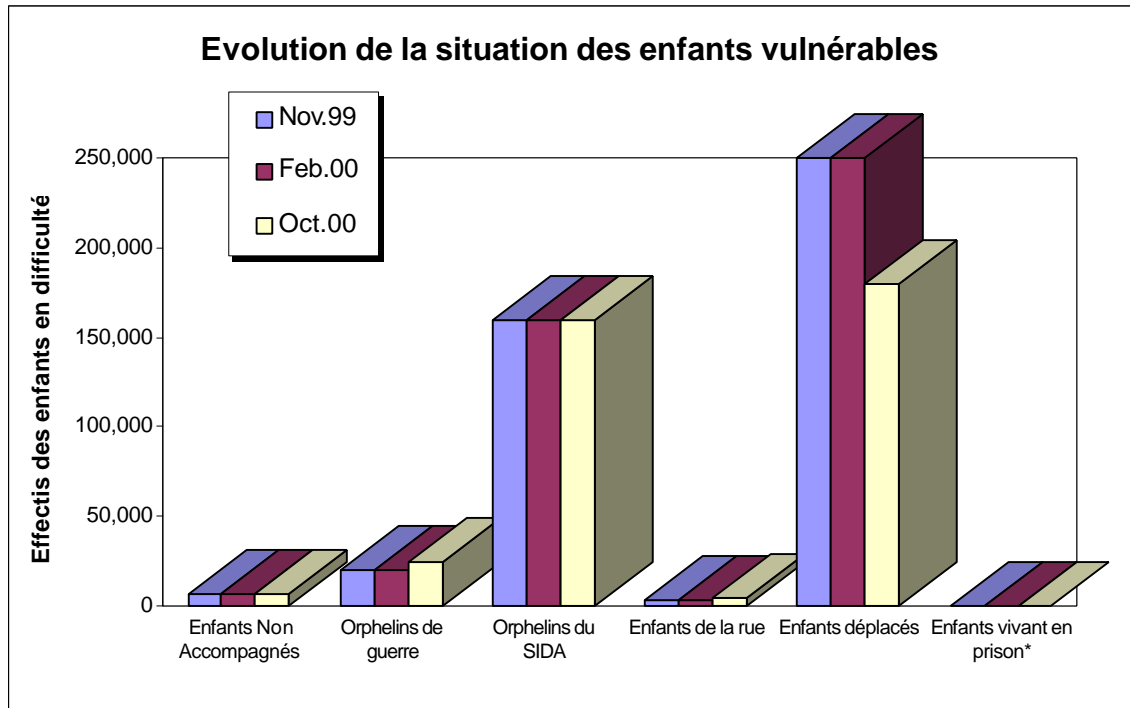
(OCHA 12 November 2000)

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)

- 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 grouped moved to Muramvya province

"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)

Forced relocation of population allegedly undertaken in the south/eastern provinces (December 2000)

- 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

"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)

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 [regroupement] 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]

Former refugees became internally displaced (1999)

- The "without address/without land" returnees who left the country in 1972 and no longer have access to property in the country
- The level of reintegration of returnees is inextricably linked to the political situation and the level of security, which varies considerably from region to region.

"Since the end of 1996, over 212,000 Burundians have returned from neighbouring countries of asylum: 115,700 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 8,670 from Rwanda and over 88,000 from Tanzania, though almost 290,000 Burundians who fled after 1993 still live outside the country as refugees, mostly in Tanzania. Moreover, with 200,000 refugees having left Burundi in 1972 to Tanzania, their children have been born in exile and thus no longer have access to property in Burundi. These so-called 'without address/without land' returnees have special needs, as do returnee women and unaccompanied children. The level of reintegration of returnees is inextricably linked to the political situation and the level of security, which varies considerably from region to region. Even while returnees are resettling in some regions, in other areas conflict continues to cause people to flee and prevents humanitarian agencies from having access. UNHCR's protection activities closely monitor the reintegration process, with a particular focus on indicators which attest that returnees are subject to the same standards of treatment and rights as the local population. This monitoring also ensures a flow of information to Burundians still living as refugees outside of the country." (UN November 1999, p. 18)

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)

PROTECTION CONCERNS

Right to life and personal security

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)

Attacks and killings in camps for displaced population (1999-2000)

- Some camp residents welcomed the "security" provided by the camps while others were in fact exposed to more violence
- 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

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 Nyambye, 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

"Reports of 'disappearances' and incidents of torture in the capital, Bujumbura have increased in recent weeks and serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, have been reported in the regroupment camps. Members of the armed forces

claim that armed opposition groups have infiltrated the camps, which, if true further endangers the lives of civilians." (AI 11 November 1999)

"The camps have also come under attack by Hutu rebels. Ten people were killed during an assault on Mubimbi. The army implicitly admitted problems in some areas after shutting off Kavumu [camp] because its 16 000 detainees 'do not want to listen to the authorities' amid an apparent revolt." (McGreal, 17 December 1999)

"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)

Case of the forced closure of the camps of "Chez Johnson" and "Chez Legentil" in Bujumbura (1999)

During October 1999, two displaced camps called "Chez Johnson" and "Chez Legentil" in the Kamenge area (Bujumbura-Mairie) were dismantled by the authorities, who said that they were being used as hiding places by the rebels. On or about 7 October, approximately 6,000 displaced persons from Bujumbura-rural who had come to the camps the previous September following the regroupment of the population of that province were forced by the authorities to leave the camps for regroupment camps in their own province. On 21 October, the remaining displaced persons, mostly from the area of Kamenge itself, were forced to leave. Some displaced persons expressed concern at the scarcity of water and electricity and the lack of land. (UN Commission for Human Rights 25 February 2000, para. 62)

Displaced women and children face specific protection problems (1998-2000)

- 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

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 doryia, 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")

"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)

"A UNFPA study carried out in 1998 found that 46% of the women living in sites were victims of acts of physical violence. 39% had experienced psychological violence through intimidation and threats while 11% admitted to having been victims of sexual abuse." (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998, p. 10)

Personal liberty

Reports of forced labor and forced recruitment in camps (1998-2000)

- 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

"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")

Freedom of movement

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

- 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")

No freedom of movement in regroupment camps (1999-2000)

- In some sites the population has permission to work in town or go to their fields under escort but time restriction, distance to the fields or insecurity hinders planting and harvests

"Recent assessments carried out at the accessible sites show that the living conditions vary from site to site. Some require urgent assistance for all the basic needs while others need only water. In some sites the population has permission to work in town or go to their fields under escort, while in some other even access to nutritional centres is not permitted. Plans are under way to issue identity cards to grant more freedom of movement to the regrouped population." (WFP 8 October 1999)

"Camp residents who returned late from their fields or from working in the city faced rebukes, humiliation, and often blows administered by soldiers with large sticks. The great majority of witnesses interviewed for this report complained of the humiliation and physical abuse meted out to women and men by soldiers who were sometimes much younger than themselves." (HRW June 2000, "Life in the camps")

Camp of Kabezi

"Kabezi is among the largest of the camps. It holds about 35 000 people crowded on two hillsides south from Bujumbura. It is not a prison camp in the strict sense. There is no fence. But Hutus have been told that anyone caught beyond the camp's boundaries without permission will be treated as a rebel -- a fate which amounts to a death sentence.

[...]

The army says its prisoners are allowed home to harvest their crops, but the villagers say they are only allowed to leave the camps in groups so most get back to their fields just once or twice a week. It is enough time to harvest some vegetables but not to plant new crops, so in a few months they will be hit by an additional food crisis." (McGreal 17 December 1999)

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

General

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

- 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

"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)

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 déplorables 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)

Improved food security but great health and sanitation needs in Makamba Province (February 2001)

"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)

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)

Extremely serious food and health situation of internally displaced in 12 Provinces (July 2000)

"The food and health situation of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Burundi was 'extremely serious', a joint FAO/WFP mission to 12 provinces of the country reported on Thursday. 'Living conditions in these sites are poor, with no clean water, shelter and sanitary facilities,' the report said of IDP camps in the country. IDPs' access to land was restricted, and they could not work normally because of long distances to reach their fields and the threat of theft, it added. 'While plots around the camps have been distributed by the local authorities, they are, nonetheless, of a limited size and their production alone would be inadequate to meet the needs of the camp populations,' the mission team stated.

The destruction and lack of maintenance of social infrastructure has had a devastating impact on the provision of basic social services, resulting in a diminished access to clean water and a substantially deteriorated state of health, as well as decreased opportunities for education, according to the report. 'Opportunities to earn minimum life-sustaining revenue are increasingly rare, both in the private and public sectors of the swiftly deteriorating national economy,' it said. (IRIN-CEA 27 July 2000)

Nutrition

Deterioration of overall nutritional situation (2001)

- Because of bad climate conditions, insecurity and massive forced displacement, malnutrition and disease are starting to cause more victims than war

"The nutritional situation in Burundi has deteriorated over the last year. This is a result of continued insecurity, successive poor harvests and a high burden of disease. A severe malaria epidemic developed over the latter half of 2000. Areas in the north of the country have been particularly badly affected. Overall, the prevalence of malnutrition in affected communities appears to have improved, but importantly, the under five mortality is alarmingly high. With the current situation IDPs should be regarded as highly vulnerable (category II). Particular note should be taken of the fact that very little information is available from the southern areas of the country due to the prevailing insecurity. However, it is likely that needs in this area remain very high and the overall situation needs very close monitoring." (ACC/SCN 29 May 2001)

