



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

BURUNDI – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

November 18, 2002

Note: The last situation report was dated June 20, 2002.

BACKGROUND

The Tutsi minority, which represents 14 percent of Burundi's 6.85 million people, has dominated the country politically, militarily, and economically since national independence in 1962. Approximately 85 percent of Burundi's population is Hutu, and approximately 1 percent is Twa (Batwa). The current cycle of violence began in October 1993 when members within the Tutsi-dominated army assassinated the first freely elected President, Melchoir Ndadaye (Hutu), sparking Hutu-Tutsi fighting. Ndadaye's successor, Cyprien Ntariyama (Hutu), was killed in a plane crash on April 6, 1994 alongside Rwandan President Habyarimana. Sylvestre Ntibantunganya (Hutu) took power and served as President until July 1996, when a military coup brought current President Pierre Buyoya (Tutsi) to power. Since the conflict began, over 200,000 people have been killed.

In August 2000, nineteen Burundi parties signed the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Arusha, Tanzania, overseen by peace process facilitator, 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. The three-year transition period began on November 1, 2001. President Pierre Buyoya will serve as President for the first 18 months, followed by a Hutu president for the second half of the transition. The two main Hutu opposition groups, the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD) and the National Liberation Front (FNL), are not party to the Arusha Peace Accords. Nearly one year after the installation of the transitional government, a cease-fire agreement has not been reached between the rebels and the Burundi government although talks related to cease-fire negotiations continue.

Clashes between rebel and government forces continue regularly around the capital, Bujumbura, and sporadically across the country, sometimes prompting temporary population movements. Approximately 820,000 Burundians have fled the country, most of whom are located in Tanzania, with others living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Zambia. On March 28, 2002, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) implemented a voluntary repatriation program for the return of refugees from Tanzania.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE
Internally Displaced	Total: 387,469 in 226 sites countrywide U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) (July 31, 2002) ⁼
Refugees from Burundi	Total: 820,000 in Tanzania (350,000 in camps) UN OCHA (July 31, 2002)
Refugees in Burundi	Total: 28,062 26,826 from the DRC 1,220 from Rwanda 6 from Tanzania and Somalia UN OCHA (July 31, 2002)
Repatriated Refugees*	Total: 46,810 UNHCR (October 31, 2002)

Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burundi..... \$13,413,053
Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi \$19,296,475

CURRENT SITUATION

Insecurity Continues to Affect Vulnerable

Populations. In early July, UN OCHA reported that approximately 20,000 people in Kabezi, Ramba, and Mutumba Communes of Bujumbura Rural required food and water assistance as a result of fighting in the region between government troops and Hutu opposition forces.

UN OCHA expressed concern on July 12 as a result of escalating tensions in Ruyigi, Makamba, and Rutana Provinces in eastern and southern Burundi. Approximately 5,000 people were displaced in Ruyigi following FDD attacks, when an estimated 1,500-armed FDD fighters surrounded Ruyigi town and occupied Rugango, Kigamba, Rugongo, and Bisinde townships.

⁼ As of November 18. These are the latest figures released by UN OCHA.

* Includes both facilitated and spontaneous refugees.

Insecurity has restricted the United Nations from accessing Nyabitsinda and Kinyinda Communes in Ruyigi Province for the past four months.

In Makamba province in mid-July, fighting displaced more than 1,600 people, destroyed 320 homes, and prompted the non-governmental organization (NGO) Medecins sans Frontiers-France (MSF-F) to temporarily evacuate from the province. The Governor of Rutana province reported 1,000 displaced people in Rutana town and 4,068 in the surrounding hills.

The European Commission sent a formal statement to the GOB on July 29 reporting a threat against the life of the European Union's chargé d'affaires in Bujumbura. The GOB offered the chargé d'affaires security assistance and opened an inquiry into the reported threat.

