U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (BHR)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

BURUNDI – Complex Emergency

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Background

Conflict in Burundi has its roots in the division between the Hutu majority, representing 85% of Burundi's total 6.6 million people, and the Tutsi minority, who represent 14% of the population but have dominated the political, military, and economic arenas since national independence in 1962. The current conflict in Burundi can be traced to October 1993, when members within the Tutsi-dominated army assassinated the first freely elected President, Melchoir Ndadaye (Hutu). His death sparked widespread Hutu-Tutsi clashes where up to 50,000 were reported killed. After Ndadaye's successor, Cyprien Ntariyama (Hutu), was killed in a plane crash on April 6, 1994 alongside Rwandan President Habyarimana, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya (Hutu) served as President until July 1996, when current President Pierre Buyoya (Tutsi) seized power in a coup. Continuing conflict between Tutsi and Hutu forces has resulted in an estimated 200,000 deaths and more than 800,000 displaced at the height of the conflict.

The past eight years of conflict have hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and weakened an already deteriorated economic infrastructure. Humanitarian aid workers have also been killed during the conflict, including a UNICEF employee and a U.N. World Food Program (WFP) official in October 1999, and most recently a Children's Aid Direct (CAD) driver in Bubanza province in June 2001. In August 2000, nineteen Burundi parties signed the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Arusha, Tanzania overseen by mediator, former South African President Nelson Mandela. The Arusha Peace Accords include provisions for an ethnically balanced army and legislature, and for democratic elections to take place after three years of transitional government. Neither of these provisions has been implemented, however, and the two main Hutu rebel groups -- the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD) and the National Liberation Front (FNL) -- have yet to join the peace negotiations. In addition to the conflict, five years of poor, erratic rainfall in pockets of the country have contributed to widespread malnutrition and chronic food insecurity, compounded by recent high levels of malaria.

Numbers Affected

According to the United Nations, an estimated 200,000 people have lost their lives in the Burundi conflict since 1993.

In July 2000, the Government of Burundi (GOB) disbanded regroupment camps in Bujumbura Rural province, decreasing the number of IDPs in sites in Bujumbura Rural from 317,000 to 28,420, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). An additional 350,000 are displaced in various locations outside Bujumbura Rurale province and 200,000 may be dispersed outside of sites in Bujumbura Rurale. An April 2001 UNOCHA report shows 580,000 people internally displaced across Burundi.

Since the beginning of the conflict, there has been a continuing flow of refugees both into and out of Burundi. The April 2001 UNOCHA report lists 28,277 refugees who have settled in Burundi: 27,005 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 1,251 from Rwanda, and 21 from Somalia and other regions. The Population Data Unit of UNHCR reports 96,733 people in Burundi are of concern to UNHCR, representing individual refugees, asylum-seekers, and returned refugees.

According to the 2001 U.N. Consolidated Appeal, 380,000 Burundians have fled to Tanzania from continuing civil strife. An additional 200,000 who fled their homes in the 1970s have integrated into Tanzanian communities or are prevented from returning due to widespread insecurity. 1,871 Burundian refugees fled to Zambia and 20,000 to the DRC, reports the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Current Situation

Growing Insecurity: Fighting in Kinama escalated between GOB forces and FNL rebels on February 24, 2001 north of Bujumbura, temporarily displacing an estimated 54,000 people. Later fighting moved through the southeast, central, and north-central provinces. In Rutana province, fighting resulted in the temporary displacement of an estimated 15,000 people. At the beginning of April, fighting through Gitega, Mwaro, and Muramvya provinces temporarily displaced an additional 37,000 people. On April 2, in Murazi commune of Ruyigi province, unknown gunmen attacked a convoy of WFP trucks carrying 90 tons of food for 20,000 vulnerable people in Cankuzo province. Four aid workers were wounded in the attack.

On April 18, a group of about 30 junior army officials seized control of the state radio and television station in Bujumbura and announced that a small, military dissident group, the Front de la Jeunesse Patriotique (FJP), had overthrown the government. The participants in the attempted coup surrendered peacefully the following day.

The security situation in parts of Burundi remains volatile, and reports of armed robberies and attacks have increased in frequency over the past two months. A team of twelve Ambassadors in a UN Security Council tour of the region visited Burundi on May 23 in efforts to advance peace throughout the Great Lakes region.

GOB officials reported the displacement of approximately 20,000 residents into the hills further east of the city as a result of fighting between GOB soldiers and FNL rebels near Bujumbura in late May 2001. The fighting is part of an effort by the government to rout the rebels from the hills near Bujumbura.