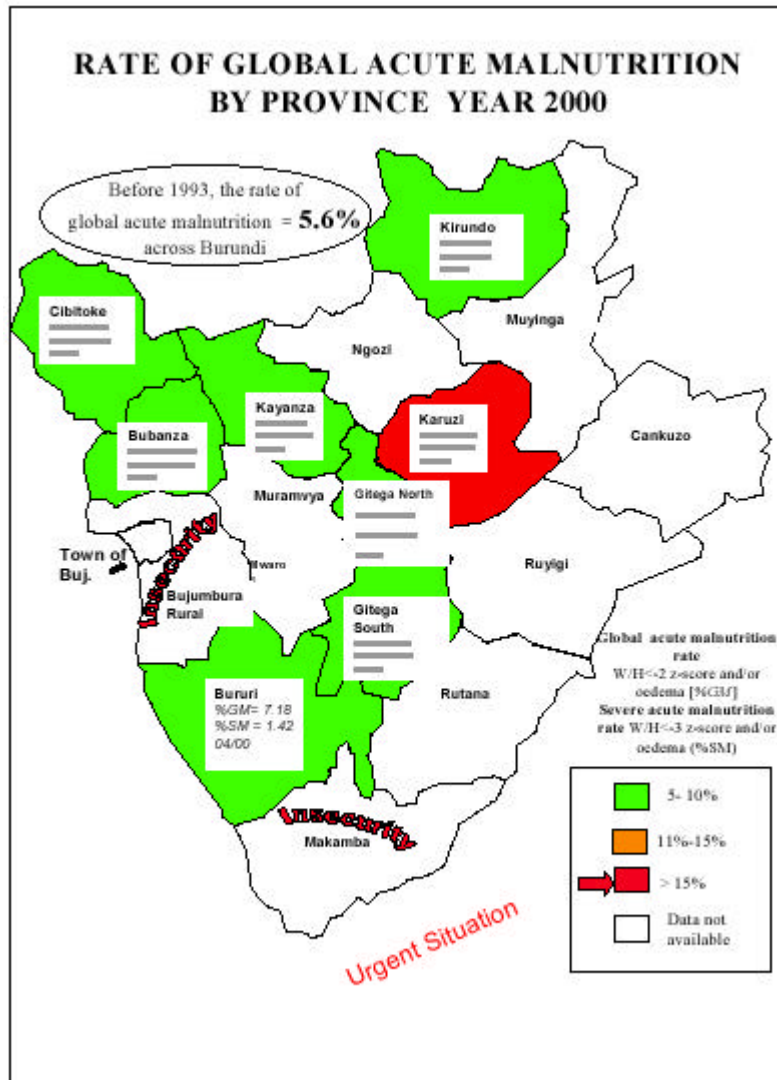
"Nutritional assessments conducted in seven provinces from January to August 2000 showed that the overall malnutrition rate varied between 5.89 and 23 percent, while the severe malnutrition rate varied between 0.6 and 15 percent. The number of children admitted to supplementary (SFC) and therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) rose dramatically between September 2000 and January 2001, as outlined below:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Supplementary Feeding Center</i>	<i>Therapeutic Feeding Center</i>
<i>September 2000</i>	46,000	1,800
<i>December 2000</i>	75,000	2,800
<i>January 2001</i>	85,000	4,052

UNICEF estimates that if the situation is not adequately addressed, the number of people admitted to SFCs and TFCs could reach 100,000 and 6,000 respectively. It is expected that the number of cases will continue to increase from February to April and then decrease from May to July 2001 with the new harvest.

The escalating malnutrition rates result from a low agricultural output and food insecurity, disease epidemics, and the absence of coping mechanisms and support systems. Burundi has experienced a severe drought in the North for the past three years. Ninety percent of Burundians sustain their livelihood through subsistence farming. At the end of the agricultural year for 2000 (October 2000) the overall agricultural output was less than 5 percent of the normal level of production before the crisis. This has been coupled with severe malaria and measles epidemics which have greatly lowered productivity." (United Nations 29 March 2001, p.1)

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



(UNICEF 1 March 2001)

Persisting food insecurity in regroupment sites and after the dismantlement of certain camps (2000)

- Food insecurity as a result of war, insecurity, regroupment and drought
- Difficult to assess nutrition needs in Rutanan and Ruyigi provinces

"Chronic food insecurity persists as a result of the war, insecurity, regroupment and drought. An increase in food aid beneficiaries from 330,000 in 1999 to 450,000 in 2000, 33,000 beneficiaries in over 240 feeding centres, over 800,000 IDPs and over 500,000 Burundian refugees makes the overall humanitarian situation highly complex to work within. It is estimated that 26% of the population is affected by the drought and the worst affected provinces are Kirundo, Muyinga and Cankuzo. Despite a six week suspension of

activities, insecurity in some of the provinces and insufficient food FAO and WFP managed to complete a distribution of seeds, tools and food to the regrouped and drought affected populations. Poor rainfall is of concern as this is currently in the critical period of the growth season. The 2000B harvest is in May and it is expected that in low altitude areas there will be production losses." (UN OCHA 8 June 2000)

"Household food economy assessments were conducted in two sites hosting more than 2,600 people in Kayanza and Karusi provinces. Assessments were also carried out in three sites in Muhuta Commune (Bujumbura Rural), following the dismantling of all five regroupment sites in the commune. Both assessments established a need for food aid distributions. Some of the assessment missions planned were cancelled due to security reasons." (WFP 1 September 2000, "Burundi")

"Population displacements have been reported in the Provinces of Rutana and Ruyigi due to a significant escalation of the conflict between the army and the rebels. There are unconfirmed reports that the Interhamwe and ex-FAR are participating in these attacks. The RNIS has not received any new information about the nutritional situation in these areas; the latest reports estimated the prevalence of acute malnutrition in Rutana to be 10-15% (see RNIS 28). The affected population in these areas receive little assistance as NGO and UN activities are limited due to the insecurity." (OCHA - 03/00) (ACC/SCN 31 March 2000, p. 10)

Nutritional situation in Bujumbura Rurale Regroupment sites (1999-2000)

- Large increase in the number of admission of all age groups to the therapeutic feeding centre in Bujumbura Mairie between July and December 1999
- Factors associated with the malnutrition in the camps include the lack of access to fields, loss of crops due to looting, uneven distribution of relief foods, low vaccination coverage and outbreaks of disease
- Drought in some areas of the province exacerbates problems of regroupment
- Uncertainty regarding amount of food aid required following dismantlement of camps

"Since September 1999, almost 70% of the population of Bujumbura Rurale has been regrouped into camps around the capital. An estimated 350,000 people were forcefully relocated into 53 sites. Living conditions in the camps are reported to be appalling - they are overcrowded and there is insufficient access to food, water, sanitation and health-care. An outbreak of cholera occurred in December and the risk of further epidemics remains high (Oxfam - 15/03/99; WFP - 23/02/99, see RNIS 30, 31 March 2000)

The nutritional situation in the regroupment camps is variable. According to WFP, nutritional assessments under-taken in eight sites in December 1999 estimated the prevalence of acute malnutrition between 3.6% and 18.0%. The prevalence of severe acute malnutrition varied from 0.5-4.6%. Further rapid nutritional assessments in January 2000 in Kabezi, Kavumu and Ruyaga sites estimated the prevalences of malnutrition at

29%, 17% and 14% respectively. These reports are currently unavailable to the RNIS (WFP – 22/02/00, 23/02/00, 21/03/00).

There has been a large increase in the number of admissions of all age groups to the therapeutic feeding centre in Bujumbura Marie between July and December 1999 [...]. This is despite difficulties in accessing the therapeutic centres. The increase is partially attributed to limited access to farmland and low harvests; diversion of food aid by soldiers; and limited general food distributions due to insecurity and the evacuation of NGOs and the UN in many sites (MSF-B – 01/00, WFP – 21/03/00).

Much of the population in the regroupment camps live off small businesses or obtain employment as casual labourers within Bujumbura town. Others have access to their fields and are able to harvest cassava. Factors associated with the malnutrition in the camps include the lack of access to fields, loss of crops due to looting, uneven distribution of relief foods, low vaccination coverage and out-breaks of disease. The uneven distribution of relief foods was due to problems of access and the compilation of beneficiary lists. In addition, the food pipeline has been insufficient (OCHA – 03/00; WFP – 22/02/00, 21/03/00). Drought in some areas of the province is exacerbating the problems of regroupment. The FAO/WFP/Ministry of Agriculture assessment in December 1999 indicated that the 2000A harvest (January) will be down 50% compared to 1999 for approximately 25% of the regrouped population in the Imbo agricultural zone (WFP – 23/02/99)

(All the above are quoted in RNIS 30, 31 March 2000)

Water and Sanitation

12% of displaced population had access to potable water in 2000 (March 2001)

"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)

28% of the internally displaced population in sites did not have access to minimum requirements of potable water (September 1999)

- Distance to water supply does not exceed 3 km in none of the sites
- There is an average of 5,2 households per latrines in sites but this figure can reach 32 households per latrine in Muramvya province
- 76% of the latrines in site are saturated or semi saturated
- The majority of the displaced dispose of their waste in the open air
- A UNICEF-led survey conducted at the end of 1997 indicated that only 9 percent of Burundis living in displaced camps had access to potable water

"Pour l'ensemble de sites, on dénombre en moyenne 313,37 ménages par point d'eau et la quantité d'eau n'est suffisante que pour 27,68% des sites. La province de Bubanza compte le nombre le plus élevé de ménages par point d'eau. Le manque d'eau observé à Kirundo, Muyinga et Ngozi n'est pas nécessairement lié au phénomène de sinistre. C'est un problème général pour la région même en situation normale (situation géographique et conditions climatiques de la région). Le nombre de ménages par point d'eau relativement bas dans Rutana et Ruyigi tient surtout du fait que ces provinces comptent peu de sites et encore de très petites tailles.

[...]

Aucun site ne s'approvisionne en eau à plus de trois kilomètre et la plus grande distance entre le site et le point d'eau potable est observée à Rutana (2.92 km contre 1.01 km moyenne pour l'ensemble)." (UNDP Community Assistance Umbrella Programme November 1999, p. 7)

Type le plus fréquent de lieu d'aisance: une prédominance des latrines traditionnelles semi-saturées

Le type de lieu d'aisance le plus utilisé est la latrine traditionnelle (74.91 % des sites). On constate cependant que les habitants des sites abandonnent de plus en plus l'utilisation des buissons comme lieu d'aisance (1,11% seulement des sites contre 3.11% en mars 99).

