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**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***

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

February 17, 2005

*Note: The last situation report was dated September 2, 2004.*

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1993, armed conflict in Burundi has claimed 300,000 lives and displaced 1.3 million people. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 145,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) live in 182 camps inside Burundi. Sporadic attacks temporarily displace between 25,000 and 50,000 residents each month. An estimated 800,000 Burundians live as refugees, the majority residing in neighboring Tanzania. Uncertainty regarding Burundi's security situation is undermining the pace of voluntary repatriation of refugees from camps in western Tanzania. In 2004, approximately 90,320 refugees returned from Tanzania, fewer than the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) estimate of 150,000 refugee returns forecast for 2004.

Approximately 14 percent of Burundi's 6.8 million people are Tutsi, while 85 percent are Hutu, and 1 percent is Twa (Batwa). Prior to the current power-sharing government, the Tutsi minority had maintained power almost continuously since national independence in 1962. The current cycle of violence began in 1993 when members of the Tutsi-dominated army assassinated the first freely elected President, a Hutu. In August 2000, 19 Burundian political parties signed the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement (APRA), agreeing to an ethnically balanced army and legislature and democratic elections. In November 2001, President Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, became the first leader of the transitional government, and in April 2003, Domitien Ndayizeye, a Hutu, assumed the presidency for the second half of the three year transition. In October 2003, the African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) peacekeeping force began to assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of opposition forces. On June 1, 2004, the U.N. Mission in Burundi (ONUB) assumed peacekeeping duties from AMIB and recently extended to remain in Burundi until June 1, 2005. In October 2004, President Domitien Ndayizeye signed into law an interim constitution that will remain in place until a post-transition constitution is adopted. A constitutional referendum is scheduled to be held on February 28, 2005.

The negotiations leading to APRA did not include representatives from the two major armed groups, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) and the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People-Forces for National Liberation (PALIPEHUTU-FNL). In November 2003, following a comprehensive peace agreement, the GOB formed a new government to include CNDD-FDD. The other main armed opposition group, PALIPEHUTU-FNL has since met with the GOB several times, but has yet to participate in a ceasefire.

| <b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>   |   | <b>SOURCE</b>          |
|--|---|------------------------|
| <b>IDPs</b>  | 145,033   | UN OCHA – October 2004 |
| <b>Refugees in Burundi (Estimate)</b>  | 38,300, most from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)                        | UNHCR – January 2005   |
| <b>Burundi Refugees (Estimate)</b>   | 800,000 most in Tanzania  | UNHCR – September 2004 |
| <b>Refugees Repatriated Since 2001 (Facilitated and Spontaneous Returnees)</b> | 2001-2003: 148,000<br>2004: 90,320<br>2005 to date: 4,001<br>Total to date: 242,321 | UNHCR – February 2005  |

**Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burundi (to date) .....\$3,056,936**  
**Total FY 2005 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi (to date) .....\$28,757,631**  
**Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burundi.....\$11,340,199**  
**Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi.....\$47,680,899**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

#### ***Interim constitution and constitutional referendum.***

On October 20, 2004, President Domitien Ndayizeye signed into law an interim constitution after it was endorsed by a special joint session of the National

Assembly and Senate. The constitution extended transitional institutions and administration and took effect on November 1, 2004, the end of Burundi's three-year government transition period. The

constitution will remain in place until a post-transition constitution is adopted. The date of the constitutional referendum has been postponed several times due to incomplete voter lists. However, on January 25, 2005, the National Independent Electoral Commission announced that the referendum is scheduled to be held on February 28, 2005. Local elections would take place in February, followed by legislative elections in March, and presidential polls in April.

***Sporadic insecurity in western Burundi.*** Despite improved overall security in most of Burundi, USAID/OFDA field reports indicate conflict-related displacements continue in Bujumbura Rural Province, particularly in the commune of Kabezi, impeding humanitarian assistance. According to OCHA, at any given time between 25,000 and 50,000 people are displaced in the province, and 8 of the 10 communes in Bujumbura Rural have been affected by temporary displacements ranging from two days to three weeks. Apart from the displacements, the population has also faced widespread looting, destruction of property and land, sexual violence, and abuse.

