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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

Situation Report #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

September 14, 2005

Note: The last situation report was dated July 19, 2005

BACKGROUND

Approximately 14 percent of Burundi’s 7.2 million people are Tutsi, while 85 percent are Hutu, and 1 percent is Twa (Batwa). After national independence in 1962, the Tutsi minority maintained power almost continuously. In 1993, members of the Tutsi-dominated army assassinated the first freely elected President, a Hutu, beginning a cycle of violence that has claimed 300,000 lives and displaced 1.3 million people. In August 2000, 19 Burundian political parties signed the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement (APRA), agreeing to democratic elections and an ethnically balanced army and legislature. In November 2001, President Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, became the first leader of a transitional Government of Burundi (GOB), and in April 2003, Hutu leader Domitien Ndayizeye 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 the AMIB with a mandate to remain in Burundi until December 1, 2005.

Since 2000, two major armed groups that did not sign the APRA reached separate agreements with the transitional GOB. In November 2003, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) signed a comprehensive peace agreement that led to the inclusion of the CNDD-FDD in the transitional GOB. On May 15, 2005, the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People-Forces for National Liberation (Palipehutu-FNL) reached an agreement on cessation of hostilities with the transitional GOB; however, when a comprehensive peace agreement between the parties was not reached, the ceasefire collapsed and fighting resumed.

Presently, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that approximately 117,000 Burundians remain displaced due to the years of conflict, living in 160 camps throughout Burundi. An additional 448,000 Burundians live as refugees, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with the majority residing in neighboring Tanzania. As Burundi’s political transition progresses with the democratically elected government of President Pierre Nkurunziza in August 2005, the pace of voluntary returns has increased steadily.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	116,799	OCHA – June 2005
Refugees in Burundi	28,705—primarily from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	OCHA – June 2005
Burundian Refugees	448,230—primarily in Tanzania	UNHCR – August 2005
Refugees Repatriated Since 2002 (Facilitated and Spontaneous Returns)	2002-2004: 225,976 2005 to date: 37,148 Total to date: 263,124	UNHCR – August 2005

Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burundi.....\$9,008,131
Total FY 2005 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi.....\$60,068,266

CURRENT SITUATION

Legislative branch elections. The political transition in Burundi progressed significantly and peacefully in July and August 2005. On July 4, the CNDD-FDD won approximately 60 percent of seats in the National Assembly. The CNDD-FDD won 30 out of 34 seats in the Senate on July 29 when commune councilors in Burundi’s 17 provinces elected 2 senators each—one Tutsi and one Hutu. In addition to the elected members, as stipulated by electoral law, Burundi’s former transitional period presidents and three members of the Twa community were appointed to the Senate.

On August 16, CNDD-FDD member Immaculee Nahayo became Burundi’s first woman Speaker of the National Assembly.

New president elected. On August 19, a joint-session of the National Assembly and Senate elected CNDD-FDD leader Pierre Nkurunziza president with more than 90 percent of the vote. Previously, Pierre Nkurunziza held the position of State Minister for Good Governance and represented the CNDD-FDD during the negotiations leading to the party’s November 2003 ceasefire accord with the transitional government.

Pierre Nkurunziza nominated Martin Nduwimana of the Union for National Progress party and CNDD-FDD party member Alice Nzomukunda for the positions of first and second vice-presidents respectively. The first vice-president will be responsible for political and administrative matters, and the second vice-president will manage social and economic affairs. The nominees received approval from both chambers of parliament, and together with the new president were sworn into office on August 26.

At his inauguration, President Nkurunziza called for the Palipehutu-FNL opposition to lay down arms and rejoin negotiations. President Nkurunziza appointed a cabinet of 20 ministers with 11 Hutus and 9 Tutsis, in accordance with the country's constitution that stipulates a 60-to-40 ratio of Hutus to Tutsis. In addition, seven women will hold ministerial posts as directed by the new constitution that requires 30 percent of government personnel at all levels to be women. President Nkurunziza's ruling CNDD-FDD party leads 12 ministries, and former President Ndayizeye's Front Pour la Démocratie au Burundi party heads 3 ministries.