C'est dans la province Muramvya où l'on trouve beaucoup de ménages par latrine (32,44 ménages par latrine contre une moyenne de 5,20 ménages par latrines pour l'ensemble des sites). Ce nombre reste également élevé dans Bujumbura rural (24.63 ménages par latrines), à Ruyigi (12,17 ménages par latrines", en Mairie de Bujumbura (9,96 ménages par latrine) et à Makamba (7.33 ménages par latrine). Dans presque tous les sites, les latrines sont semi-saturées (dans 68,27% des sites les latrines sont semi-saturées contre 7,75% des sites où les latrines sont saturées). (UNDP Community Assistance Umbrella Programme November 1999, p. 9)

Système de gestion des ordures ménagères: la majorité des sinistrés jettent les ordures ménagères dans l'air libre

Bien que [dans] la plupart des sites les habitants jettent mes ordures ménagères é l'air libre (dépôt directement des ordures ménagères dans de petits champs de culture autour des habitations sans passer par les fosses à ordures), l'utilisation des fosses à ordures est aussi connue. Toutefois, le nombre de sites pour lesquels les habitants jettent les ordures dans la nature n'est pas négligeable (18,45% des sites).

Les site dans lesquels les habitants jettent les ordures dans la nature sont pour la plupart des cas des sinistrés qui vivent dans des bâtiments publis ou privés ou dans tout endroit où la pratique de l'agriculture est presque impossible.

Les canaux d'évacuation des eaux usées ne se rencontrent que très rarement (3% seulement des sites). On les trouve dans les sites de la Mairie de Bujumbura (déjà

démantelés) et dans quelques sites (6 sites) dans la province de Muyinga, Muramvya et Ruyigi. (UNDP Community Assistance Umbrella Programme November 1999, p. 10)

Health

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/COPEP 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)

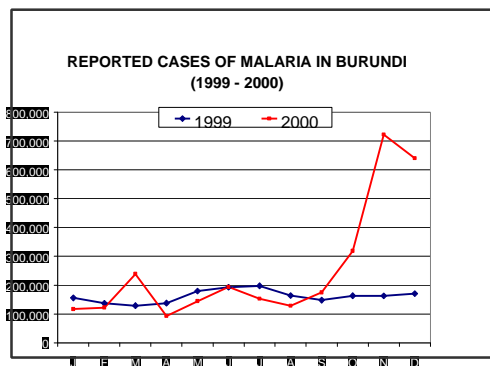
Due to population displacement and insecurity, low Malaria vaccination coverage rates and severe Malaria epidemic (2001)

- 30% of population is 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
- Government response is undermined by budget cuts and lack of doctors outside of Bujumbura
- Number of malaria patients declined in general in April 2001 with dry season
- Gitega and Karuzi provinces still have very high number of malaria patients and overall situation might worsen again in September 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)



(United Nations 29 March 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)

"With the onset of the dry season, numbers of malaria patients continued to decline in April 2001, with only 246,743 cases recorded by the Burundian Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF. In March 2001, there were still 343,593 malaria cases – a significant reduction of the record number of 732,309 cases in November [2000], but still above the recorded cases in March 2000 (238,714) and 1999 (128,613)." (UN OCHA 31 May 2001)

"A partir du mois de mars, la situation du paludisme s'est stabilisée d'une façon générale. Les données du mois de mai 2001 confirment cette tendance dans certaines provinces. Dans quelques provinces comme Gitega et Karuzi, cette tendance à la baisse n'est pas observée. Toutefois, ces données ne compromettent pas la conclusion générale d'une stabilisation au niveau national.

Compte tenu de la situation, la probabilité d'une épidémie en juin-juillet n'est plus évidente. Le pic pourrait se déclarer au mois de septembre." (UN OCHA-Burundi 13 June 2001)

General deterioration of the health status of the population (1999-2001)

- 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
- Aids has dramatically increased over the past few years, with HIV reaching 6% of rural population and 20% of urban population (2001)

"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)

"In addition to poor food security in some provinces, the population's poor health status is a further risk factor for malnutrition. In some areas households are prevented from accessing health services and cannot obtain essential drugs due to geographical and/or financial barriers. In addition, the poor quality of the care provided at the health centres, due to a decreased number of skilled personnel, has resulted in a deterioration of the population's health status. (UNICEF - 08/99)" (ACC/SCN 28 September 1999, p. 8)

"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)

"Le taux de prévalence du sida se situe entre 3 et 10% de la population rurale et 18 et 23% de la population urbaine." (CHR 19 March 2001, p.129)

"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." (WHO 31 January 2001)

Displaced population exposed to epidemics (1999-2000)

- Current epidemiological reports indicate that malaria, cholera, typhus fever, meningitis and malnutrition continue to pose serious health threats
- A cholera epidemic has been reported in some regroupement sites (end of 1999)

"Le profil épidémiologique dans les sites est le suivant :

- Paludisme: 60%
- Infections respiratoires aiguës: 20%
- Maladies diarrhéiques:5%
- Dysenterie bacillaire:5%
- Typhus:1,32%
- Choléra:1,5
- Rougeole:1,18
- Malnutrition : 6%" (WHO January 2001)

"Reliable statistics on malnutrition, illness, and mortality in the camps are limited, but one experienced medical worker estimated that malnutrition and disease among the people of Bujumbura-rural have increased five fold since the beginning of regroupement in September. A study of mortality in regroupement camps elsewhere in the country concluded that twice as many people died from disease and war-related deaths in the

camps as would have died had they stayed in their own homes." (HRW June 2000, "Life in the camps")

"Communicable diseases and nutritional disorders remain the major health problems among IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable groups due to the lack of access to and low quality of health services. Current epidemiological reports indicate that malaria, cholera, typhus fever, meningitis and malnutrition continue to pose serious health threats. From January to June 1999, 858,845 malaria cases, 443 cholera cases, and 7,279 typhus fever cases were reported, revealing the severity of the problem. Epidemics of cholera resulted in a total of 117 cases with eight deaths between May and June 1999 in the provinces of Bururi and Makamba." (UN November 1999, p. 45)

Cholera in camps

"The continuing insecurity throughout much of Burundi, together with the government policy of 'regroupement' - moving rural populations from their own homes into designated 'sites' - is taking its toll on more than a quarter of a million people in Bujumbura Rural province alone. A cholera epidemic has now been reported in some regroupement sites.

According to Ministry of Health figures released on 10th December, 9 people have died since it started on 20th November. However, humanitarian agencies working in two of the affected sites, Ruziba and Kabezi, put the number of deaths at 24, with 275 cases reported so far." (IFRC 17 December 1999)

"Burundi's child health statistics are dismal. Almost 18 per cent of children die before their fifth birthday, equivalent to 48,000 children each year. 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-UK October 2000)

HIV in camps requires immediate action (1998-2000)

- 20 percent of the urban population and 6 percent of the rural population are HIV positive
- Worrying situation in displaced persons camps

"Frequent displacement, combined with an environment of conflict and insecurity, has exacerbated the spread of HIV/AIDS in Burundi. Government figures from 1998 (the latest available) suggest that 21 per cent of adults in urban areas are HIV-positive, and in rural areas six per cent. Disintegration of community and family life as a result of the civil war has led to the breakdown of stable relationships and the disruption of social norms governing sexual behaviour. It is not uncommon for women and children to be coerced into having sex to obtain basic needs, such as shelter, security, food and money. This is particularly so in female-headed households." (SCF-UK October 2000)

"In Bujumbura, at least 24 percent of the women between the ages of 25 and 34 are infected with HIV, as are more than 3 percent of children under the age of five. Reported HIV infection in girls aged 15-19 is four times greater than among boys of the same age. In 1996, 20 percent of women in antenatal care were HIV positive, compared with only 8 percent in 1991. 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)

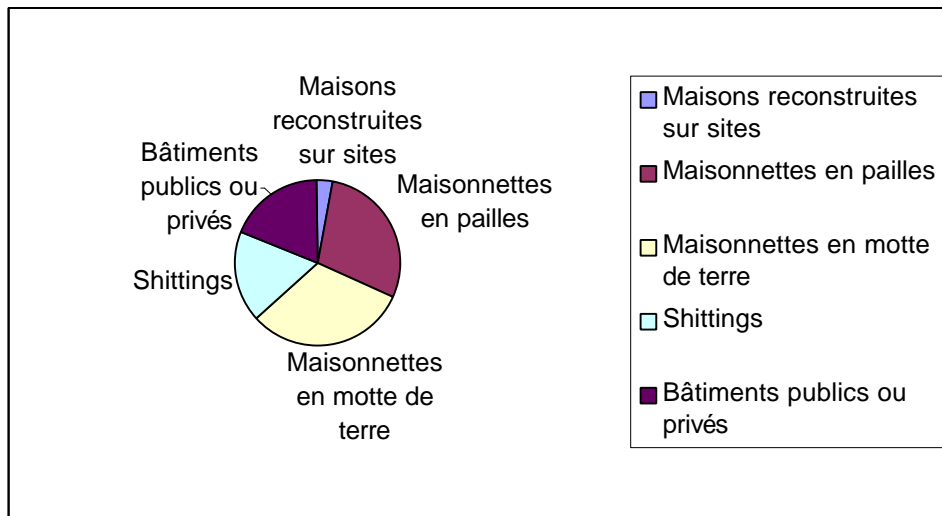
Shelter and other needs

Poor living conditions in regroupment camps (1999)

- 60% of the shelters in the sites for the displaced population are straw or mud huts (September 1999)
- 19 % of the sites are located in public or private buildings (schools, warehouses, administrative buildings)
- Some camps require urgent assistance for all the basic needs while others need only water

"La plupart des habitants des sites vivent dans des maisonnettes en pailles (29% de sites) ou en mottes de terres (31% des sites). 19 % de sites sont établis dans des bâtiments publics ou privés (écoles, magasins, bâtiments administratifs...). 18% de sites sont encore en shittings (voir figure)."