In early January 2005, fighting between PALIPEHUTU-FNL forces and a coalition of the Burundian army and troops loyal to Pierre Nkurunziza, leader of the CNDD-FDD, displaced thousands of people in Bujumbura Rural. Prior to this latest surge in fighting, record numbers of refugees and IDPs had been returning home in Burundi during the last two weeks of December 2004. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) currently operating in Bujumbura Rural Province have faced difficulties implementing programs due to the security situation, limited access, and lack of information on vulnerable populations.

***Repatriation of Burundian refugees.*** According to UNHCR, a substantial reduction in the flow of refugee returns to Burundi has occurred this year. Uncertainty regarding Burundi's security situation in the run-up to the upcoming presidential election in April is undermining the pace of voluntary repatriation of refugees from camps in western Tanzania. UNHCR reported that toward the end of 2004, the number of refugees returning to Burundi had decreased from 11,000 per month in mid-2004 to between 1,500 and 2,000 per month by the end of 2004. UNHCR reported that political uncertainty following proposed changes to the constitution and the repeated postponement of elections have made refugees reluctant to return home.

***Food security.*** From January 24-28, 2005, USAID/Office of Food for Peace (FFP) officers assessed the food security situation in the northern provinces of Kirundo and Muyinga. During 2004, these areas received lower than normal amounts of rainfall, and the near complete destruction of the cassava crop, due to cassava mosaic virus disease

(CMD), aggravated the food security situation. According to USAID/OFDA field reports, the food shortage is serious, and despite a brief respite after the harvest in February 2005, the situation will likely continue to deteriorate until the second harvest season in August.

The food security problem in Burundi was first identified in June 2004 after a national harvest and food stocks assessment undertaken by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In response to this assessment, WFP doubled distribution tonnages in northern Burundi and substantially increased beneficiary numbers, tripling targeted beneficiaries in Kirundo, during the latter part of 2004. Based upon the forthcoming results of the FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment for the February harvest period, WFP plans to distribute up to 2,000 metric tons (MT) per month for the next six months in northern Burundi and between 85,000 and 100,000 MT to 2,032,417 people countrywide in 2005.

***Destruction of the cassava crop.*** From December 22 to 24, 2004, USAID/OFDA along with U.N. and NGO partners, participated in a rapid assessment of the food security situation in Kirundo and Ngozi provinces. According to USAID/OFDA field reports, CMD has decimated cassava crops across northern Burundi. FAO reported that in a normal year, the cassava crop yields 500,000 MT in production and constitutes between 50 and 75 percent of most Burundians caloric intake especially during lean pre-harvest seasons. However, according to FAO, the cassava crop has been reduced by 60 to 90 percent countrywide. The introduction of resistant varieties of cassava and the reversal of the damage caused by CMD could take three to five years.

Through the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), USAID/OFDA currently supports programs to multiply varieties of cassava resistant to CMD. According to IITA, however, new varieties of cassava are not being developed quickly enough to stem CMD's spread. USAID/OFDA continues to support therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs in the affected areas of northern Burundi, as well as emergency health and food security initiatives.

***Disarmament of former combatants.*** On December 2, 2004, the Burundi Demobilization, Reinsertion, and Reintegration Program for former combatants began at the Muramvya Demobilization Center, and 216 former ex-combatants were demobilized in Muramvya Province. According to media reports, the primary objective of the program is to support the demobilization of 55,000 Burundian former combatants in the next five years. An estimated 14,000 former combatants will be demobilized under the first phase of the program in advance of elections

planned for April 2005. As of February 14, according to the ONUB, the program has demobilized 6,741 former combatants, including 107 women and 2,920 child soldiers.

**Health.** On January 12, 2005, the Ministry of Public Health reported an outbreak of cholera in Bujumbura after heavy rains affected water treatment equipment owned by the water utility company, Regideso. The greatest number of cases was in Kamenge, north of the capital. As of February 11, 183 cholera cases were reported in Bujumbura Town. The epidemic affected all zones of Bujumbura Town, except Kinindo Zone, and Kamenge was the most affected with 86 cases of cholera.

