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Emergency appeal operation update

Burundi: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRBI008
GLIDE n° OT-2012-000193-TZA
Operation update n° 1
27 February 2013

Period covered by this Ops update: 15 November to 7 February 2013

Appeal target (current): CHF 717,077

Appeal coverage: 30%; [<click here to go to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- An [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 24 January 2013 for CHF 717,077 to support the Burundi Red Cross (BRC) to assist 20,194 beneficiaries (3,366 households) for 12 months.
- A [Preliminary Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 15 November 2012 with a budget of CHF 674,731 (cash and in kind donation or services) to assist 14,643 beneficiaries (2,615 households) for a period of three months.
- CHF 100,000 was initially allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 15 November, 2012 to help in starting up operations as returnees streamed into Burundi from Tanzania's Mtabila camp.
- This update informs on progress in relief, restoring family links, water and sanitation and emergency health



Millions of litres of safe water have been provided in the transit camps using 6 bladder tanks. Photo: BRC

Summary: By end 2012, the Tanzanian Government closed Mtabila refugee camp and revoked the refugee status for the majority of the Burundian refugees living there. Almost 34,000 Burundian refugees were repatriated, returning nearly 20 years later to a very different environment, without homes or livelihoods.

This emergency operation sets out to provide assistance to the returnees as they seek to fully integrate with their host communities through interventions in relief, water and sanitation, health and hygiene promotion, epidemic monitoring and restoration of family links. Target beneficiaries include returnees going back to Nyanza Lac, Makamba, Kibago, Kayogoro, Mabanda, Rumonge, and Giharod.

Progress is ongoing. In addressing the most urgent needs, BRC, in coordination with UNHCR and a national human rights association is conducting assessments to establish the needs of returnees in their host communities. In Cibitoke, BRC is providing food and non food items to 800 Congolese and Burundians refugees. Volunteers and Emergency Brigade Teams are facilitating the reception and registration of

refugees in coordination with UNHCR and government as well as assisting in setting up temporary shelters. Volunteers have collected and distributed 3 tonnes of food to the most vulnerable. BRC volunteers have also provided support in distribution of assistance from other humanitarian actors.

Through Restoration of Family Links activities, a total of 169 separated returnees and especially minors have been reunited. In Cibitoke province, 3 families were reunited with their children who were traced in Rwanda.

BRC has set up 6 First Aid stations at entry points not covered by other humanitarian actors and is providing First Aid assistance. BRC has also provided assistance to a total of 116 voluntary returnees and 215 deported returnees in various entry points of the Burundian borders. A total of 10 entry points in Makamba, Rutana and Ruyigi provinces have been monitored.

1.5 million litres of safe water have been provided in the 3 transit camps using 6 bladder tanks (see photo). Additionally, in Makamba, 3 bladder platforms of 10,000 litres have been built and a total of 1,525,000 litres of water provided through water trucking while in Cibitoke 2 bladders platforms have been built and 1,525,000 litres of water provided through water trucking.

Psychosocial support has been provided to 16 children in Cibitoke and one First Aid Station set up. All these activities were carried out by BRC during returnees transit to their new homes. Further support will be provided in responding to the returnees longer term needs in order to ensure that the returnees fully integrate within the host communities and resource based conflicts are managed.

Response will soon be constrained by lack of resources. Funding has so far been received by British, Finnish, Japanese, Norwegian and Monaco Red Cross Societies. The Burundi Red Cross is grateful for this generous assistance and urges donors to continue to fund this important operation.

The Situation

Mtabila Refugee camp in Kigoma District of Tanzania hosted 37,592 Burundian refugees, most of whom fled their country in 1993 following the assassination of the President Melchior Ndadaye, and the civil war that followed. The Government of Tanzania decided to close the camp by 31st December 2012. Some 2,500 individuals were deemed to require continued international protection and were transferred to Nyarugusu refugee camp. The remainder were repatriated to Burundi.