Distribution des sites selon le type dominant d'habitations



(UNDP November 1999, p. 7)

"Some of the [regroupment] sites are also reported to be in isolated areas aggravating existing poor conditions of living; some sites are far from water points or health centres. People at one site in Kanyosha are reported to have been denied access to clean water

event though it was available. Furthermore, the sites may be vulnerable to attacks by both the security forces or armed opposition groups." (AI 30 September 1999)

Recent assessments carried out at the accessible sites show that the living conditions vary from site to site. Some require urgent assistance for all the basic needs while others need only water. (WFP 8 October 1999)

"Conditions in the camps are reported to be appalling: they are overcrowded, with insufficient drinking water and shelter, as the rainy season is about to begin (Concern - 20/11/99)." (ACC/SCN 20 December 1999, p. 8)

Women and children

Precarious situation of displaced women and children (1998-2000)

- 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
- Reports that displaced women and children suffer from severe depression

"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)

"Burundi has the sixth-highest proportion of 'AIDS orphans' in the world. UNICEF estimates that 380 out of every 10,000 children (almost 4 per cent) have lost one or both parents to AIDS. In total, there are 110,000 such children in Burundi. Frequent displacement, combined with an environment of conflict and insecurity, has exacerbated the spread of HIV. In addition, poverty has forced many women, including teenage girls, into prostitution, UNICEF estimates that 16 per cent of pregnant girls aged 15-19 years are HIV positive." (SCF 1 November 1999)

"Hundreds of children reportedly died of malnutrition and preventable diseases in the 'regroupment camps'." (AI 2001)

"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")

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

Cost of books, uniforms, school fees and child labor hamper access to education (1998-2000)

- 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

"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)

"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)

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

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)

Regrouped 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)

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

50,000 people forced to flee because of fighting find houses and shops looted and burned upon their return (2001)

- CRS said that the looting had been ruthless and complete, that churches had been blown apart and that houses and shops had been burnt, while JRS reported no widespread destruction

"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)

"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)

Looting and destruction of the property of the displaced (1999-2000)

- 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
- 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)

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")

"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 (1994-2001)

- 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

"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)

"One of the disadvantages facing women is that, according to Burundian tradition, they are not legally allowed to own land." (United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Burundi 1998, pp. 9-10)

"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)

"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)

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

General

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)

- 19 January 2000: Government of Burundi announced dismantlement of 11 regroupment camps, followed by an additional 13 sites
- April 2000: Out of the 23 sites which were dismantled, only nine were regroupment sites; no assistance was provided to the displaced during the process, according to Inter-Agency assessment
- Displaced returning from regroupment camps find their homes looted and destroyed and are exposed to food shortages
- Population often regroup in other locations fearing attacks during the night
- Government did not respect Principle 28 of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

"The 19 January announcement [at the United Nations in New York] by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the dismantling of the forced relocation sites in Bujumbura Rural was followed, on 7 February, by the dismantling of Maramvya, a site harbouring just under 5,000 people. Subsequently, the Minister of Reintegration, with the Minister of Interior and the Governor of Bujumbura Rural, called for a meeting with the UN, IFRC and

NGOs to review the dismantling process and the kind of assistance that the international aid community could provide. A first phase envisages the dismantling of 11 sites, including Maramvya, affecting 55,732 people during the course of this operation that could last up to three months. In a second phase, an additional 13 sites will be dismantled." (UN OCHA 15 February 2000)

"The Government of Burundi announced the second phase of dismantling regroupment sites in Bujumbura Rural Province, during which approximately 125,000 persons from nine sites will be allowed to return to their places of origin; this phase is scheduled to start in April. According to the Governor of Bujumbura, 9 sites out of 11 were dismantled during the first phase, during February and March. Approximately 28,000 people out of 58,000 in the camps did not return to their places of origin due to the prevailing insecurity." (WFP 31 March 2000)

"The only figures that could be confirmed, and those as of early April, were that 18,000 people had returned to their own villages in Bujumbura Rural and around 36,000 in Makamba, humanitarian sources told IRIN." (IRIN 12 May 2000)

"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 Mutimbuzi 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")

"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")

39% of regrouped population in Bujumbura Rural allowed to leave the camps during third phase of dismantlement (June 2000)

- Third phase of dismantlement in Bujumbura Rural during June 2000 reportedly allowed 111,695 people from seven sites to leave
- Nelson Mandela, mediator in Burundi's peace process, announced that the President of Burundi agreed to the closure of all regroupment camps by end of July 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

"The authorities in Burundi have carried out the third phase of dismantling regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural province, UN-OCHA reported. From 8-10 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)

"More than 45,000 Burundians have left five regroupment camps in Kanyosha, on the outskirts of Bujumbura, an AFP journalist witnessed on Friday [9 June 2000].

They left their camps on Thursday, a day after Nelson Mandela, chief mediator in Burundi's peace process, announced that he had made a deal with Burundian President Pierre Buyoya for all internees to be freed from Burundi's regroupment camps by July 31.

Shortly after the announcement, Burundi's Interior Minister Ascension Twagiramungu said some 150,000 people living in seven regroupment sites in Kanyosha, Kabezi and Isale, in Bujumbura rural province would leave on Thursday." (AFP 9 June 2000)

"During the reporting period it was reported that seven regroupment sites hosting more than 220,000 people were dismantled. About half of them went back home but many of those returned to sites shortly after they left due to the worsening of security situation in their hills of origin." (WFP 23 June 2000)

"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)

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burundi confirmed dismantlement of regroupment camps (2001)

- Most regroupment camps closed as of August 2000
- Returnees fear to be forced to go back to the camps because of insecurity
- UN Committee on the Rights of the Child urges government to provide assistance to children and families in the process of resettlement
- 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")

"Although the government announced that all regroupment camps were dismantled by the end of July, tens of thousands of occupants were unable to return to their homes because of insecurity or because their vacated houses had been looted or destroyed." (USCR 28 August 2000)

[Because of the current violence] "Civilians are being forced to flee their hills to seek refuge. Sometimes parishes shelter them, sometimes they stay with other families, or they return to the camps for displaced people. We [Jesuit Relief Services] have heard that in Mishiha, Cankuzo province, one such camp has been rehabilitated to respond to the situation. Looting is also prevalent. Entire herds of cattle have disappeared without trace." (JRS 18 September 2000)

"The Committee [on the Rights of the Child] urges the State party to make every effort to protect the civilian population from displacement and to implement its plans to end regroupment, giving particular attention to the situation of unaccompanied children and the need for effective family tracing. The Committee further urges the State party to

ensure that all displaced children and their families with assistance in re-establishing themselves in their homes." (CRC 16 October 2000 para.68)

"[...] le Rapporteur special a pu noter avec satisfaction le démantèlement définitive 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 insecurity and attacks against humanitarian workers (2001)

- UN Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator encouraged in June 2001 the government to ensure safe access of humanitarian workers to vulnerable populations, especially in Bujumbura Rural
- 200,000 IDPs, dispersed following dismantlement of regroupment camps, are beyond the reach of humanitarian assistance
- 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

"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)

"[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)

"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)

International Community cannot access all displaced persons in need because of insecurity and lack of Government actions (2000)

- Two-thirds of the country are accessible to humanitarian actors
- 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)
- Threats against aid agency staff and distances to certain sites have made assistance to the displaced very difficult

"At present, about two-thirds of the country is accessible to humanitarian actors [...]. However, pockets of insecurity remain in several provinces, particularly outside the capital and along the Tanzanian border. Efforts must continue to ensure access to these areas through negotiations with the political and armed actors." (UN November 2000, p.8)

"Residents of seventeen camps located far from roads received little or no international assistance. Nyambuye camp, located high on a hilltop overlooking Bujumbura, is about a one hour climb on foot from the nearest road. Residents had to carry any food delivered at the road up the hill themselves. They also had to fetch water from the nearest water source, also one hour distant on foot." (HRW June 2000, "Life in the camps")

Government actions

"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. [...]"

Threats against aid agency staff and expatriate staff continue and aid agencies lack sustained access to several areas. 'Localized' insecurity spreads quickly given the small size of the country, further complicating delivery of assistance." (USAID 14 August 2000)

"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)

Aid agencies operate despite insecurity

"The ICRC's progressive resumption of activities (the organization suspended its work in the country in June 1996, resuming activities from March 1999), has [...] been governed by the highly volatile security conditions. These have obliged the organization to focus its activities on people deprived of their freedom and injured or sick victims of the conflict mainly in secure urban areas. [...]"

The unpredictable and often hazardous security conditions in Burundi have limited many humanitarian organizations from implementing activities freely throughout the country. Many of the main roads throughout the country are unsafe, and both the ICRC and UNWFP operate planes out of Bujumbura to travel to the provinces of Kirundo, Muyinga, Ngozi, Gitega, Cankuzo, Rutana and Ruyigi. The ICRC has set up two offices each equipped with two vehicles at Ngozi and Gitega. Delegates travel to these locations by plane from Bujumbura from where they work in the town centres using ICRC vehicles. Delegates working at the Ngozi office can travel to Kirundo and Muyinga by road or plane depending on their working requirements and whether they have prior security approval." (ICRC 30 August 2000)

Restrictions on UN humanitarian movements partially lifted (2000)

- UN Security phase lowered from IV to III in 11 provinces
- Security Memorandum signed between the Government and the UN (January 2000)
- Suspension of UN activities during phase IV had a negative impact on the human rights and humanitarian situation

"The UN security phase IV was reviewed by UNSECOORD. As a result, on 25 April 2000, phase III came into effect in the following 11 provinces: Bujumbura Mairie,

Kirundo, Muyinga, Karuyi, Ngozi, Kayanya, Muramvya, Mwaro, Gitega, Ruyigi and Cankuyo, Cibitoke City and Bubanza City are now also in phase III." (UN OCHA 8 June 2000)

"The UN and the Government of Burundi have signed a Security Memorandum on 20 January 2000 which spells out provisions to be taken to allow the UN to resume operations at pre-October 99 levels, which include a better channel of communication between the Government of Burundi and the UN, armed escorts for missions outside of the capital and the establishment of an effective telecommunications system available to humanitarian agencies.

