

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

BURUNDI

26 December 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.08/2002

Appeal Target: CHF 3,075,978 (revised to CHF 1,142,978)

Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: July - December 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 87.2%

Related Appeals: N/A

Outstanding needs: Donors are encouraged to focus their support on the 2003 Annual Appeal for Burundi (no. 01.01/2003)

Operational Developments:

The transitional government of Burundi is making an effort to ensure the institutions foreseen in the Arusha Peace Accords are properly set up. In parallel it is pursuing discussions with the different factions of the National Council for the Defence of Democracy - Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) and the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) to achieve a cease-fire agreement. One wing of the CNDD-FDD has already signed such an agreement although the other wing is still negotiating. The FNL is still setting preconditions prior to any negotiation, resulting in an impasse. Fighting thus continues and even is gaining pace in almost all the provinces, particularly those on the eastern and southern borders with Tanzania, those along the north-western border with the DR Congo and Rwanda and in the province of Bujumbura Rural surrounding the capital. According to different (but corroborating) sources attacks in the central province of Gitega left nearly one thousand dead or injured civilian victims.

At the meeting of the contact group on 6 November, FAO and UNICEF presented the food security and nutrition situation. When the UN's CAP was launched on 19 November, the international community was again alerted to the nutrition situation which is likely to worsen by the end of the year. Ruyigi, Gitega, Bujumbura Rural, Muramvya, Kayanza and Ngozi are the most threatened provinces. An average of 385,000 persons continue to receive food aid provided by WFP each month; this figure may well rise to a monthly average of 1,048,243 by April 2003. More than one million Burundians depend on humanitarian aid.

Indicators in different reports from the United Nations system agencies and World Bank are all negative. HIV/AIDS is creating havoc; malaria remains the main public health problem (3 million cases between 2000-2001 out of a population of approximately 6.9 million inhabitants); diseases linked to improper disposal of faeces (683 cases of cholera in Bujumbura city were reported in early October) are also rampant; a total of 1,086 cases of meningitis have been reported in the provinces of Muyinga, Ruyigi, Gitega, Karuzi and Cankuzo, with 72 deaths as at 19 October.

The UN report indicates that Burundi is the third poorest country in the world, with 99 percent of receipts used to pay the external debt. At 30 October 2002 annual per capita GDP was USD 122, according to UNICEF; 52.8 percent of the rural population and 66.8 percent of the urban population live below the poverty line. The Burundi franc was devalued 30 percent at the beginning of September. Nearly 487,500 Burundians are internally displaced living in 211 sites (figures from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) at 24 October). Since the end of March the nearly 600,000 refugees living in Tanzania or other countries in the region whose return has been announced have been coming spontaneously or voluntarily, or accompanied by UNHCR and some humanitarian NGOs (a total of 48,865 persons have already returned to the different provinces in Burundi as at 25 November 2002). More and more persons are being displaced as a result of the continued fighting in recent months, particularly in the provinces of Bujumbura Rural, Gitega and Ruyigi, with a monthly average of 100,000 persons according to OCHA (October 2002).

At the beginning of October, in neighbouring Congo, the situation turned rapidly for the worse at Uvira when the city was taken over by the Mai-Mai, and then retaken one week later. Since 11 October, 15,134 arrivals have been recorded in Burundi (UNHCR figures), 5,956 in Gatumba (Bujumbura Rural province) and 9,178 in Rugombo (Cibitoke province). The situation has not decidedly improved but is, however, taking a positive turn: 2,500 persons still remain at Gatumba, the temporary site soon to be closed down; 6,000 to 7,300 persons still remain at Rugombo, as some have returned to the DR Congo and others have been transferred to the site in Muyinga province (UNHCR update - Burundi, 27 November 2002).

Organizational Development

The greatest challenge facing the BRC, to enable them to become stronger and more able to address the ever-growing needs of the population of the country, is to re-establish the National Society as a viable and open, well-functioning Society. The national society's top priority for its institutional development programme is therefore to implement the Task Force's (TF) recommendations and plans of action (see First Programme Update of 2002 for more details). This remains the main focus of Federation support and has taken priority over other programmes this half-year, although the BRC plans to pursue some relief and health activities.