However, in most cases, returnees have no home to return to. Since their departure, government had brought in new people from elsewhere to live in the abandoned villages and to cultivate deserted fields. Successive regimes mean that many plots have changed hands more than once. For others



Laurent Manirambona looks older than his 30 years. This quiet father of three is exhausted and worried about the future of his family. "I left Burundi 15 years ago when I was a teenager, to escape the war," he says. Home for the moment is a hut with a flimsy rattan mat muddy floor in Mbanda border transit camp.

"In 2007, I came back to Burundi to check on the family land but it had already been occupied by someone else," he says. His requests to reclaim his land were met with intimidating threats of violence from the new occupant. "In the camp in Tanzania I built up a business with small shops, but now it's all gone and I'm here with nothing, no source of livelihood. Even a cow or a goat would help us."

Sitting next to Laurent, silent and expressionless is his wife Edith. During the repatriation, their three young were separated from her and transported on a different bus. It took almost three days before the Burundi Red Cross were able to reunite the family in the same transit camp, an event which clearly distressed the young mother. "The Burundi Red Cross was able to trace my children by phoning our neighbours and friends from the camp in Tanzania. Finally they tracked them down and I am grateful for that," says Laurent.

As the family awaits its fate, surrounded by a small pile of their worldly possessions, Laurent says he is also concerned about his wife's health. "There is no doctor in the camp, so we can't get her medical care," he says. "I hope that when we are finally resettled back in the village someone will be able to help her."

born in the camps, it is a home they have never seen. Added to the stresses of returning is the chaos of transfer between camps and repatriation itself.

Coordination and partnerships

Arrangements remain largely as reported in the January [Emergency Appeal](#), with the Ministry of National Solidarity in charge of coordinating the operation on behalf of government, including identity cards and national health insurance cards for returnees. A Ministry project PARESI (Projet d'appui à la Reinsertion des Sinistrés), transports small groups of returnees composed of less than 20 families.

UNHCR has provides technical support to the Ministry and has been responsible for the protection of the refugees. UNHCR is phasing out operations now that the returnees are settled except for the approximately 1,673 who are still in Tanzania.

WFP has been providing food parcels to the returnees with implementing partner CARITAS, distributing dry rations, including cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt (about 2,100 Kcal per person per day).

International Rescue Committee (IRC) is an implementing partner for UNHCR, and has been in charge of camp set-up and camp management, logistics, distribution of NFIs and transportation by vehicle for groups of returnees of 20 families or more. African Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) is the health focal point in charge of health care of the returnees.

The Fédération Nationale des Coopératives du Burundi (FENACOBU) has provided 50,000 Burundi Francs to each family of the returnees (about USD 40), with funds coming from UNHCR.

UNICEF is has provided school supplies. FAO has provided vegetable seeds. With support from EU, IOM, is planning to profile all returnee households. Detailed community assessments on livelihoods and shelter will be conducted to inform programming and BRC are being requested to offer support in this process.

As reported previously, coordination meetings have been taking place in Bujumbura every fortnight, under the coordination of the Ministry of National Solidarity, with the support of UNHCR. Daily coordination meetings have also been taking place in Makamba, near the main border entry point for the returnees, again under the coordination of the Ministry of National Solidarity with the technical support of UNHCR. Burundi Red Cross participated in all the above coordination meetings and has been sharing information with key stakeholders in formal and informal forums. Regular coordination has also been taking place between Burundi Red Cross and the ICRC, which is supporting Restoration of Family Links activities in the camp. Burundi Red Cross has also been coordinating its activities with other movement partners who are present in Burundi, including the Belgian Red Cross.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Burundi Red Cross has been an integral part in receiving the returnees, mobilizing 10 first-aid teams, providing psychosocial support and orientation on how returnees can obtain basic services, such as national identity documents and government health insurance cards. Burundi Red Cross has also been providing water trucking to the transit centres that have no water, delivering 40,000 litres of water per day over a period of 10 days. Burundi Red Cross has also been providing Restoration of Family Links (RFL) services to returnees, helping them connect with families or friends. Burundi Red Cross has also been monitoring all potential entry points to ensure that all returnees receive adequate services.