On 22 December, the official curfew in the capital was unexpectedly lowered by two hours to 12 am to 6 am and the UN curfew was consequently moved to 10 pm." (UN OCHA 15 February 2000)

"In general, the suspension of United Nations activities during phase IV of the United Nations Security Plan had a serious impact on the human rights situation. First, hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons, confined to camps lacking the necessary infrastructures, were now deprived not only of their livelihood, but of vital humanitarian assistance. Second, human rights violations continued, but went largely unnoticed, and it was difficult to obtain information about the human rights situation." (UN Commission on Human Rights 25 February 2000, para. 66)

Movement of humanitarian personnel severely restricted (1999)

- Curfew in force in and around Bujumbura
- Certain areas remain virtual 'no-go' zones where humanitarian assistance must be provided under military escort
- Following the killing of UN staff in October 1999, the UN suspended all travel outside the capital.
- Most NGOs have continued to work throughout the country with the exception of certain more insecure areas; WFP has resumed distributions to displaced and drought-affected populations since November 1999
- Security protocol between the Government and the UN is in preparation allowing the UN to fully resume humanitarian activities
- Deteriorating security situation does not hamper work of humanitarian community, the Minister of Communication says (March-April 1999)

"As a result of the rise in insecurity in and around Bujumbura, in early September the national curfew in the capital was lowered from midnight to 10pm and the UN changed the curfew for its international staff from 10pm to 8pm. Working hours were adjusted to ensure that all national staff could be in their homes by 18:00 Hrs (or 6:00 p.m.), as many UN personnel live in the areas of the city experiencing regular, severe attacks.

[...]

Even within provinces the situation continues to vary widely, with security and insecurity coexisting. Certain areas remain virtual 'no-go' zones where humanitarian assistance must

be provided under military escort. Increases in insecurity often are linked to the convening of the Arusha talks. In late June/early July, for instance, at the time of the fourth round of talks, an increase in ambushes on national roads leaving the capital led to the suspension of all UN travel for a three week period. Travel to the most affected provinces thereafter has largely been limited to essential missions only." (UN November 1999, p. 6)

"Access to the regroupment sites has been limited for humanitarian agencies in terms of both time and geographic area for reasons of both security and distance. Travel to some of the camps takes up to an hour on foot, through areas that are subject to regular attacks by rebel forces and counter-attacks by the army." (MSF 18 November 1999)

"Citing security concerns, local military authorities refused access to some areas of the interior to journalists, human rights workers, and international relief officials. Militant extremists threatened the lives of those investigating human rights violations." (U.S. DOS 26 February 1999, section 4)

On 30 June [1999], a WFP staff member was shot and injured when the WFP vehicle he was travelling in was sprayed with bullets about 15 km from Bujumbura town. The vehicle was carrying three assessment team members and a driver. Several ambushes took place the same day on main roads leading to Bujumbura, due to rising tensions in the run up to the Independence day on 1 July and the resumption of peace talks on 5 July. All missions out of Bujumbura have been suspended until beginning of July when the situation will be reviewed by the UN Security Cell. (WFP 2 July 1999)

"While insecurity has increased over the past quarter in Western and Southern provinces, especially around the capital, typically shadowing the Arusha Peace talks, the rest of the country has seen only sporadic fighting and reinstatement, rehabilitation and development programs continue. Following the appointment of the new governor to Bujumbura Rural in early June, the overall security situation in the west has changed significantly. There has been an increase in military activity and episodes of regroupment have caused an increase in the number of displaced people as the army attempts to isolate the rebels.

Humanitarian missions outside the city were suspended after the ambush of a WFP vehicle on 30 June in Bujumbura Rural, one of several ambushes that took place the same day on main roads leading to Bujumbura. Tensions had increased in the days prior to this incident, because of Independence Day celebrated on 1 July and the resumption of the Arusha peace talks on 5 July. Operations resumed Monday July 25, although special permission is still required when travelling to Bururi, Makamba, Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza." (UN OCHA 19 August 1999)

"In the wake of the killings of the UN staff in October [1999][see below], the UN suspended all travel outside the capital which forestalled assessment, monitoring and evaluation activities. Meanwhile, most NGOs have continued to work throughout the country with the exception of certain more insecure areas. By mid-November, however, WFP resumed distributions to displaced and drought-affected populations with

distributions carried out by NGOs. UNICEF's activities are carried out through their usual NGO partners. Activities favour children who are AIDS orphans, street children and family reunification. Finally, UNICEF has been training sanitation technicians in the northeast of the country and hygiene staff in 18 camps for displaced in the southern province of Makamba.

The security protocol between the Government and the UN should be finalised before the end of the year allowing the UN to fully resume humanitarian activities. Salient features of the protocol include the establishment of security cells within the Government and the UN to allow the organisation of UN missions in the country and the use of armed escorts for missions outside the capital. The Government has submitted its final investigation report on the killings in Rutana to the UN Secretary-General on 7 December. Finally, UN Security Officers travelled to the more secure parts of the country to undertake a security assessment with a view to downgrade the security phase." (UN OCHA 24 December 1999)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

National response

Government adopted three-year rehabilitation action plan for the displaced and the returning refugees (April 2001)

"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 Panafrican 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)

Government agreed to dismantle regroupment camps (2000)

- Government explained that regroupment camps were established to protect civilians from the rebels
- Dismantlement of regroupment camps was precondition to peace negotiations
- Government held seminar on reintegration of the internally displaced

"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")

"Burundi's Ministry of Reinsertion, Reinstallation and Repatriation recently organised a three-day workshop in Bujumbura on the reinstallation of internally displaced persons

(IDPs) and affected populations within the country. According to a humanitarian source the objective of the seminar was to 'sensitise and mobilise' all concerned partners on the return of refugees and to define an operational plan of actions which would include all types of activities." (IRIN-CEA 15 September 2000)

For more information on the dismantlement of regroupment camps, see [\[Internal link\]](#)

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)

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	CEDAW	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)

UN Response

Government and UN sign Framework of Consultation on Protection of IDPs (February 2001)

- 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

"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 of consultation. In the Committee on the Protection of IDPs the Burundian Minister of Human Rights and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator will serve as co-presidents. This high level Committee will bring together members of the government, United Nations agencies and national and international NGOs. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will ensure the day to day secretariat of the protocol along with the president of the governmental Human Rights Commission.

The Follow-Up Technical Group will be led and coordinated by the head of OCHA office in Burundi and the president of the Burundian Government's Commission on Human Rights. The Technical Group will analyze issues of concern and make recommendations for their resolution. The Group has the capacity to invite individuals and organizations which may provide useful inputs to specific issues, as well as a forum for those wanting to discuss protection or humanitarian law." (UN OCHA 27 Feb 2001)

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

- The UN appealed for an additional US 9.6 million following major crisis in Burundi in 2001, due to malnutrition crisis, malaria and population displacement (May 2001)
- 2000 Appeal had received only 25% of requested funding, and 2001 Appeal only got 15% as of May 2001

"Mid term review of the 2001 united nations Consolidated appeal for Burundi

The appeal was revised after three major crisis were observed in Burundi in the second half of 2000 and the first trimester of 2001:


A severe malnutrition crisis, affecting particularly the northern and northeastern provinces of the country. Special attention must be provided to malnourished children, who are particularly susceptible to disease.

An unprecedented outbreak of malaria, especially in rural areas.

A 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 mid term review describes the altered situation particularly in the sectors of health, nutrition and agriculture sectors. To respond to additional needs effectively, the UN has appealed for an additional USD 9,685,043. The total amount of USD 101,961,638 appealed for originally thus augments to a total of USD 111,646,681." (UN OCHA 6 May 2001)

The 2000 UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Burundi received less than 25% of requested funding and 2001 Appeal only 17% as of June 2001 (UN OCHA 21 June 2001, "Burundi 2001" & "Burundi 2000")

	<p>Table I : UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Burundi 2001 Summary of Requirements and Contributions - By Appealing Organization as of 6/22/01</p>
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Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organization.

Appealing Org.	Original Requirements	Revised Requirements	Contributions	Pledges	Carry over	Total resources available	Unmet Requirements	% Covered
FAO	6'757'000	6'757'000	0	1,987,732	0	1,987,732	4'769'268	29.42%
OCHA	942'965	942'965	118,428	0	0	118,428	824'537	12.56%
OHCHR	2'651'927	2'651'927	194,260	0	0	194,260	2'457'667	7.33%
UNDP	22'425'000	22'425'000	0	1,283,556	0	1,283,556	21'141'444	5.72%
UNESCO	3'845'320	3'845'320	0	0	0	0	3'845'320	0.00%
UNFPA	570'000	570'000	25,000	0	0	25,000	545'000	4.39%
UNHCR	10'311'424	10'311'424	4,092,095	0	35,880	4,127,975	6'183'449	40.03%
UNICEF	10'200'072	10'200'072	1,650,124	1,048,006	0	2,698,130	7'501'942	26.45%
UNOB	550'000	550'000	49,299	0	0	49,299	500'701	8.96%
WFP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
WHO	3'026'270	3'026'270	0	0	0	0	3'026'270	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL	61'279'978	61'279'978	6'129'206	4,319,294	35,880	10,464,380	50'795'598	17.11%

(UN OCHA 21 June 2001, "Burundi 2001")

"Burundi remains one of the most under-funded of all humanitarian emergencies globally. For the year 2000, the UN received only one quarter of the funds it had appealed for. [...]"

