

BURUNDI, RWANDA, TANZANIA, UGANDA & ZAIRE: RWANDAN AND BURUNDIAN REFUGEES

11 November 1996

emergency appeal no. 01.02/96

situation report no. 13

period covered: 07-11 November 1996

EMERGENCY REPORT - KIVU CRISIS

Introductory note

As requested by various parties, here follows a brief description of the Federation's relief operations and assets in the Great Lakes countries as of 11 November.

Burundi •

One Delegation in Bujumbura (five delegates) and one sub-Delegation in Ngozi (three delegates) are engaged together with the Burundi Red Cross (strong of over 200 volunteers) in the following activities:

- general management of Katumba transit camp, in the vicinity of Bujumbura, currently hosting approximately 10,000 Burundian refugees returning from Zaire.
- ◆ general management of Gihanga camp, 20 km west of Bujumbura, currently hosting a few hundred Zairian refugees.
- ◆ non-food assistance to approximately 67,000 vulnerable in Ngozi area.

Emergency stocks pre-positioned in Burundi include 4,800 tarpaulins, 26,800 blankets and 45 MT of soap. The Delegation can count on 11 light vehicles and 4 trucks.

Rwanda •

One Delegation in Kigali (12 delegates, three of which are currently posted in Gisenye and one in Butare) is engaged together with the Rwanda Red Cross in the following activities:

- food and non-food distributions to 13,500 Zairian refugees in Umubano camp and to 3,300 in Mudende camp (Gisenye prefecture);
- non-food distributions to approximately 10,000 vulnerable families in five communes in Butare prefecture, where over 76,000 Rwandan refugees returned to in August;

Emergency stocks pre-positioned in Rwanda include 1,200 rolls of plastic sheeting, 45,600 tarpaulins, 25,250 plastic jerry cans, 95,000 blankets, 10,600 mats, 65 MT of soap, 65 family tents (18 sq/m) and 13 hospital tents (50 sq/m). The Delegation can count on 15 light vehicles and 5 trucks.

Tanzania •

One Delegation in Dar-es-Salaam (one delegate), one office in Mwanza (one delegate) and one sub-Delegation in Ngara (nineteen delegates and five hundred volunteers of the Tanzania Red Cross) are engaged in the following activities:

- distribution of food and non-food items, provision of drinking water, sanitation, health care (community health, dispensaries, referral hospital) to 161,000 refugees in Benaco and Lukole camps

Emergency stocks pre-positioned in Tanzania include 263 rolls of plastic sheeting, 3,585 tarpaulins, 36,600 jerry cans, 20,500 blankets, 64 MT of soap, 42 family tents, 32 hospital tents, 3 rubb halls, 10 MT of high protein biscuits, 1,000 MT of maize and 350 MT of beans. On top of an extensive emergency water-sanitation stock, the sub-Delegation in Ngara can count on a fleet of almost 50 vehicles, including Land Cruisers, trucks and water tankers.

Uganda •

Two delegates seconded to the Great Lakes operation are engaged together with the Uganda Red Cross in the assistance to 11,000 Rwandan refugees in the camps of Orukinga and Nakivale and to 13,000 Zairian refugees in the camp of Kisoro.

Nairobi Operations Support Unit •

The eight-delegates-strong Operations Support Unit (OSU) is presently supported by two Secretariat officers (health and logistics) with co-ordination functions. Two Emergency Response Units (basic health from the Norwegian Red Cross and mass water/sanitation from the Swedish Red Cross) are in stand by in Nairobi, ready to be deployed. The OSU emergency stock includes 2,600 rolls of plastic sheeting, 92,000 tarpaulins, 79,000 jerry cans, 40,000 mats, 15,000 kitchen sets, 565 MT of soap, 140 family tents, 10 hospital tents, 6 rubb halls, 10 MT of high protein biscuits and 15 WHO emergency health kits.

The combined stocks available throughout the region are estimated sufficient to respond to the non-food needs of a population of 250,000 refugees/returnees.

Latest events

Zaire •

After a few days of uncertainty, aid agencies were allowed today across the border between Gisenye and Goma. It is a common understanding, though, that the area between Mugunga and Sake, where up to 700,000 refugees are believed to amass, remains inaccessible both for survey and for assistance purposes. The road leading to the camps from Goma is still the theatre of fighting between Tutsi rebels on one side and the Zairian army plus elements of the ex-Forces Armées Rwandaises on the other side. Mortar shells were reported to have fallen on the outskirts of the town today in the early morning. It is therefore impossible, for the time being, to tell where and in what conditions the bulk of the refugee population is.

The Head of Rwanda Delegation met today with the President of the Kivu branch of the Zaire Red Cross. Plans were made for the regrouping of the more than five hundred volunteers the branch could count upon before the latest events. Foreseeing a possible future external support to the branch, ways to improve the communication with the delegates based in Gisenye were also discussed.

Various sources reported lately an increasing number of displaced gathering in the area of Kisangani (500 km west of Goma). A senior representative will travel tomorrow from Geneva to Brazzaville and then to Kinshasa as the Federation and the Zaire Red Cross are planning a joint mission in the area of Kisangani for the end of this week. The objectives of the mission are a) to establish contacts with the local branch of the Zaire Red Cross, with the political and military authorities, b) to assess the situation as far as the displaced are concerned and c) to explore the possibility of establishing operational bases in eastern Zaire in order to assist the refugees who have left Goma and Bukavu and are reported to be travelling westwards.

Tanzania •

An assessment mission manned by two officers from the Geneva Secretariat and by the heads of the Norwegian and Swedish ERU arrived today in Kigoma. UNHCR had approached the Federation and the Tanzania Red Cross asking them to assume responsibility for up to 50,000 Zairian and Burundian refugees who might gather on the Tanzanian side of lake Tanganyika in the near future. The Federation and its partner Society have responded positively, offering to engage in the set-up of one or more camps, to be possibly handed back to UNHCR after a few months. Negotiations with the Tanzanian authorities are being carried out regarding the site for the camp(s), while another 4,000 refugees have arrived today, bringing the total number of asylum seekers up to 17,500.

Piero Calvi Parisetti
Senior Officer
Great Lakes Desk

Bekele Geleta
Director
Africa Department