According to OCHA, the situation now appears under control, and the number of cases of cholera is decreasing. The decrease can be attributed to the fact that free treatment is being provided in a public health facility, Médecins Sans Frontières has opened a specialized cholera treatment center in Kamenge, a public awareness campaign is underway, and there has been an improvement in water sources, sanitation, and strengthening of the surveillance system.

As of October 26, 2004, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported 82 suspected cases and 4 confirmed deaths due to meningitis in Bukemba Commune, Rutana Province in southeast Burundi. A provincial surveillance team was established and 33,000 people were vaccinated against meningitis in Bukemba and Gihofi communes.

#### **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

On October 8, 2004, U.S. Ambassador James H. Yellin redeclared a disaster in Burundi due to the continuing conflict and insecure humanitarian situation. USAID/OFDA's FY 2005 program is focusing on emergency response in the sectors of nutrition, emergency health, food security, emergency relief supplies, and water and sanitation, while strengthening the local capacity of early warning and crisis management structures to respond rapidly to and mitigate new crises. To date in FY 2005, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.6 million. In FY 2004, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$11.3 million in emergency relief assistance through seven NGOs and five U.N. agencies. USAID/OFDA's Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC) in

Bujumbura continues to monitor USAID/OFDA-funded programs and assess the overall humanitarian situation.

USAID/FFP is supporting WFP's Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which will target between 1.9 and 2 million vulnerable Burundians. WFP aims to maintain and improve the nutritional status of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable populations while promoting the recovery and rehabilitation of livelihoods at the community and household level. To date in FY 2005, USAID/FFP has provided an estimated 19,240 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$11.8 million. In FY 2004, USAID/FFP provided an estimated 36,610 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$19.8 million.

In support of peace process advances, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has provided \$5 million in FY 2005 to date and approximately \$7.6 million in FY 2004. USAID/OTI strengthens local capacities to benefit from and contribute to the peace process through implementing partners PADCO, Inc., the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (WWICS), and the local NGO African Strategic Impact (ASI). USAID/OTI's program includes community-based leadership and conflict mitigation training, vocational skills training, community conflict-mitigation initiatives, and media programming.

To date in FY 2005, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$5 million to UNHCR and \$2.72 million to WFP for the return and reintegration of Burundian refugees. In FY 2004, the State/PRM provided \$1.76 million to UNHCR and \$700,000 to WFP for assistance to Congolese refugees in Burundi and returning Burundian refugees. In addition, State/PRM has provided \$1.1 million to date in FY 2005 and approximately \$6.4 million in FY 2004 to support organizations assisting Burundian refugees in Tanzania, including UNHCR, WFP, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and NGOs. State/PRM has also provided \$48 million in unearmarked funding to UNHCR and \$46.6 million in unearmarked funding to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support 2004 Africa programs, including those in Burundi.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2005