Mr. Ross Mountain [UN Assistant Relief Coordinator and Director of OCHA headquarters in Geneva] urged the donor community to strengthen their support for humanitarian efforts to provide basic services and assistance to those vulnerable groups

who have been the major victims of the ongoing conflict. Such action would encourage the process of national reconciliation and protect Burundi's most vital natural resource – its people." (UN OCHA 12 June 2001)

Planned UN response for 2001 (2000)

- UN Emergency Plan aims to help local communities in integrating the internally displaced (September 2000)
- UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Burundi plans to target the most vulnerable, including the internally displaced (Nov 2000)

United Nations System Emergency Plan

"The United Nations System Emergency Plan for Burundi was officially presented to the main donors present in the region in Bujumbura, 27 September. The document appeals for USD 107,5 million aimed at meeting the immediate need of a humanitarian challenge of increasing complexity and at increasing the capacity of local communities to absorb the return of additional community members, who currently are either internally or externally displaced." (OCHA 30 September 2000)

"As outlined in the United Nations System Emergency Plan for Burundi, launched in September, the country is, as yet, insufficiently prepared for the reception of spontaneously returning masses of refugees, internally displaced and regrouped persons. In the case of a spontaneous movement, the returnees will go straight to their communes of origin choosing the most direct route without passing through transit centres. The presence of landmines along the borderline and high river levels may divert the returnees to take longer, but safer, routes through official border posts. In any case, a massive spontaneous return will place high requirements on preparedness and reception capacity at the communal level." (UN November 2000, p.24)

IDP related activities in the 2001 United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Burundi

One of the three major themes of the appeal is "the need to ensure that humanitarian programmes target the most vulnerable, including IDPs, refugees, female heads of households and unaccompanied children". (UN November 2000, iv).

The table below includes planned activities for 2001 which will have a direct or direct impact on internally displaced persons. Comments in [...] specify if the needs of the internally displaced are especially addressed, based on projects descriptions of UN Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal for 2001.

**2001 United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Burundi
List of Project Activities – by Sector January – December 2001**

SECTOR	PROJECT TITLE [benefits to IDPs]	Appeal- ing	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
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		Agency	
FOOD AID	Food assistance for relief and recovery <i>[addresses, among others, immediate daily food requirements of IDPs]</i>	WFP	40,681,660
AGRICULTURE	Emergency supply of agricultural inputs <i>[targets IDPs & other vulnerable groups]</i>	FAO	5,200,000
	Promotion of emergency integrated nutrition and agriculture intervention through support to vegetable production in urban and periurban areas	FAO	337,000
	Support to the most drought affected areas in Burundi by emergency distribution of agricultural inputs adapted to drought conditions to vulnerable households	FAO	255,000
	Emergency support to farmers' groups in seed production of beans, groundnuts and soybeans at the communal level	FAO	350,000
	Rehabilitation of micro irrigation systems in three-seed production centres	FAO	315,000
	Support to coordination of emergency agriculture assistance	FAO	300,000
	TOTAL		6,757,000
HEALTH	Expanded programme on immunisation and equipment	UNICEF	1,047,542
	Essential drugs and equipment <i>[targets IDPs, among other groups, with special emphasis on women and children]</i>	UNICEF	742,260
	Malaria prevention and control	UNICEF	306,340
	HIV/AIDS prevention <i>[targets population in displaced camps, among other groups]</i>	UNICEF	650,000
	Nutrition for children	UNICEF	2,022,930
	Reduction of maternal mortality and complications linked to deliveries amongst returnee population in Muyinga province	UNFPA	250,000
	Sexual violence in IDP camps/protection of women <i>[addresses needs of girls & women in IDPs camps of Bururi, Makamba & Rutana]</i>	UNFPA	320,000
	Coordination of delivery of essential health services	WHO	875,000
	Strengthening of emergency preparedness and response to epidemics	WHO	991,100
	Control of priority communicable diseases	WHO	641,300
	Improve reproductive health services	WHO	518,870
	TOTAL		8,365,342
WATER AND SANITATION			

	Water and environmental sanitation <i>[improves access to potable water for – among others- IDPs and children in conflict areas]</i>	UNICEF	2,081,000
MULTI-SECTORAL ASSISTANCE	Protection of refugees, urban asylum seekers, IDPs and returnees <i>[facilitates the return and plans for reintegration of 75,000 returnees and 25,000 IDPs to be reintegrated in the same areas]</i>	UNHCR	10,311,424
EDUCATION			
	Basic primary school education for peace	UNICEF	1,350,000
	Support to the schooling of crisis-affected children	UNESCO	1,205,000
	Professional training for orphaned youths past school age	UNESCO	70,000
	Printing of secondary school book	UNESCO	812,820
	Training district college teaching personnel without formal education	UNESCO	465,000
	Rehabilitation, reconstruction and upgrading of equipments for secondary school classrooms	UNESCO	600,000
	Introduction of peace education, human rights and democracy notions to the secondary and high school curriculum in Burundi	UNESCO	467,500
	TOTAL		4,970,320
PROTECTION/HUMAN RIGHTS/RULE OF LAW			
	Promotion of the peace process and protection of civilians	UNOB	550,000
	Children in need of special protection	UNICEF	1,500,000
	Women's and children's rights and protection <i>[targets women & children living in camps- among others]</i>	UNICEF	500,000
	Human rights monitoring	OHCHR	788,656
	Human rights promotion, education and training <i>[IDPs are one of the beneficiary groups]</i>	OHCHR	725,941
	Assistance to the administration of justice	OHCHR	1,137,330
	Training of members of women committees for peace and development on conflict resolution	UNESCO	225,000
	TOTAL		5,426,927
ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURES	Community development project for poverty alleviation	UNDP	5,200,000
	Community assistance umbrella	UNDP	17,000,000

	programme		
	TOTAL		22,200,000
COORDINATION	Coordination of humanitarian assistance	OCHA	942,965
SECURITY	Security and communication cell	UNDP	225,000
GRAND TOTAL			101,961,638

Coordination mechanisms

While the government has responsibility for overseeing provision of humanitarian assistance, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator chairs the Weekly Contact Group meetings, which bring together the whole humanitarian community in Burundi. Other coordination mechanisms include sectoral committees, whose participants comprise UN agencies, NGOs, international organizations and government partners. The sectoral committees meet on a regular basis to identify needs and priorities. In 1999, OCHA also established a system of provincial focal points. (UN November 2000, pp.14-15)

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)

For more details on UN and NGO activities in Bujumbura Mairie for the displaced population, see [[Internal Link](#)]

WFP provided emergency assistance to displaced population (2001)

- 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

"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)

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)

UNHCR will support the displaced Batwa of Bujumbura Mairie (2001)

"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)

UNICEF is requesting additional funds to respond to humanitarian needs (2001)

"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)

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)

Selective UN projects benefiting the internally displaced in 2000

It should be noted that the implementation of many programs in the 2000 CAP were either delayed or not implemented because of lack of funding. Some activities benefiting the internally displaced include:

Food aid

Life sustaining food assistance was provided by WFP to people regrouped in Bujumbura Rural. WFP also fed returning populations in the collines until harvest. FAO distributed seeds and farm tools.

Sanitation & Shelter

UNICEF provided shelter and household materials as well as nutritional supplements to IDPs in regroupment camps. It also provided water and sanitation to IDPs.

Health & Nutrition

UNICEF carried out HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns in the camps; WHO aimed to reduce mortality and epidemics among the displaced. It also promoted safe motherhood practices among IDPs in eight provinces.

Education

UNICEF provided primary & secondary school material to displaced children

Return assistance

UNHCR provided limited assistance to internally displaced persons who are mixed with returning refugee returnees

(UN July 2000, pp.5-11 & UN November 2000, pp.8-9)

For more details on UNICEF's appeal 2000 Burundi, see "UNICEF: A Humanitarian Appeal for Children and Women, January – December 2000 Burundi [[Internet](http://www.unicef.org/emerg/CAPburundi.htm)] [www.unicef.org/emerg/CAPburundi.htm]
and UNICEF Emergency Programmes, Burundi, Donor Update 28 June 2000 [[Internet](http://www.unicef.org/emerg/Burundi28June.htm)] [www.unicef.org/emerg/Burundi28June.htm]

WFP provides bulk of all food assistance to Burundi (1999-2000)

- WFP has approved emergency operation to assist 250,000 persons for a period of 6 months in the "regroupment" sites in Bujumbura Rural (March 2000)
- WFP has also launched a two-year quick action project to assist 25,000 vulnerable persons per month and completed the distribution of seed protection rations to 42,000 persons
- WFP's strategy is not to provide return packages as such to people returning from dismantled camps, but to continue feeding returning populations on their hills until the next harvest
- For the year 2000, it is estimated that a monthly average of 222,000 internally displaced persons and vulnerable groups will require relief and nutritional support
- FAO targeted vulnerable populations including the displaced, in its seeds and tools distribution for season 2001 A

"WFP has approved an Emergency Operation (EMOP 6221) to assist regrouped populations in Bujumbura Rural at a total cost of USD 16.2 million. Approximately 27,000 metric tons of food commodities will be distributed to more than 250,000 persons for a period of six months. The operation aims at reducing the number of malnourished persons, especially children below five, at the regroupment sites, and facilitate their re-installment in their areas of origin." (WFP 31 March 2000)

"A delayed response to this operation severely limited WFP's response capacity, in spite of the urgent food needs amongst the regrouped population. From March to 31 August 2000, 8,563 MTs were distributed representing only 32% of planned distribution levels." (UN November 2000, p.19)

WFP also launched a two-year Quick Action project (QAP) that will provide food to an average of 25,000 individuals per month. The project will assist the most vulnerable, including orphans, abandoned and street children, chronically ill persons, physically and mentally affected people, elders and the disabled. The project costs USD 5.43 million representing 9,242 tons of food commodities.

[...]