Progress towards outcomes

Shelter, settlement and NFIs

Outcome: 2,000 of the most vulnerable returning refugees to Burundi from Tanzania are provided with assistance including temporary shelter kits and appropriate NFIs.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 333 returning refugee households are provided with return package including shelter kits and appropriated household items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further assessment on the needs related to shelter kits and kitchen sets • Provision of shelter kit training for volunteers • Distribution of shelter kits to families of returnees who most need them • Distribution of kitchen sets to families of returnees who most need them
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Progress: BRC in coordination with UNHCR and LIGUE ITEKA (a national human rights association) is conducting a monitoring exercise to establish the needs of returnees in their host communities.

In Cibitoke, BRC has setup a temporary centre through which they are providing food and non food items to 800 Congolese and Burundians refugees. Volunteers and Emergency Brigade Teams have been mobilized and are facilitating the reception and registration of refugees in coordination with UNHCR and government administrative authorities as well as assisting in setting up temporary shelters. Volunteers have also been mobilized and have collected 3 tonnes of food (cassava, beans, vegetables, bananas, sweet potatoes and cabbages) which have been distributed to the most vulnerable. BRC volunteers have also provided support in distribution of assistance from other humanitarian actors such as food provided by WFP and CONCERN.

Table 1: Summary of non food items provided by Burundi Red Cross at Karurama Site

Non Food Items	Number distributed
ITNs	703
Soaps	2,251
Kangas	120
Jerrycans	280
Blankets	280
Mats	80
Total	3,714

Restoring family links

Outcome: Contacts are re-established and maintained between family members for 1,673 returning refugees.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 279 returning refugee households have access to appropriate means of re-establishing and maintain contact with loved ones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception and orientation of returnees on relevant available assistance on arrival at the transit camp. • Restoration of Family Links for separated returnees and especially minors • Monitoring of non-official entry points

Progress: The BRC staff, Emergency Brigade Teams and Volunteers have been involved in providing assistance to the repatriated Burundians in coordination with other actors. In Makamba province 35,216 returnees were received and oriented on the relevant available assistance on arrival at the Mabanda, Gitara and Musenyi transit camps during the period from 31 October to 31 December 2012. This was conducted in coordination with other humanitarian actors including UNHCR, IRC, CARITAS, FENACOBU, UNICEF, FAO and headed by the Government.

Following the assessments conducted by the BRC, it was found that 70 percent of the returnees are vulnerable, approximately 60 percent are children and youth aged between 0 to 17 years and 36 percent are women. A total of 104 households (431 persons) do not have land and 73 households are embroiled in conflict over land in their communities.

Through Restoration of Family Links activities, a total of 169 separated returnees and especially minors have been reunited at the end of the year. Out of these, 93 have been physically reunited while 76 were reunited through mobile telephones. In Cibitoke province, 3 families were reunited with their children who were traced in Rwanda.

BRC has set up 6 First Aid stations at entry points not covered by other humanitarian actors and is providing First Aid assistance. BRC has also provided assistance to a total of 116 voluntary returnees and 215 deported returnees in various entry points of the Burundian borders. A total of 10 entry points in Makamba, Rutana and Ruyigi provinces have been monitored.

Table 2: First Aid stations established at the entry points managed by BRC in Makamba Province

Entry Point	Number of First Aid stations	Number of volunteers at First Aid stations	Number of returnees assisted
Mugina	1	10	4
Murambi	1	5	2
Nyakazi	1	10	4
Bigina	1	5	2
Buhema	1	10	4
Gatabo	1	5	2
Total	6	45	18