| <i>Implementing Partner</i>  | <i>Activity</i>   | <i>Location</i>                           | <i>Amount</i>             |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| <b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>                               |   |   |                           |
| CONCERN  | Nutrition, Agriculture  | Bujumbura Rural                           | \$216,170                 |
| CRS  | Food security, Seed Fairs   | Bubanza, Kirundo, Muyinga, Ruyigi, Gitega | \$750,000                 |
| IARC/IITA  | Food security   | Countrywide                               | \$250,000                 |
| IMC  | Nutrition and capacity building   | Muyinga, Kirundo, Rutana                  | \$1,368,623               |
| IRC  | Water and sanitation  | Muyinga                                   | \$324,070                 |
| Administrative   | Administrative support  | Bujumbura, Nairobi                        | \$148,068                 |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>  |   |   | <b>\$3,056,931</b>        |
| <b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>  |   |   |                           |
| WFP  | 19,240 MT P.L. 480 Title II<br>Emergency Food Assistance                      | Countrywide                               | \$11,880,700 <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>   |   |   | <b>\$11,880,700</b>       |
| <b>USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE</b>  |   |   |                           |
| PADCO, WWICS,<br>ASI, Administrative                                   | Community-based reintegration   | Countrywide                               | \$5,000,000               |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OTI .....</b>   |   |   | <b>\$5,000,000</b>        |
| <b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>  |   |   |                           |
| UNHCR <sup>3</sup>   | Refugee repatriation and<br>reintegration                                     | Countrywide                               | \$5,000,000               |
| WFP  | Food assistance for Congolese<br>refugees and returning<br>Burundian refugees | Countrywide                               | \$2,720,000               |
| OTHER (UNHCR,<br>WFP, UNICEF, AND<br>NGOs)                             | Assistance to Burundian<br>refugees in Tanzania                               | 10 camps in western Tanzania              | \$1,100,000               |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM .....</b>   |   |   | <b>\$8,820,000</b>        |
| <b>Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi in FY 2005 .....</b> |   |   | <b>\$19,937,631</b>       |
| <b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi in FY 2005.....</b>    |   |   | <b>\$28,757,631</b>       |

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of February 17, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

<sup>3</sup> In addition to unearmarked funding provided to UNHCR and subsequently spent in Burundi/Tanzania for refugee assistance.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2004

| <i>Implementing Partner</i>  | <i>Activity</i>   | <i>Location</i>                            | <i>Amount</i>             |
|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| <b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>                               |   |  |                           |
| CONCERN  | Nutrition, food security  | Bujumbura Rural, Bururi                    | \$254,182                 |
| CRS  | Emergency relief supplies, food security                                | Bubanza, Kirundo, Muyinga                  | \$1,300,000               |
| GVC  | Health  | Kirundo, Muyinga                           | \$1,388,840               |
| IMC  | Health, nutrition   | Muyinga, Rutana, Kirundo, Muramvya         | \$1,785,789               |
| IRC  | Water and sanitation  | Makamba, Bujumbura Rural, Bujumbura-Mairie | \$999,843                 |
| Solidarités  | Food security, agriculture  | Gitega                                     | \$200,000                 |
| Tearfund   | Capacity building, water and sanitation                                 | Kirundo                                    | \$539,915                 |
| UN OCHA  | Coordination  | Countrywide                                | \$550,000                 |
| UNFAO  | Coordination, food security   | Countrywide                                | \$500,000                 |
| UNICEF   | Health, water and sanitation  | Countrywide                                | \$1,890,000               |
| WFP  | Humanitarian air transport  | Countrywide                                | \$1,247,630               |
| WHO  | Coordination, health  | Countrywide                                | \$200,000                 |
| Administrative   | Administrative support  | Bujumbura, Nairobi                         | \$484,000                 |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>  |   |  | <b>\$11,340,199</b>       |
| <b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>  |   |  |                           |
| WFP  | 36,610 MT P.L. 480 Title II<br>Emergency Food Assistance                | Countrywide                                | \$19,880,700 <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>   |   |  | <b>\$19,880,700</b>       |
| <b>USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE</b>  |   |  |                           |
| PADCO, WWICS,<br>ASI, Administrative                                   | Community-based reintegration   | Countrywide                                | \$7,600,000               |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OTI .....</b>   |   |  | <b>\$7,600,000</b>        |
| <b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>  |   |  |                           |
| UNHCR  | Assistance to refugees in Burundi                                       | Countrywide                                | \$1,760,000               |
| WFP  | Food assistance for Congolese refugees and returning Burundian refugees | Countrywide                                | \$700,000                 |
| OTHER (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, AND NGOs)                                   | Assistance to Burundian refugees in Tanzania                            | Countrywide                                | \$6,400,000               |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM .....</b>   |   |  | <b>\$8,860,000</b>        |
| <b>Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi in FY 2004 .....</b> |   |  | <b>\$38,820,899</b>       |
| <b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi in FY 2004.....</b>    |   |  | <b>\$47,680,899</b>       |

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of February 17, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.



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