WFP has completed the distribution of Seeds Protection Rations (SPR) in Muramvya, Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie provinces, reaching more than 42,000 persons. The SPR distribution began in mid-January and approximately 5,450 tons of WFP food commodities were distributed to some 895,000 persons countrywide." (WFP 31 March 2000)

"WFP will continue to feed populations both in regroupment sites or in the hills. Food needs assessments will take place. WFP's strategy is not to provide return packages as such, but to continue feeding returning populations on their hills until the next harvest. WFP's distribution calendar will be adjusted to match the calendar for the dismantling of the sites." (WFP 10 February 2000)

"Food aid needs remain high in Burundi due to continued conflict and the large number of people unable to produce their own food or earn income. Surveys conducted in most provinces indicate that the global malnutrition rate remains close to 10 percent in some areas and as high as 15 percent in other. In the first half of 1999, WFP provided, on a monthly average, food aid to 203,000 IDPs, supplementary and therapeutic feeding to 48,300 persons, food aid to another 24,500 vulnerable people per month through existing institutions (mostly elderly or sick people and orphans), and supported rural reconstruction and income-generating activities employing 26,000 participants. In addition, 7,500 refugees and returnees benefited from food aid." (UN November 1999, p. 12)

"For the year 2000, it is estimated that a monthly average of 222,000 IDPs and vulnerable groups will require relief and nutritional support. In addition, returnees and 50,000 food-for-work participants will benefit from agricultural micro-projects aimed at improving food security." (UN November 1999, p. 37)

See also WFP appeal, "WFP urgently seeks funds to provide food aid to regroupment sites in Burundi", 28 March 2000 [Internet]

"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)

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights maintains an observation mission (1999-2000)

- 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

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.

Human rights observation

Outline: The human rights situation will be monitored comprehensively and objectively, focusing on investigating human rights violations, monitoring detention, observing the administration of justice, and monitoring the situation of internally displaced persons.[...]

Monitors are deployed in Bujumbura (covering the western and southern provinces), Gitega (eastern provinces) and Ngozi (northern provinces). At the national level, staff compile and analyze reports from the field, refer the findings to the Government liaison unit and maintain relations with other UN agencies and the humanitarian community. Regular internal and public reports are produced.

Impact: The monitoring project will not only provide information about the human rights situation but also refer its findings to the competent local authorities and to the Government liaison unit mandated to follow-up on violations of human rights. Thus the project can help elicit positive responses from the authorities, such as official

investigations into human rights violations or the liberation of detainees without charge. OHCHR, as a recognized neutral and objective international organization, has the credibility necessary to be accepted by all sides to conduct its monitoring activities even in situations where other organizations or institutions might be refused. In many cases, OHCHR has been the sole organization with access to certain detention or incident sites. Its very presence has a certain preventive effect. Many Burundians regularly contact the Office to report human rights violations and request intervention.

Human rights promotion, education and training

Outline: OHCHR hopes to help build a human rights culture through education and by strengthening the role and capacity of national institutions, the civil society and the media in protecting and promoting human rights.

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. Yet, with peace efforts underway at the political level, an additional deployment of observers will enable OHCHR to reinforce steps towards the respect of human rights, peace and reconciliation. In order to achieve the monitoring objectives, observers are deployed according to geographical areas. Currently, three sub-offices are operational, but under-staffed: in Bujumbura (covering the western and southern provinces); Gitega (eastern provinces); and Ngozi (northern provinces). With the required additional staff, each sub-office will be in a better position to give the monitors thematic assignments such as investigations of human rights violations, detention and IDPs. These tasks are labour intensive and the number of staff needed in each area depends on the situation on the ground." (UN November 1999, p. 58)

Coordination by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator with the support of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (1999)

- 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

"While the Government has the overall responsibility for overseeing the provision of humanitarian assistance, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator plays an important role in the coordination of the activities of the UN system and international NGOs. The weekly Contact Group meeting, led by the Humanitarian Coordinator, brings together UN Agencies, donors and NGOs to exchange information and initiate activities which affect the entire humanitarian community. In addition, provincial and sectoral committees are

organised to insure that efforts are well coordinated, and feed information into the Contact Group. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (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 particular concerning joint evaluation missions. OCHA organises Rapid Assessment Teams to evaluate emergency needs as they arise, particularly after recent and unexpected population movements. OCHA also provides information to the Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN).

Operational objectives [for 2000]

(i) To foster and support operational coordination of relief activities; (ii) to create mechanisms for joint analysis, strategic planning and dialogue with the Government; and, (iii) to act as an information centre for humanitarian agencies by both collecting and distributing information among the humanitarian community." (UN November 1999, p. 19)

International NGOs response

ICRC and IFRC's programs support rehabilitation and resettlement activities towards the displaced (2000-2001)

- ICRC provided food to vulnerable households, including displaced persons, in the northeast of Burundi in coordination with WFP
- 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)

"On 17 April [2001], the ICRC, backed by the Burundi Red Cross, launched an extensive emergency relief operation in Ngozi and Kayanza provinces, in north-eastern Burundi. Over 60,000 households (about 300,000 and displaced persons) are to receive 3,000 tonnes of maize, beans, oil and salt every month, enabling them to bridge food shortages until the next harvest, in June. The operation was organized in coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP) and with the agreement of the Burundian authorities." (ICRC 26 April 2001)

IFRC's objectives and activities planned which focus on the internally displaced (2001)

Goal of Disaster Response component

"To improve the lives of particularly vulnerable people identified by the BRC [Burundian Red Cross] living at sites for displaced persons and in the hills, by providing emergency aid and/or promoting activities aimed at reducing their reliance on humanitarian assistance. [...]"

Objective 1: To provide aid in the form of agricultural inputs and non-food items for the most vulnerable populations [including the most vulnerable populations living at sites and in the hills], enabling them to gradually reduce their reliance on aid. [...]

Objective 2: Develop and reinforce community spirit among affected populations [including the most vulnerable populations living at sites and in the hills], involving them in the construction of houses and in the rehabilitation of schools and infrastructure. [...]

Goal of Disaster Preparedness

"To be able to cope effectively with emergency situations caused by natural or manmade disasters by rapidly mobilizing relief teams ready to enter into action at any time and wherever required, and by delivering immediate emergency humanitarian assistance to those affected by the disaster. [...]

Goal of Health & Care

"To improve the health conditions of the vulnerable populations, living in the zones of activity of the BRC [Burundian Red Cross], by strengthening prevention and aiding self-sufficiency of their needs in the domains of health and food security." (IFRC 11 January 2001)

IFRC's Country assistance strategy (2000)

"The Federation strategy and priorities have been established taking into account the conditions of the most vulnerable groups and their capacity to cope. The civil war and the resulting socioeconomic situation have increased the size of the vulnerable groups. To respond, the Burundi Red Cross (BRC) will receive support to become actively involved in the rehabilitation and resettlement programmes. The following priorities will therefore be established: setting up BRC structures in the 16 provinces and their zones and communes, as well as in Bujumbura; the development of human resource and financial structures; increasing Red Cross membership and the volunteer base; implementation of the African Red Cross Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI); and immediate first aid and rehabilitation assistance to the most vulnerable." (IFCR 15 January 2000, pp. 48)

CRS has lead role to provide non-food emergency assistance to the displaced (2001)

- 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)

Lead role to provide non-food emergency assistance 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)

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)

Supporting the return of the former regrouped persons

"As people leave the 'regroupment camps', Catholic Relief Services is preparing return packages of blankets, sheeting, soap and clothing. The people are still in desperate need of potable water, food and sanitation. The agency, in association with local and international partners, was also able to reach vulnerable populations in Bujumbura Rural areas. Reaching over 70,900 beneficiaries, the agency delivered plastic sheeting with

hangar construction for protection, 100 blankets and more than 70,530 pieces of soap. (CRS 24 October 2000, "Burundi")

Many NGOs focus on rehabilitation activities to meet basic needs and to support the return of the internally displaced (1998-2001)

- 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)

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)

For more information on NRC's activities, please see the following documents: [Construction activities](#) and [Education activities](#)

Save the Children (UK)

"SCF has been mandated to co-ordinate all family tracing and prevention of separation work in Burundi. The work focuses on building the capacity of the Ministry of Social Action and the Promotion of Women (MSAPW), local authorities and encouraging co-ordination between the many different groups working with separated children. A series of training workshops across the country urged NGOs and Government authorities in different areas to adopt a common approach. The same tracing forms are now used by all provinces and a central computer database has been set up, making exchange of information about separated and children and their reunification much easier. To date the SCF co-ordinated programme has identified 962 unaccompanied children, of whom 502 have been reunited with their families." (SCF 1 November 1999)

"This year a new area of work with street and vulnerable children will begin. Particular focus will be placed on how HIV/AIDS impacts on livelihoods and access to social services. Save the Children (UK) has also launched an emergency response strategy in the face of potential movement of internally displaced people and refugees. [...]

Save the children (UK) 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 center." (SCF-UK October 2000)

Tear Fund

"By January 1999, Tear Fund had rehabilitated six schools in Butaganzwa, Kabarore and Rango communes and repaired two water supply systems benefiting a total of 21,000 beneficiaries (8,000 in Banga-Buraniro and 13,000 in Gasenyi-Karama). Tear Fund also ensured the provision of clean water to the rehabilitated schools and constructed or rehabilitated 118 latrines. In addition, 400 benches were constructed and provided to the schools." (UN OCHA 05 May 1999)

World Vision

"World Vision housing project proceeding in Karuzi. World Vision has started a new housing project in Karuzi targeting 600 families who once lived in the Canzikuro camp. The project is funded by CIDA and supported by UNHCR which has provided tin sheeting for the roofs. Habitat for Humanity has seconded a construction engineer to manage the project and has provided funding for other roofing materials." (UN OCHA 11 December 1998)

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), Christian Aid (Great Britain), Comunità 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 (Great Britain, Canada), Relief International (United States), Solidarités (France), Terre des Hommes (Suisse), Terre Sans Frontières (Canada)

(NRC 2 October 2000)

European Union and Government responses

The European Union plans to provide reintegration assistance to the internally displaced (1999-2001)

- European Union (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 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)

Governments pledged assistance at international donor consultation conference on Burundi (December 2000)

- In total, donors at the Paris conference pledged \$440 million for the reconstruction of Burundi
- 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

"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.