Water, Sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases is reduced for 20,194 returnees (3,366 families), and 4,039 individuals (673 households) from host families (representing 20% of host communities) in Nyanza Lac, Makamba, Kibago, Kayogoro, Mabanda, Rumonge, and Giharo communes for 12 months.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of clean water, adequate sanitation (including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal) and hygiene promotion to selected beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hygiene promotion focussing on household water treatment and safe storage, sanitation and personal hygiene Disease prevention activities focussing on waterborne diseases As a pilot initiative, provision of 2,000 beneficiary menstruation kit 1 and 2 (will be funded through different funding mechanism) Training volunteers on Sanplat latrines production Purchase 1400 Sanplat moulds 200 per commune (produced locally by volunteers as part of IGA) Organise a promotion of Sanplat latrines day including awareness about importance of household latrines. Monitoring latrine construction including number of latrine constructed and in use. Establish vector control and prevention measures. Establish waste disposal measures. Initiate a hygiene promotion campaign within the affected population focusing on behaviour change and targeting 4,039 families through use of existing IEC materials Conduct two trainings in each commune on PHAST for the community and volunteers in the affected branches within the next 12 months. Make use of CHAST for school going children in all the 7 communes in the next 12 months. Carrying out of door-to-door campaigns, organized groups and through peer education across different communes.

Progress: during the reporting period, 1.5 million litres of safe water have been provided in the 3 transit camps using 6 bladder tanks. Plans are underway to purchase 1,400 SanPlat moulds and train 20 volunteers in water and sanitation. Additionally, in Makamba 3 bladders platforms of 10.000litres have been built and a total of 1,525,000 litres of water provided through water trucking while in Cibitoke 2 bladders platforms have been built and 1,525,000 litres of water provided through water trucking.

Emergency health	
Outcome: Improved health and psychosocial situation of returnees and host communities through health promotion and psychosocial support in three selected provinces.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better early detection and effective response to waterborne disease. First Aid support is provided to returnee population 	<p>Using the volunteer epidemiological control module:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of epidemic surveillance system for waterborne (Cholera) by using mobile technology for early warning and response. Conduct an assessment to determine the benefits and possibilities of using a mobile phone for reporting of acute watery diarrhea. Training Emergency Brigade Team, community health workers and MoH on Episurveyor Scaling up the use of mobile technology (Episurveyor), to alert HQ and efficiently respond to waterborne disease like Cholera outbreaks. Development of Cholera contingency plan Purchase mobile phones for monitoring of communicable diseases Purchase of promotional materials (IEC) Training/refresher of 90 volunteers on First Aid Provision of first aid by volunteers and referral of serious cases to health facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychosocial support is provided to 1673 individuals (279 families) and 130 staff/volunteers of the Burundi RC as based on need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train 30 staff and volunteers of Burundi RC on PSP intervention. Provide Psycho-Social Support to 279 families affected by the emergency. Provide Psychological Support to 130 staff and volunteers of Burundi Red Cross engaged in emergency response.

Progress: Psychosocial support has been provided to 16 children in Cibitoke and 1 First Aid Station set up.

Livelihoods	
Outcome: Reduce food insecurity for 2,000 most vulnerable returning refugees being repatriated to Burundi from Tanzania	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Productive assets/inputs for primary production are provided for 333 returning refugee households in accordance with the seasonal calendar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of vegetable seeds (aubergines, cabbages, carrots, onions and tomatoes) Distribution of vegetable seeds Ongoing monitoring

Progress: to be provided in the next update.

Logistics and Technical back-up by IFRC
Outcome: The local logistics capacity of Burundi Red Cross to support the repatriation process is strengthened with the enhanced technical logistic support of the IFRC's East Africa Regional

Representation Office	
Outputs (expected results):	Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced logistics capacity and technical support facilitate the assistance to the target 3,366 households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with BRC logistics team to ensure that IFRC procurement procedures are strictly adhered to Support the delivery of equipment and supplies dedicated to the operation

Progress: To be provided in the next update.

Communications and Fundraising-Advocacy and Public information

A regular flow of information, between the field and key stakeholders is being provided through the support of the National Society communications department. This is important for fundraising as well as creating awareness of the work of the Red Cross and maintenance of a strong profile of emergency operation given humanitarian situation.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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