On July 30 and 31, the FNL intensified shelling on southern parts of the capital, Bujumbura. Opposition groups who are not party to the power-sharing government have increased attacks on southern and eastern Burundi since early July. Attacks typically increase around the time when negotiations with the government begin.

International humanitarian sources reported on August 1 that more than 45,000 civilians were forced to flee clashes between Hutu opposition groups and government forces in Kabezi, 11 miles south of Bujumbura. For weeks, insecurity restricted humanitarian assistance to this vulnerable group that lacked access to water, sanitation, and shelter facilities.

According to a state-owned news agency, more than 32,000 people needed humanitarian assistance, including food, blankets, household utensils, medicines, shelter materials, and school supplies, in early September in central Gitega Province as a result of continuing insecurity. The largest concentrations of displaced persons were located in Bugendana, Gitega, and Giheta Communes.

On September 7, the Burundi leader of a local NGO, World Outreach Initiatives, which focuses on feeding widows, orphans, and street children in Bujumbura, was shot and killed next to the President's residence in Bujumbura. No one has claimed responsibility for the killing and it is unknown whether he was specifically targeted. The killing illustrates the continuing insecurity and random violence facing humanitarian workers in Burundi.

On September 9, at least 173 Burundi civilians were killed by armed elements during fighting between the FDD and the Burundi army in Itaba Commune, Gitega Province—the largest number of conflict-related civilian deaths during one incident in the past two years. On September 30, President Buyoya said that members of the army were involved. The GOB opened a judicial

inquiry into the incident and on October 4 imprisoned two army officers in connection with the killings. Clashes between the FNL opposition and government troops continue in Bujumbura Rural Province, including fighting on September 21 near Rohe village, when an estimated 16 civilians were killed and nearly 3,000 people fled the area.

Refugee Movements. On July 21, the Burundi Defense Minister requested that the international community provide an international observer force along the Burundi-Tanzania border to monitor Hutu opposition forces allegedly infiltrating into Burundi from Tanzania. According to international media sources, Hutu forces have crossed into eastern Ruyigi Province and southern Makamba Province during the past few months.

According to UNHCR, in early July an increasing number of Burundi refugees in Tanzania withdrew from the voluntary repatriation process, possibly due to the volatile security situation in Burundi. Approximately 50,000 Burundians have registered with UNHCR for assistance in returning to Burundi.

Due to increasing insecurity in eastern and southeastern provinces in late July and early August, the number of voluntary repatriations of Burundi refugees from Tanzania decreased. UNHCR has the capacity to repatriate 2,000 refugees per week. UNHCR has only facilitated returns to the more stable northern provinces due to continuing insecurity in the other provinces.

As of October 31, UNHCR had facilitated the return of 27,171 Burundi refugees, while 19,639 refugees returned spontaneously. Therefore, the total number of returnees in 2002 equaled 46,810 on October 31.

According to international humanitarian sources, between June and September, hundreds of Congolese Banyamulenge refugees of Tutsi origin located in camps in Ngarara, Bujumbura refused to be relocated by the GOB to another transit camp in Kanama, Muyinga Province, due to fear of being located on the borders with Rwanda and Tanzania close to Hutu "negative forces." An estimated 40 refugees had relocated at the end of September. UNHCR provides water to more than 1,000 refugees in Ngarara, but the GOB plans to dismantle the sites.

As foreign troops continue to pull out of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), there are concerns that the security situation could deteriorate, causing a large-scale influx of refugees into Burundi, and placing additional strain on humanitarian actors and local communities. In response to heavy fighting between rebel and government forces in the DRC, UNHCR reported on October 18 that approximately 12,000 Congolese refugees were registered between October 12 and 17. The refugees crossed into Burundi

through six main entry points: Gatumba, Unda, Buganola, Rubombo, and Cibitoke.

Continuing Negotiations to Establish Peace.