Besides helping displaced children, orphans, and other victims of the conflict in Burundi, she said, America 'will join in a war that touches all Burundian families – the fight to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.'" (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)

Policy and recommendations

UN Special Rapporteur and CEDAW encourage improved response to the plight of the internally displaced (2001)

- 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

"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)

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

"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)

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 seropositive. 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 2001 (Nov 2000)

- 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, internally displaced persons 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;
- International humanitarian organisations and actors have the right to offer their services in support of the internally displaced. Such an offer shall not be regarded as an unfriendly act or interference in a 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.
- 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:
 - 1) Free access to people affected by armed conflict;
 - 2) The right to freely evaluate humanitarian needs of the affected population;
 - 3) 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;
 - 4) The right to ensure the supply of aid based on the needs of the population without discrimination;
 - 5) 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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Neutrality: Humanitarian agencies shall provide their assistance in a neutral fashion and ensure the 'non-political' character of their action.

- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) Coordination: All humanitarian actors shall commit themselves to a close coordination and mutual support, through the establishment of appropriate coordination mechanisms.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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 November 2000, pp.13-14)

International NGOs urge donors and UN to provide immediate assistance to the displaced (Sept-Oct 2000)

- Refugee international warns that local communities cannot cope alone with the return of 725,000 internally displaced persons
- Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children urges UN to reinforce its presence in Burundi

Given the amount of destruction and violence in the country, Burundian communities cannot possibly accommodate the return of 725,000 IDPs and 400,000 refugees without outside reconstruction assistance. Donors must invest in public works and locally-based programs of reconstruction to facilitate productive activity and to help alleviate extreme poverty. An immediate response to the country's needs will help prevent massive social and health disruptions, as well as lay the foundation for a new Burundi.

Destruction from the civil war pervades every sector of society, including schools, health posts, hospitals, community colleges, roads, water systems, sanitation systems, and homes. Approximately 1/3 of all health centers have been destroyed. The current state of disrepair renders over 500 primary schools unsuitable for use. And schools that still operate are overflowing with students. Most of the homes that once housed 1.1 million IDPs and refugees have been destroyed. Another 224,000 families will need help reconstructing their homes. In addition to the public and private buildings that need reconstruction, there are other important dimensions to the reconstruction process to take into consideration, such as the reconstruction of water systems to ensure that Burundians have access to potable water. Such projects must be undertaken immediately in order to accommodate the impending return of Burundian refugees and IDPs." (RI 15 September 2000)

"The United Nations' presence in Burundi is in urgent need of strengthening. The UN pulled back its presence following the attack on its staff in Rutana last October and it has experienced high turnover in key positions. However, in the light of the peace negotiations and the urgent needs of the Burundian population, we urge the UN to strengthen its capacities in Burundi. In particular, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance requires the appointment of strong, competent leadership. [...]

The Government of Burundi and the international community should have provided for the protection and assistance of the camp populations when the camps were closed. The Government and the humanitarian and protection agencies failed to communicate and failed to adequately plan for the closure of the camps. (Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children October 2000, pp.1-2)

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)

The international humanitarian community in Burundi revises the "Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP)" (1999-2000)

- Given the overall deterioration of the political and security situation, the focus of the humanitarian community has shifted more to ensuring that humanitarian needs are adequately met in a timely and effective manner
- Assistance will be provided to all displaced populations who are unable to provide for themselves, as well as to other vulnerable groups identified through the application of objective criteria
- While reintegration in points of origin will remain the priority, the new reintegration policy recognizes that some affected populations who are unwilling or unable to return home may have other viable options
- Revised humanitarian strategy emphasizes necessary support to the peace process, particularly to programmes designed to reintegrate internally displaced people and refugees (January 2000)
- Revised strategy also indicates that the long-term impact of humanitarian strategy will be considered

"In September 1999, the Humanitarian Coordinator organised a one-day review of the humanitarian strategy that had been elaborated at a workshop held in August 1998 the previous year. UN Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and donor representatives reviewed the humanitarian situation, discussed possible scenarios that could be expected in the year 2000, and recommended change in the future course of action. The strategy was slightly modified to take into account the current uncertainty vis à vis the political and security situation and the increased potential for an overall deterioration compared to the previous year. Thus, the focus of the humanitarian community has, by necessity, shifted more to ensuring that humanitarian needs are adequately met in a timely and effective manner. At the same time, however, the strategy continues to call for increased investment in sustainable reintegration, and to establish the

foundations of community development in the more stable areas, in order to help consolidate fledgling efforts towards peace. "(UN November 1999, p. vii)

Statement of Humanitarian Principles

"During the workshop held in August 1999, the international community re-affirmed its commitment to the following principles that developed at the time of the elaboration of the humanitarian strategy the previous year.

Identifying vulnerable populations and their needs

Assistance will be provided to all displaced populations who are unable to provide for themselves, as well as to other vulnerable groups identified through the application of objective criteria. [...]

Providing humanitarian assistance while planning for recovery

Humanitarian, reconstruction and development activities are inextricably linked and take place, to varying degrees, simultaneously. Together they reinforce peace and reconciliation efforts, especially at the community level. Short-term responses to crises impact long-term efforts. In recognition of this, the humanitarian community has agreed to plan for recovery by doing the following:

- Insist on the need to pursue humanitarian, rehabilitation and development actions simultaneously, emphasising linkages to peace and reconciliation;
- Promote a broader concept of humanitarian action, including an integrated and comprehensive approach to reintegration and the progressive engagement of development agencies and especially bilateral donors;
- Advocate this broader approach among donors at all levels, based on a common analysis of the key humanitarian challenges facing Burundi.

Clarifying roles and responsibilities

Effective humanitarian assistance and successful long-term reintegration require that the roles of each of the three major partners be clearly (and mutually) understood. It is the responsibility of the Government, in collaboration with its partners, to oversee the process of identifying vulnerable populations, specifying their needs and assuring adherence to agreed upon standards for the delivery of assistance. It is the role of humanitarian agencies and donors to assist the Government in meeting these responsibilities. Communities should be fully involved in the planning, implementation and management of humanitarian and rehabilitation activities that affect them.

Establishing core standards for the provision of humanitarian assistance

It is assumed that insecurity will continue to provoke spontaneous population movements. Since relief agencies will be called upon to provide emergency assistance, it is essential to adhere to the following principles that have been endorsed by the humanitarian community and the national and local authorities: (i) right to access and the freedom of movement of populations caught in insecure areas where assistance or essential services are unavailable; (ii) limiting the provision of assistance to life-sustaining measures in cases where people are forced to move by military and/or civil

authorities (where populations are moving in a voluntary manner or flee spontaneously from a perceived threat, the full range of humanitarian interventions may be considered); (iii) combating manipulation and corruption, in particular preventing the exaction of payments from beneficiaries, the inclusion of ineligible individuals on beneficiary lists, and the organised sale of relief items; and, (iv) transparency in the design and execution of all activities.

Establishing core standards for reintegration

The humanitarian community in Burundi defines reintegration as follows: **The voluntary and long-term reintegration of uprooted populations in a stable environment in which the household can engage in activities offering viable options for self-sufficiency.** This definition marks a break with previous policy, which focused exclusively on populations reintegrated in their original homes or on their original land. While reintegration in points of origin will remain the priority, the new policy recognises that some affected populations who are unwilling or unable to return home may have other viable options. There are four essential elements for long-term reintegration: (i) the location must be stable and secure; (ii) the intended population must be willing to move there; (iii) the intended population must have access to land or a means of support; and, (iv) there must be access to essential/basic services.

Promoting an integrated approach

An integrated approach to reintegration will be pursued in Burundi. This approach includes: (i) an orientation toward peace and reconciliation (e.g. the inclusion of all groups in the planning and implementation of activities); (ii) reconstruction of social infrastructure; and, (iii) income generating activities and agricultural production. From their inception, reconstruction activities should strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities, civil society and traditional institutions to manage and maintain social infrastructures. Programmes should emphasise a participatory approach, involving local communities as much as possible in the decision-making and management processes. (UN November 1999, pp. 8-9)

Further developments

"The humanitarian community has been working on a Common Framework of Reference, which will provide the underpinning of the humanitarian assistance planned for Burundi in 2000. The work has been greatly facilitated by donors, UN agencies and NGOs through their participation in the Contact Group and the recently established Think Tank. Recent initiatives taken in Burundi include the drafting of:

Humanitarian Strategy

The humanitarian community met in January 2000 to review the strategy that had been defined in September 1999. While the nature of the assistance to be provided has not changed, the humanitarian community agreed that the underlying strategy should be in support of the peace process, particularly to programmes designed to reintegrate internally displaced people and refugees. In addition, it indicated that the long-term impact of humanitarian strategy will be considered. The strategy reads as follows,

"Promote the concept of humanitarian assistance with a wider perspective which includes (1) a response to the more immediate needs, (2) assisting the most vulnerable communities without discrimination, and (3) a global and integrated approach towards reinstallation, within the framework of support to the peace process.

To develop and undertake humanitarian actions taking into consideration their long term implications followed by a progressive commitment by agencies and donors towards direct community assistance and development." (UN OCHA 15 February 2000)

For the Principles of Engagement and Humanitarian principles also drafted by the Humanitarian Think Tank, see "Principles relatifs à l'intervention humanitaire dans les situations de conflits" in "Aperçu de la Situation Humanitaire au Burundi", Juin 2000 [Internal link]

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)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AI	Amnesty International
AFP	Agence France Press
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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