Where does the restructuring now stand? Following the geographic division of the country into five regions and the adoption of statutes, rules of procedure and a new organizational chart on 20 May 2002, the BRC staff (and staff lent to the delegation) were all released from their duties on 31 July and 31 August - new BRC departmental managers are now being recruited in the first step of re-staffing. The statutes were published in the national daily "le Renouveau"; and the warehouses and financial management systems were audited from 1 to 10 August. The audit report is published, with recommendations to improve services (even though the auditors say they did not have access to information on funding from bilateral partners).

The present head of delegation ends his contract in early December and at this stage is not being replaced. The Federation's attempts to find a suitable OD delegate have not been successful, despite this post being open for many months. Other possible ways of supporting the BRC to follow through the Task Force's plan of action are currently under discussion with a donor National Society, and the Federation remains committed to working closely with the BRC to ensure all possible support is made available for the change process. The 2003 Appeal reflects these organisational priorities. The support of various Red Cross donors, in particular the Swedish Red Cross, to this process during 2002 is greatly appreciated.

Disaster Response

Since 1996 distribution of non-food items and seed to persons with market gardens and crop gardens has been the crux of the BRC disaster response activities, combating food insecurity. This programme is currently being supported by FAO. In conformity with the partnership protocol, the Federation has provided logistical support for the seed distributions in the current 2002B farming season which the Burundi Red Cross (BRC) carried out from 23 September to 21 October, in the provinces where it is lead agency. A total of 7,820 hoes mostly funded by the 2002 ECHO contract, were also given to FAO for distribution.

During the last six months non-food distributions supported by ECHO have targeted spontaneously displaced persons fleeing the fighting in the provinces of Bujumbura Rural, Muyinga, Bururi, Bujumbura Mairie and Ruyigi. Following considerable operational problems faced during ECHO distributions in April, the BRC made

practically no distributions during this six-month period and a considerable quantity of the goods funded by ECHO under the contract were given to other NGOs and local humanitarian associations for their distributions. The ECHO DEBI 020 stock was thus almost completely distributed, making it possible to assist a total of 26,537 households (131,785 beneficiaries) compared to the 12,750 (63,750 beneficiaries) initially foreseen. The ECHO contract ended and the final report was submitted to Brussels in September.

Further requests were also received for articles from the general (non-ECHO funded) DPP stock. The following items were released from Red Cross stocks for distribution by other agencies:

- Action Contre la Faim (ACF) received 1,500 blankets and 1,100 kg of soap for displaced persons in the province of Kayanza; and three bales of clothing for children in the therapeutic nutrition centres in the provinces of Kayanza, Ruyigi and Bubanza.
- CAFOB, an association for the promotion of women, received 200 blankets, 96 kg of soap, 100 cooking sets and 40 tarpaulins for distribution to vulnerable women in the sites for displaced persons in the provinces of Rutana and Bururi.
- the national NGO, RAMA, which cares for orphans and persons living with HIV/AIDS, received 144 kg of soap, 100 blankets, 30 cooking sets and a bale of clothing for distribution in its centre.
- the Bujumbura Rural provincial health department received seven 200-litre barrels of Creoline (a disinfectant), to cope with the cholera and dysentery epidemics at the sites for displaced persons in the province.
- the “SWAA-Burundi” association received 200 blankets, 240 kg of soap, 50 cooking sets and a bale of clothing for persons living with HIV/AIDS whom it cares for.

Disaster Preparedness

The BRC and the Federation planned to strengthen the existing emergency non-food stocks to respond to the needs of war victims and other vulnerable populations, and prior to the repatriation of refugees from abroad. From 12 to 25 November we transferred DPP articles stocked at Ngozi to Bujumbura, as rental was increased sharply making it uneconomic to rent the Ngozi warehouse. After consulting the national society, the regional delegation and the desk in Geneva, it was commonly agreed to centralise the stocks. DPP stocks currently available in our warehouses in Bujumbura, provided by the Federation, the British Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross and the Belgian/FI Red Cross, globally comprise: 21,936 blankets, 10,397 cooking sets, 19,713 jerrycans, 16,959 kangas, 25,368 kg of soap, 10,939 tarpaulins, nearly 6,300 kg of clothing, 12,100 mosquito nets, 600 litres of Creoline and 1,000 litres of Isale. These figures are to be confirmed after the general physical inventory.