Primary education reform promised. During his inaugural speech, President Nkurunziza announced that free primary education would be available for all children in Burundi, effective immediately. An estimated 59 percent of Burundian boys and 48 percent of girls are enrolled in primary school, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) State of the World's Children report for 2005. On September 8, UNICEF pledged publicly to mobilize resources and support the GOB in implementing the new policy.

Increased returns from Tanzania. With the establishment of a democratically elected government, the flow of returnees to Burundi continued to increase in August. UNHCR reported that nearly 6,000 Burundians returned in July and nearly 15,000 in August. From January to August, the number of facilitated and spontaneous returns to Burundi totaled more than 37,000, with more than 32,000 returning from Tanzania.

According to UNHCR on August 12, Burundian refugees in Tanzania continue to express increased confidence in lasting peace in Burundi. UNHCR reported that due to the greater demand by Burundians to leave Ngara, Kasulu and Kibondo camps in western Tanzania, three convoys per week leave from Ngara and two per week from Kasulu and Kibondo camps.

Repatriation agreement reached. On August 18 in Kigali, the GOB, the Government of Rwanda (GOR), and UNHCR agreed to an official framework for the repatriation of Burundian refugees in Rwanda. Repatriation operations began in June but were criticized by UNHCR and the international community for not adhering to international refugee protection principles. UNHCR admonished the respective governments for

labeling asylum seekers as illegal immigrants before determining if refugee status and therefore specific rights applied, a potential breach of international refugee law.

Under the new agreement, the parties guaranteed that refugees would be informed of the security situation in Burundi and permitted to return in a voluntary, safe, and dignified manner. In consultation with UNHCR, the GOR consented to take all measures necessary to uphold these fundamental principles while Burundian refugees remain in Rwanda in camps, transit areas, and during transport. Likewise, the GOB agreed to take all measures necessary to create conditions conducive to the reintegration of returnees. UNHCR pledged to organize one repatriation convoy per week, each returning between 500 and 700 persons.

An estimated 5,000 Burundian refugees remain in Rwanda, many of whom have already signed up with UNHCR for repatriation. On August 17, the sixth UNHCR-organized convoy left Rwanda for Burundi. According to UNHCR, 2,155 Burundians have been repatriated since the end of June with the remaining Burundian refugees in Rwanda expected to return within two months.

Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR). On September 1, more than 100 demobilized former combatants occupied the executive office in charge of distributing DDR payments, claiming that they had not received demobilization allowances equivalent to \$580. The DDR program participants warned they would remain in the DDR offices until the payments were made. The parties involved, however, reached a settlement the following day when the DDR project office agreed to distribute the allowances by the end of September.

Cholera in Bujumbura. As of August 24, the Ministry of Health (MOH) reported a total of 149 cholera cases in the capital city Bujumbura, particularly in the areas of Musaga, Kinindo, and Nyakabiga. NGOs are supporting the MOH with patient care and treatment, distribution of clean water, decontamination of water sources, and strengthened community hygiene and sanitation information campaigns.

Palipehutu-FNL continue armed assaults. Despite overall positive political trends in Burundi, incidents of violence continued. On August 14, Palipehutu-FNL forces attacked targets in northern Kayanza and Muramvya provinces, and on August 18 shelled fields northeast of Bujumbura with no casualties reported. Also on August 18, a Burundian army spokesman reported that three government soldiers and eight Palipehutu-FNL combatants were killed during an attack on a military post in the same area of Bujumbura. As this attack coincided with the eve of the presidential election, the spokesman speculated that the attacks were aimed at pressuring the new government to engage with the Palipehutu-FNL.

Armed incidents continued to occur as the new government assumed power. On September 1, the Palipehutu-FNL attacked a military position in Ruziba on the southern edge of Bujumbura with grenades and automatic weapons, wounding three government troops and resulting in the deaths of one government soldier and five Palipehutu-FNL combatants, according to Burundian army spokesmen.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 8, 2004, U.S. Ambassador James H. Yellin redeclared a disaster in Burundi due to the continuing conflict and precarious humanitarian situation. USAID/OFDA FY 2005 programs focused on emergency response in the sectors of nutrition, food security and agriculture, emergency health, and water and sanitation, while strengthening the local capacity of early warning and crisis management structures to respond rapidly to and mitigate new crises. In FY 2005, USAID/OFDA provided \$9 million for relief assistance to Burundi through 12 implementing partners, including 5 U.N. agencies. In addition, a USAID/OFDA Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator based in Bujumbura monitored emergency programs and developments in the humanitarian situation throughout the year.