The UN Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator and Director of UNOCHA/Geneva, Mr. Ross Mountain, visited Burundi June 10-12 to address urgent concerns regarding access to and protection of IDPs and to evaluate humanitarian assistance in Burundi. His visit reinforced the humanitarian community's commitment to accessing IDPs both in camps and dispersed in the countryside, as exemplified in the Framework for Consultation of Protection of IDPs signed by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Burundi and the GOB Minister of Human Rights in February.

There are fears that positive developments in the Lusaka peace process with the DRC could destabilize Burundi as rebel groups in the DRC move into neighboring countries, fearing disarmament under the Lusaka Accords. Sporadic fighting has been reported throughout the country in recent weeks in continued violation of the Arusha Peace Accords.

Decreased Security Impacts Humanitarian Work: WFP and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) have reported problems delivering relief food to alleviate the acute nutritional crisis in Ngozi and Kayanza provinces as a result of insecurity and resulting road closures, and have used aircraft deliveries even over short distances to assist the 300,000 affected.

On May 11, FDD rebels abducted six humanitarian workers delivering health supplies for the Dutch-Burundian non-governmental organization (NGO) Memisa-Coped from Bukeye in southern Makamba province. The aid workers were taken into Tanzania, forced to walk great distances, and were released unharmed on May 16.

The U.N. has declared six out of sixteen provinces under Phase IV security (Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura Rurale, Bururi, Makamba, and Rutana). Phase IV allows for only emergency, humanitarian relief, or security operations and is one phase down from evacuation. Humanitarian access is intermittently possible in approximately 70% of the country.

Effects of the Conflict on Health and Food Security: Over 92% of Burundi's population is composed of subsistence farmers. Consistently poor and erratic rains in recent years have contributed to drought conditions in northeastern Karuzi and Muyinga provinces, which were the most affected. Certain communes in Kayanza, Muramvya, Mwaro and Ngozi provinces were also affected by erratic rains and decreased crop yields. Malnutrition rates dramatically increased between September 2000 and February 2001 when admissions to therapeutic feeding centers reached 4,900 countrywide. Insecurity, displacement, and structural problems such as soil degradation and collapsed infrastructure contributed to widespread food and nutrition vulnerability. The longstanding prevalence of diseases like malaria and tuberculosis continue to aggravate nutrition vulnerability. The 2001 Season A (September-January) harvest was a moderate improvement from previous years as a result of increased rains, and the preliminary outlook for the 2001 Season B (February-June) is positive.

The conflict in Burundi has exacerbated the conditions under which disease is spread, hindered access to medical treatment, and damaged the health infrastructure. Conflict forced many farmers into non-traditional highland areas in search of fertile land. Displaced populations, meteorological changes, and variations in agricultural practices since 2000 has resulted in the migration of malaria into areas previously untouched, and where the local population lacks the immunity that lowland populations have developed. According to UNOCHA, approximately 3,018,985 cases of malaria (50% of the total population) have been recorded. Routine immunization coverage has decreased, increasing the reported cases of measles from 2,981 in 1999 to 22,517 in 2000. According to the UNICEF 2001 appeal, 20% of Burundi's urban population and six percent of the rural population are HIV-positive. HIV/AIDS infection is a serious crisis throughout eastern Africa, compounded by the conflict and widespread population movements.

According to the U.N. 2001 Consolidated Humanitarian Appeal for Burundi, the national food deficit is 178,000 MT of cereals. Approximately 850,000 people face an "uncertain" food situation and another 1.5 million people are dependent on agricultural inputs. Malnutrition rates escalating between September 2000 and January 2001 were reflected in the dramatic increase in admissions to supplementary and therapeutic feeding centers.

However, some areas of expanded security helped promote planting while increased precipitation in February and March positively contributed to an improved 2001 A harvest.

USG Assistance

USAID/OFDA: To date in FY 2001, USAID/OFDA has obligated more than $6.2 million in emergency non-food assistance to Burundi. USAID/OFDA supports the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) seeds and tools program and coordination efforts in Burundi, water and sanitation initiatives through the International Rescue Committee (IRC), flights for humanitarian personnel through the World Food Program (WFP), a nutrition program through Medecins sans Frontieres/Belgium (MSF/B), and food security programs run by World Vision International (WV), Gruppo Volontaire Civile (GVC), and Concern. Additional resources will support further emergency activities in food security, coordination, and nutrition assistance. USAID/OFDA has shifted its emergency program focus towards food security initiatives and is pursuing mechanisms encouraging a variety of approaches to address food insecurity. USAID/OFDA targets food security programs in areas where nutritional programs have been funded to decrease the need for direct nutritional assistance. USAID/OFDA is supporting an Emergency Disaster Relief Coordinator (EDRC) who monitors the humanitarian situation in both Burundi and Rwanda.