According to international humanitarian sources, the GOB, both factions of the FDD, and one faction of the FNL sent delegates to Dar es Salaam on August 8 to hold “preliminary consultations” to establish a cease-fire. The consultations were in preparation for peace talks held between August 26 and 29 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which the FNL did not attend. The discussions between the FDD and the GOB failed to reach a cease-fire agreement. Ceasefire talks between the GOB, the FDD and the FNL resumed on October 28 in Dar es Salaam. The FNL have attended the talks, but are not negotiating.

Direct talks between the Palipehutu-FNL and the GOB occurred at the end of September, but adjourned on September 26 without determining a cease-fire agreement.

The final summit of the Great Lakes Regional Initiative on Burundi was held in Arusha, Tanzania on October 7. The presidents of Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, the DRC, and South Africa attended the summit, as well as the former South African President Nelson Mandela and U.N and African Union representatives. Two smaller factions of the FDD and FNL respectively signed a formal ceasefire agreement, but the main FNL and FDD parties have not yet entered the agreement. A regional summit will be held 30 days following the October 7 summit to discuss rebel non-compliance with peace-talk demands.

Health Initiatives. UNICEF sponsored a measles and Vitamin A vaccination campaign between June 24 and 28, and a second phase between July 23 and 26. UNICEF targeted 3.3 million children between nine months and 14 years against measles, and provided 1.2 million children between six months and five years with vitamin A. Although fighting continues in some areas, UNICEF negotiated with Hutu opposition forces and government forces for “days of tranquility” that allowed health workers to reach vulnerable children.

Cholera Outbreak. Nationwide, the Burundi Ministry of Health (MOH) reported 591 cases of cholera between June 17 and August 22, and eight deaths, with the majority of the cases in Bujumbura. Although the outbreak continued into September, the number of cases began to decline in August. Health organizations responded aggressively to contain the outbreak and newer cases were generally mild. The USAID/OFDA-funded cholera treatment center in Bujumbura managed by MSF/Belgium reported 683 cumulative cases of cholera in Bujumbura from June 17 to October 4. MSF/Belgium closed the center in October due to the decline of the outbreak.

Meningitis Outbreak. WHO and the Burundi MOH have been monitoring an increasing number of meningitis cases since July. According to WHO, from the beginning of the outbreak on July 6 to October 31, there have been 1,066 cases and 89 deaths reported nationwide. The outbreak stabilized in Ngozi and Kirundo Provinces in late August, but assumed epidemic status in three communes of Muyinga Province.

The MOH, with WHO assistance, began implementing a three-phase response plan in late August, which included a strategy to vaccinate all Muyinga residents over six months of age. Approximately 440,000 people were targeted for vaccination, and an additional 200,000 people in Ngozi and Kirundo may be vaccinated if needed. International health organizations have also been closely monitoring an outbreak of meningitis in refugee camps in Tanzania hosting Burundians. Refugees and local populations in the Kibondo region of Tanzania have been vaccinated.

In early September, GOB authorities declared a meningitis epidemic in Gisuru Commune in eastern Ruyigi Province as a result of six confirmed and 44 suspected cases. Health authorities and WHO created a plan to vaccinate all 55,000 residents of the commune, and have been closely monitoring unconfirmed cases in neighboring Cankuzo Province. During September, health authorities also decided to vaccinate the entire populations of Gitega and Karuzi Provinces as a result of an outbreak in these provinces.

Food Security Assistance. At the end of September, WFP began a distribution program of an estimated 5,800 MT of food assistance for 535,000 vulnerable Burundians. The food is being distributed with seeds and farm tools provided by FAO in a 20-day “seeds protection ration.” WFP estimates that approximately 1.4 million people in Burundi, particularly internally displaced, require WFP food assistance due to a lack of adequate access to food. The NGOs CARE and World Vision are distributing the rations.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 17, 2002, U.S Ambassador James Yellin redeclared a disaster in Burundi due to the ongoing complex emergency.

