



BURUNDI: HEAVY RAINS

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 62,000 (USD 51,367 or EUR 38,969) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 20 March 2007; a Final Report will be made available 3 months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached map>](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Background and current situation

About 600 households have been left homeless after their houses were destroyed following heavy rainfall in Cibitoke and Ruyigi districts, Burundi. In Cibitoke, 180 hectares of crops have been destroyed and 452 families have been rendered homeless. In Ruyigi, 369 houses have been destroyed and families rendered homeless. Bubanza, Muramvya, Karusi and Kayanza districts have also been adversely affected.

The Burundi Red Cross (BRC) local branches reported that some affected people have crossed the border into Tanzania. Currently, repatriation of Burundi refugees from Tanzania is being undertaken in a programme led by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). In addition, another ongoing operation, led by the BRC, in response to the needs of returnees from Tanzania (around 150 per day).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Burundi local/national government as well as the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization of (FAO) are currently assessing the situation. In addition, FAO has started rice seed distributions in some swampy areas.

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The BRC received an early warning on the heavy rains from the Federation regional delegation in Nairobi and disseminated the alert to appropriate branches. Volunteers from the branches helped vulnerable families to move to safer places and made a preliminary assessment on priority needs. 500 kg of rice from the World Food Programme (WFP) have been distributed by BRC.

A task force has been put in place at the BRC headquarters to collect information. Trained emergency brigades, mainly in Cibitoke and Ryugi districts, have been put on alert and deployed to assess the immediate needs and to assist affected families.

The needs

Preliminary assessment results indicate an urgent need of non-food items (NFIs), insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) and seeds. The seeds distribution is an emergency measure to enable affected families to plant early enough and recover from this emergency situation. In addition, this will contribute to increasing the population's coping mechanisms during the regular drought period in Burundi (January to May). Seeds such as beans and maize will be distributed as they have a short germination cycle.

Coordination

The BRC headquarters as well as Cibitoke and Ruyigi branches will work together with the local government and collaborate with other agencies that are supporting the affected community. BRC will implement activities through BRC field staff and volunteers under the coordination of relevant branches. BRC's disaster department will coordinate and work with the Federation sub-regional office and the regional delegation in Nairobi.

Plan of action

Goal: To provide humanitarian support to the households adversely affected by heavy rains in Burundi.

Objective 1: To provide 600 affected households in Ruyigi and Cibitoke districts with essential non-food items.

Activities

- Purchase and distribute 600 kitchen sets, 1,200 water containers/buckets, 1,200 bars of soap, 600 sheeting and 1,200 blankets.
- Mobilize, train and deploy volunteers for distribution of household items.

Expected result

- The affected population is able to prepare meals and is protected from extreme weather conditions.

Objective 2: To secure the food security situation of the affected population through provision of seeds for replanting.

Activities

- Identify affected households.
- Purchase and distribute early maturing seeds to the identified households, in close collaboration with FAO.

Expected result

- Destroyed farms are restored as soon as possible to avert a possible future food crisis.

Objective 3: To safeguard health and promote hygiene awareness among the population affected by floods.

Activities

- Conduct community hygiene sensitization and education meetings.
- Purchase and distribute 1,200 ITNs to 600 affected households.

Expected result

- The affected community is protected from possible outbreaks of vector-borne and waterborne diseases.

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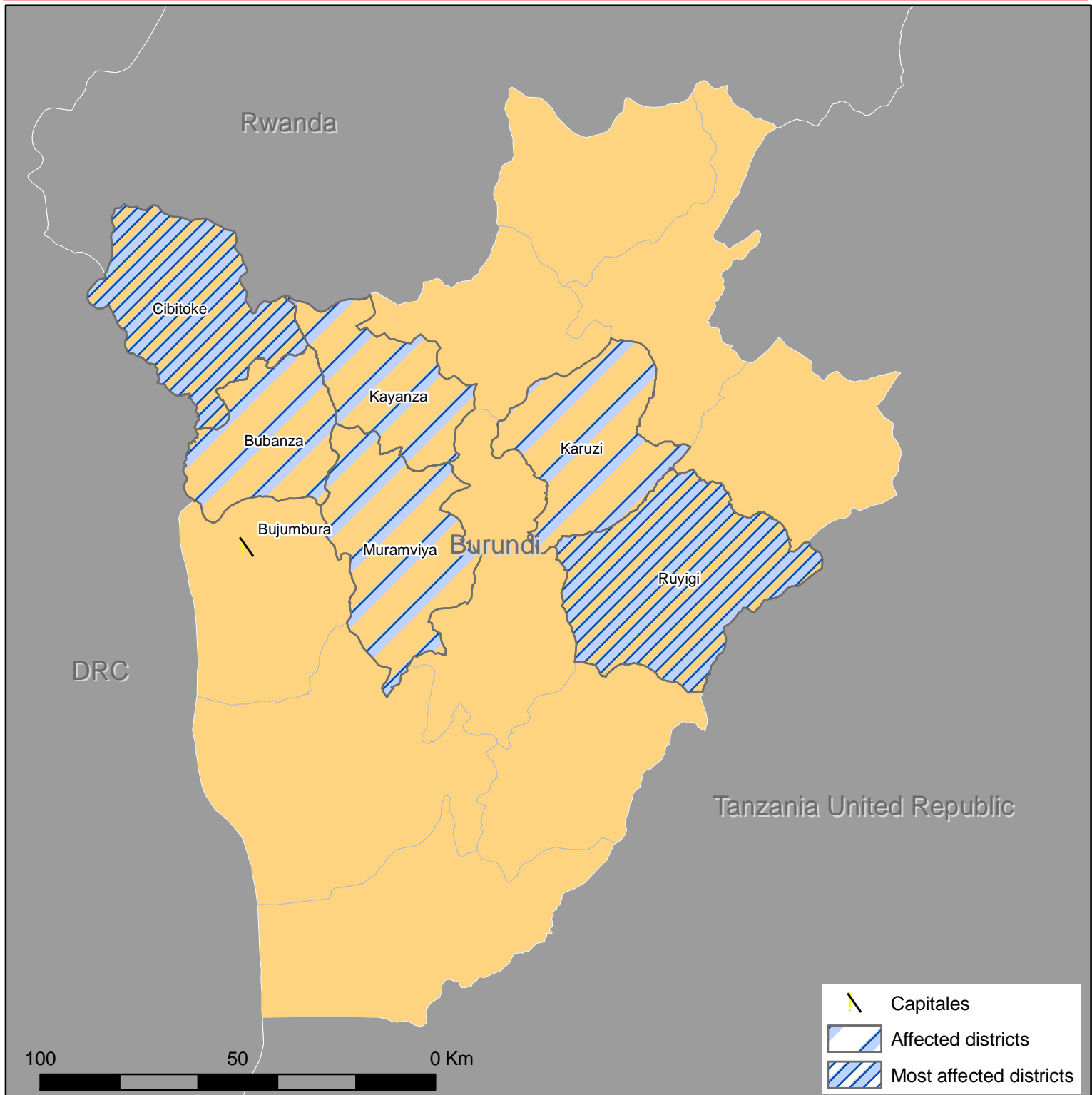
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About 600 households were left homeless after their houses and 180 ha of crops were destroyed following heavy rain fall in Cibitoke and Ruyigi (around 300 households each) in Burundi which represent 2500 people. Districts of Bubanza, Muramviya, Karuzi and Kayanza also have been diversely affected