USAID/FFP: USAID/FFP has provided 11,900 MT of P.L. 480, Title II emergency commodities to WFP in FY 2001, valued at $6.3 million. These commodities have been used to support comprehensive nutrition programs and an assistance package to vulnerable IDPs.

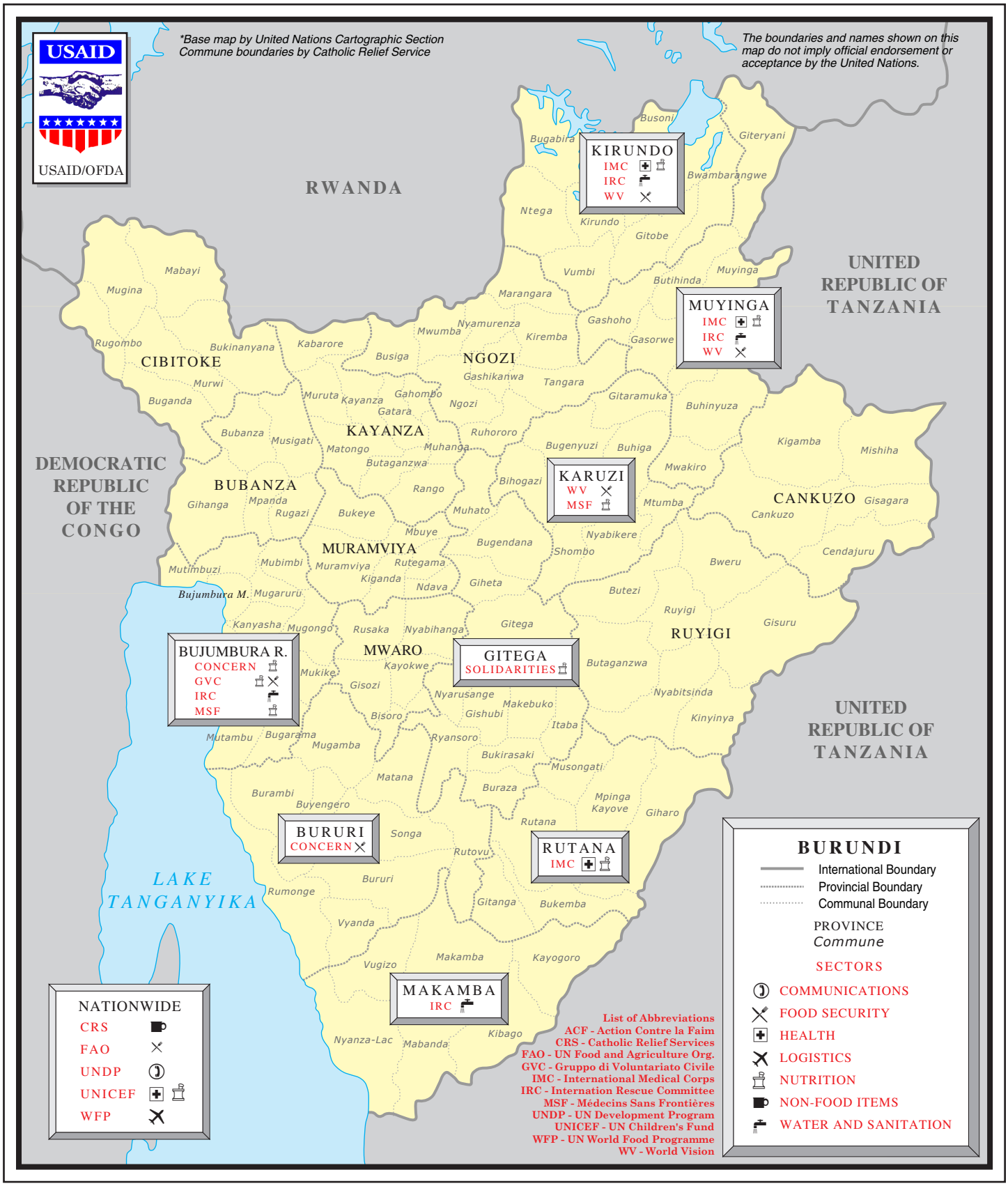
USDA/FAS: In FY 2001, USDA/FAS is providing 10,000 MT of section 416(b) emergency commodities (cornmeal) to WFP for food assistance to Burundi, at an estimated value of $6.7 million. A second commitment of 14,000 MT of cornmeal, valued at $9.4 million, will be shipped later this summer to the Great Lakes Region. A large portion of this commitment will go to Burundi.