Constraints are above all financial and material. Budget reductions led to the elimination of some programmes, including training for the emergency brigades initially planned for 2002. It is furthermore often difficult to replenish the non-food item stocks as some items desired are not available on the local market and, when they are, they are of poor quality. We must therefore order abroad but all the procedures from the bidding process to delivery, not to mention the administrative formalities, take a lot of time. No other solution is possible for the time being.

Humanitarian Values

The BRC set up this programme to promote humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement among its programme beneficiaries, young people in clubs and women’s groups who can be change agents in their communities, so as to create a spirit of solidarity favourable to respect for human dignity and the promotion of IHL throughout the country. As no funding was received in 2002 no activities have been undertaken this period.

Health and Care

In the second half of 2002, ongoing health activities have been funded bilaterally by the Spanish Red Cross, UNFPA and UNICEF. The UNFPA/BRC bilateral HIV/AIDS programme is being pursued normally for the displaced persons at the sites in the provinces of Bururi, Rutana and Makamba. The July-September 2002 progress report mentions the following achievements: three workshops, held at Makamba, Bururi and Rutana, increased the awareness of 150 administrative representatives, site managers and representatives of religious

faiths, 50 per province. In cooperation with the PNLs (national AIDS programme), 40 trainers were trained - 20 for Makamba, 10 for Bururi and 10 for Rutana - as well as 276 peer educators for the province of Makamba, and 208 for Bururi. Insecurity in Rutana has prevented training from beginning. Promotional items (umbrellas, T-shirts, badges, kangas), teaching aids and audio-visual support (trainer's guide, educational pictures, 50 radio cassettes, 4 videos and 4 generators) are already available and being distributed; 96 health workers have been trained in counselling. The rest of the training - peer educators in Rutana, screening techniques for STD and HIV/AIDS - will take place by the end of December, as planned.

Regional Cooperation

There is good regional cooperation in several areas. The national societies of the Seychelles and Rwanda are part of the Task Force. A follow-up TF meeting was held during the ACROFA meeting in October. The BRC president also spent some days in Rwanda discussing how their restructuring had developed.

The telecommunications technician went on a two-week mission to Rwanda and Goma at the end of October to assist with a telecoms assessment, inventory and to instal some equipment. He is now in Côte d'Ivoire and in Niger for one month, at the request of the Abidjan regional delegation.

The finance and administration delegate posted in Kigali has continued to support the Burundi delegation's finance procedures during this period..

Coordination and Management

The Federation's coordination role with the BRC has to be examined and better redefined, as recommended by the Task Force. The BRC must clearly state what it wants in terms of Federation support, and the recommendations from the audit report will help clarify some of these points.

The Federation participates actively in the regular meetings with the other humanitarian actors coordinated by the UN's humanitarian coordinator ensuring the most appropriate coverage of humanitarian needs in Burundi.

Outstanding needs

At this end of year, it must be recognized that the programmes initially planned in appeal 2002 have not been implemented as foreseen, the main reason being that all the Federation-funded programmes were frozen so as to grant priority to support for the current restructuring, as decided by the Task Force. This will remain the priority for the foreseeable future. The operating capacity of the BRC at this time is extremely weak and rebuilding of the Society has to be completed before they can be taken as a competent and effective agency. Until this is achieved and despite the current crisis for the population of the country, the BRC cannot contribute towards their assistance. This is one of the major challenges facing the national society in the future, and technical and financial support to the change process by all partners over the months ahead remains the most effective way of supporting the BRC and Burundi and its enormous humanitarian needs in the longer term..

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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Burundi						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.08/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			27.12.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'142'978		TOTAL COVERAGE 87.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				669'413		
BELGIUM - RC		17'670	EUR	25'904	09.04.2002	DP, EMERGENCY STOCKS
BRITISH - RC				4'992	31.01.2002	DELEGATE COURSE FEE
GERMAN - RC		2'800	EUR	4'106	16.05.2002	GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NORWEGIAN - RC		20'000	NOK	3'810	08.04.2002	TASK FORCE ONS PARTICIPATION
SWEDISH - GOVT		750'000	SEK	268'770	24.05.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				976'995	CHF	85.5%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			9'692		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			9'692		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				19'384	CHF	1.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	