USAID/OFDA’s program in Burundi is focused on maintaining a response capacity in the sectors of nutrition, emergency health, food security, water and sanitation, and non-food items, while strengthening the capacity of early warning and crisis management structures to respond rapidly to and mitigate new crises. In FY 2002, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$13 million in humanitarian assistance. At the end of August 2002, USAID/OFDA released an Annual Program Statement (APS) for FY 2003 to strengthen the capacity of communities in areas of Burundi where

displaced populations and IDPs are expected to return. The programs will assist local populations to effectively support the increased number of people. USAID/OFDA is also closely coordinating with USAID/REDSO in the development of a new Integrated Strategic Plan for Burundi covering FY 03 to FY 05, which includes emergency humanitarian assistance, transitional, and development assistance components.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) supported two programs in Burundi during FY 2002. The Legislative Strengthening Program included member orientation for new National Assembly and Senate members, public outreach activities, and support for committees to be implemented through the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute (NDI/IRI). The Burundi Initiative for Peace (BIP) implemented through the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) has provided a series of small grants to encourage popular support for the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Accords. The small grants program worked in targeted geographic areas to support activities that maintain the momentum for peace. USAID/OTI's Country Representative in Bujumbura continues to monitor the program. USAID/OTI's assistance in FY 2002 totaled \$2.1 million.

USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) supported WFP's Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in the Great Lakes during FY 2002, which targets 1.12 million vulnerable people in Burundi. Through its activities, WFP contributes to improving and maintaining the nutritional status of refugees, IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable people, and promotes the recovery and rehabilitation of livelihoods at the household and community level. During FY 2002, USAID/FFP provided 4,620 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities consisting of corn, pulses and corn-soy blend to WFP for the Burundi portion of the Great Lakes program, valued at \$2.4 million.

In FY 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided 140 MT of 416(b) surplus food commodities to Burundi to assist in emergency food needs. The \$98,574 worth of surplus food commodities includes 140 MT of corn-soy blend for WFP's PRRO.

The State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) contributed \$1,240,000 to UNHCR in FY 2002 to support UNHCR's refugee programs inside Burundi.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2002

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID				\$17,957,901
USAID/OFDA				\$13,413,053
	Concern	Food security and nutrition	Bujumbura Rural, Bururi	\$463,564
	CRS	Non-food items	Countrywide	\$1,154,025
	Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC)	Food security and nutrition	Bujumbura Rural	\$1,007,156
	IMC	Health and nutrition	Kirundo, Muyinga, Rutana	\$1,649,049
	IRC	Health and water and sanitation	Bujumbura Rural, Makamba, Rutana	\$1,154,577
	MSF/B	Health and nutrition	Karuzi, Bujumbura Rural	\$1,132,002
	Solidarites	Nutrition	Gitega	\$600,000
	UNDP	Coordination	Countrywide	\$150,000
	UNICEF	Health, nutrition, and coordination	Countrywide	\$2,310,640
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$600,000
	WFP	Air support	Countrywide	\$675,000
	WVI	Food security and agriculture	Karuzi, Muyinga	\$2,024,097
	Administrative	Administrative, staff, and mission support	Bujumbura	\$492,943
USAID/FFP				\$2,424,200
	WFP	4,620 MT of Title II emergency food commodities to improve the food security and protect livelihoods of vulnerable groups	All	\$2,424,200
USAID/OTI				\$2,120,648
	NDI, IRI, and IFES	Legislative strengthening, Burundi Initiative For Peace (small grants programming)	All	\$2,120,648
USDA				\$98,574
	WFP	Section 416(b) Surplus Food Commodities – 140 MT to WFP's PRRO	All	\$98,574
STATE/PRM¹				\$1,240,000
	UNHCR	Assistance to Refugees inside Burundi	All	\$1,240,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi in FY 2002.....				\$19,296,475



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

¹ State/PRM figures include only Burundi-specific funding, and do not include unearmarked funding for UNHCR and IFRC Africa-wide programs.