State/PRM: In FY 2001, State/PRM has provided $60 million to UNHCR and $29 million to ICRC for programs throughout Africa, a portion of which will be used in Burundi. The Bureau is also providing $993,270 to the global U.N. World Health Organization's Roll Back Malaria program, a portion of which will be used in Burundi.

DOD: On June 15, the Department of Defense donated four U.S. Army surplus trucks and eight surplus water trailers to the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The U.S. Armed Forces previously used the trucks and water trailers in Germany. USAID/OFDA supports IRC's water and sanitation relief efforts throughout Burundi.

USAID/BHR/OFDA	$6,233,093
USAID/BHR/FFP	$6,300,000
USDA/FAS	$16,100,000
Total USG Assistance	**$28,633,093**

USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html


USAID
USAID/OFDA
*Base map by United Nations Cartographic Section
Commune boundaries by Catholic Relief Service
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
RWANDA
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
LAKE TANGANYIKA
Bujumbura M.
KIRUNDO
IMC
IRC
WV
MUYINGA
IMC
IRC
WV
KARUZI
WV
MSF
GITEGA
SOLIDARITIES
BUJUMBURA R.
CONCERN
GVC
IRC
MSF
BURURI
CONCERN
RUTANA
IMC
MAKAMBA
IRC
CIBITOKE
NGOZI
KAYANZA
BUBANZA
MURAMVIYA
MWARO
RUYIGI
CANKUZO
Busoni
Bugabira
Giteryani
Bwambarangwe
Ntega
Kirundo
Gitobe
Vumbi
Butihinda
Muyinga
Marangara
Nyamurenza
Gashoho
Mwumba
Kiremba
Gasorwe
Mabayi
Mugina
Rugombo
Bukinanyana
Kabarore
Busiga
Gashikanwa
Tangara
Murwi
Buganda
Muruta
Kayanza
Gahombo
Gatara
Ngozi
Gitaramuka
Buhinyuza
Bubanza
Musigati
Matongo
Muhanga
Ruhororo
Bugenyuzi
Buhiga
Kigamba
Mishiha
Butaganzwa
Mwakiro
Gihanga
Mpanda
Rugazi
Bukeye
Rango
Bihogazi
Muhato
Mtumba
Cankuzo
Gisagara
Mbuye
Nyabikere
Bugendana
Shombo
Cendajuru
Mutimbuzi
Mubimbi
Muramviya
Rutegama
Kiganda
Ndava
Giheta
Bweru
Mugaruru
Butezi
Ruyigi
Kanyasha
Mugongo
Rusaka
Nyabihanga
Gitega
Gisuru
Mukike
Kayokwe
Gisozi
Nyarusange
Makebuko
Gishubi
Nyabitsinda
Bisoro
Itaba
Kinyinya
Mutambu
Bugarama
Mugamba
Ryansoro
Bukirasaki
Musongati
Matana
Burambi
Buyengero
Buraza
Mpinga Kayove
Giharo
Rutana
Songa
Rutovu
Bururi
Rumonge
Gitanga
Bukemba
Vyanda
Vugizo
Makamba
Kayogoro
Nyanza-Lac
Mabanda
Kibago
NATIONWIDE
CRS
FAO
UNDP
UNICEF
WFP
List of Abbreviations
ACF - Action Contre la Faim
CRS - Catholic Relief Services
FAO - UN Food and Agriculture Org.
GVC - Gruppo di Voluntariato Civile
IMC - International Medical Corps
IRC - Internation Rescue Committee
MSF - Médecins Sans Frontières
UNDP - UN Development Program
UNICEF - UN Children's Fund
WFP - UN World Food Programme
WV - World Vision
BURUNDI
International Boundary
Provincial Boundary
Communal Boundary
PROVINCE
Commune
SECTORS
COMMUNICATIONS
FOOD SECURITY
HEALTH
LOGISTICS
NUTRITION
NON-FOOD ITEMS
WATER AND SANITATION