In FY 2005, USAID/FFP continued to support the U.N. World Food Program's (WFP) Great Lakes Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which targeted 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 rehabilitation of livelihoods at the community and household level. USAID/FFP provided an estimated 31,620 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$16.9 million.

In support of the peace process, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) provided \$5.4 million in FY 2005. USAID/OTI strengthened 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 programs included community-based leadership and conflict mitigation training, vocational skills training, community conflict mitigation initiatives, and media programming.

In FY 2005, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided more than \$15 million to UNHCR, \$3.2 million to WFP, and nearly \$3.7 million to multiple relief agencies supporting the return and reintegration of Burundian refugees. In addition, State/PRM provided approximately \$6.6 million in FY 2005 to support organizations assisting Burundian refugees in Tanzania.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Concern	Nutrition	Bujumbura Rural	\$216,170
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food security and agriculture, emergency relief supplies	Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Gitega, Kirundo, Muyinga, Ruyigi	\$1,370,249
Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC)	Health, food security and agriculture, nutrition	Bujumbura Rural, Kirundo	\$1,489,251
International Agricultural Research Center (IARC)	Food security and agriculture	Countrywide	\$720,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Nutrition, health, capacity building	Bujumbura Rural, Kirundo, Muyinga, Rutana	\$1,450,867
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Water and sanitation, health, capacity building	Bujumbura Rural, Muyinga, Ruyigi	\$1,163,469
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$300,000
Tearfund	Food security and agriculture	Kirundo	\$662,459
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Food security early warning, coordination	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNICEF	Health, nutrition, coordination	Countrywide	\$555,068
U.N. World Health Organization (WHO)	Health, coordination, epidemiological surveillance	Countrywide	\$313,064
WFP	Humanitarian air transportation	Countrywide	\$150,000
	Administrative support		\$317,534
TOTAL FY 2005 USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI			\$9,008,131
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	31,620 MT P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance	Countrywide	\$16,897,100
TOTAL FY 2005 USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI			\$16,897,100
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
PADCO, WWICS, ASI, Administrative	Community-based reintegration	Countrywide	\$5,400,000
TOTAL FY 2005 USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI			\$5,400,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
Action Against Hunger	Water and sanitation for returnees	Ruyigi	\$375,000
Ambassador's Fund	Water and sanitation	Muyinga	\$19,900
IRC	Gender-based violence, protection	Returnee Areas	\$273,852
IRC	Water and sanitation for returnees	Ruyigi	\$558,304
UNICEF	Health	Returnee Areas	\$1,329,163
UNHCR	Refugee repatriation and reintegration	Countrywide	\$15,250,000
WFP	Food assistance for Congolese refugees and returning Burundian refugees	Countrywide	\$3,220,000
World Relief	Shelter, health	Makamba	\$565,550
World Vision	School and health center construction	Muyinga, Cankuzo	\$559,885
SUBTOTAL FY 2005 STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE INSIDE BURUNDI			\$22,151,654
American Red Cross	Health, water and sanitation	Camps in Tanzania	\$265,000

IRC	Health, camp management	Camps in Tanzania	\$1,353,135
Norwegian People's Aid	Gender-based violence, protection	Camps in Tanzania	\$102,646
UNHCR	Refugee care	Camps in Tanzania	\$1,765,000
UNICEF	HIV/AIDS, refugee education	Camps in Tanzania	\$620,000
Voice of America	Information dissemination	Camps in Tanzania	\$235,600
WFP	Food assistance for Burundian refugees	Camps in Tanzania	\$2,270,000
SUBTOTAL FY 2005 STATE/PRM SUPPORT FOR BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN TANZANIA			\$6,611,381
TOTAL FY 2005 STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI			\$28,763,035
TOTAL FY 2005 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI			\$60,068,266

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 14, 2005.

² USAID/FFP figures represent estimated values of food assistance provided.



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