

OPERATIONS 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: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO RETURNEES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

APPEAL EXTENSION

Appeal no. MDRBI001

17 May 2007

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

Appeal No. MDRBI001; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 8 May 2006 to 28 February 2007; Appeal coverage: 50%; [<Click here to go directly to the attached interim financial report>](#)

Appeal history:

- [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 24 March 2006 for CHF 1,580,238 (USD 1,196,244 or EUR 1,009,737) in cash, kind, or services for 12 months to assist 22,000 beneficiaries and other vulnerable groups through targeted shelter, food, seed, health as well as water and sanitation interventions.
- [Operations update no. 1](#) was posted on 29 May 2006.
- This Operations Update seeks to extend the timeframe of the operation by six months (until 25 September 2007) to enable the completion of planned activities.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 90,525.

Outstanding needs: CHF 796,624 (USD 658,367 or EUR 485,746).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- East Africa sub-regional programmes; Appeal 2006-2007 ([Appeal no MAA64003](#)).
- East Africa Regional Drought Response ([DREF Bulletin no. MDR64001](#)).

Operational Summary: The Burundi Red Cross has been managing two transit sites for the returnees; one in the north east (Muyinga) and the other one in the east (Cankuzo). Through this operation, the National Society has had an excellent opportunity to reinforce its image with the Burundian Government, donors and the targeted population, and strengthen its potential in disaster management in order to respond quickly and adequately to emergencies.

Though the returnee operation was initially scheduled to be implemented over 12 months, in the course of the operation, the National Society was compelled to temporarily divert its resources to respond to other unfolding humanitarian crises in the country. They include heavy rains in Cibitoke and Ruyigi provinces (at the end of 2006) – that left about 600 households homeless – and floods (in January 2007) that caused further destruction to houses in lowland regions of Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie provinces. Furthermore, the repatriation process was slowed down by the 2006 drought and the resulting famine situation. A combination of these factors led to the postponement of some planned activities under the returnees operation. As a result, the National Society was unable to complete its activities as scheduled. The National Society is now seeking to extend the returnees operation by six months (until 25 September 2007) to enable it to carry out activities which were not completed.

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

In January 2006, Burundi Red Cross (BRC) was provided with CHF 90,525 from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable it to assess and begin to respond to pressing humanitarian needs of returnee populations in Burundi. An assessment was conducted in January/February 2006 with assistance from the Federation's Regional Delegation in Nairobi and a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT). From the assessment findings, strategies were identified to support vulnerable returnees in their trek to and integration into their new communities in Makamba, Muyinga, Kirundo and Ruyigi provinces, while strengthening community infrastructure to deliver basic services to vulnerable people (both locals and returnees). In total, the operation targeted 22,000 beneficiaries, including women-headed households and pregnant women.

Operational developments

It is believed that approximately 200,000 Burundians were living in Tanzania without refugee status. In mid May 2006, Tanzanian authorities began involuntary repatriation of this group of Burundians across the northern border, through Muyinga Province; by July 2006, 1,200 people had been repatriated. Volunteers from the Muyinga branch of Burundi Red Cross mobilized the communities around Muyinga Province and collected food and clothing to assist the returnees, most of whom had lost their belongings. 500 returnees received assistance, demonstrating the success with which the National Society mobilized local assistance.

At the end of June 2006, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) launched a campaign to mobilize assistance for the returnees (both UNHCR-assisted returnees and those who were involuntarily repatriated). Between 10 and 16 July 2006, UNHCR facilitated the return of 733 Burundians. Reports also indicate that there has been an agreement between the Tanzanian Government, Rwandan Government and UNHCR for voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees.

Meanwhile, the Muyinga provincial administration has been tasked to follow up on negotiations with the Tanzanian authorities to enable better coordination of assistance to the returnees. Presently, repatriations facilitated by the UNHCR have resumed, and it is expected that the influx of Burundian returnees will increase considerably between May and June 2007. According to reports received from the BRC, there are two main categories of Burundians involuntarily repatriated from Tanzania:

- Migrants who arrived in Tanzania between 2005 and 2006 because of food shortages in Burundi (mainly from Kirundo and Muyinga provinces). These are predominantly men looking for odd jobs, with few assets or links in Tanzania;
- Women cohabitating with Tanzanian 'husbands' (not formally married under Tanzanian law). This group is of particular concern as it seems that the women were repatriated with their younger children, while the older ones remained with their fathers in Tanzania.

Accordingly, the Burundi Red Cross shifted its focus to include this vulnerable group of returnees. The repatriation process was, however, slowed down by the 2006 drought and resulting famine situation in Burundi. This led to the postponement of some planned activities under the returnees operation until October 2006. As a result, the National Society was unable to complete its activities as scheduled. The delayed activities include the World Food Programme/Food and Agriculture Organization-training in food and crops monitoring system for Red Cross volunteers and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation activities in the returnee communities.

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The occurrence of heavy rains in Cibitoke and Ruyigi provinces at the end of 2006 left about 600 households homeless. Bubanza, Muramvya, Karuzi and Kayanza provinces were also adversely affected. The local Red Cross branches reported that some of the affected people crossed the border into Tanzania. The heavy rains were followed by floods in January 2007 which resulted in further serious destruction of houses in lowland regions of Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie provinces; about 1,500 houses were damaged and more than 10,000 people were affected. Damage to houses was also noted in Muramvya Province in the north east of Bujumbura, with a total of 1,300 houses submerged, according to the BRC reports.



The availability of potable water at the Kinazi Transit Site has minimized the incidence of waterborne diseases.

The national headquarters of Burundi Red Cross, in collaboration with its branches in Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural as well as the provincial administration, undertook a joint rapid assessment of the situation and the most urgent needs in the affected zones. Red Cross volunteers carried out water treatment in the affected provinces in order to prevent and minimize the risks of outbreaks of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases. The volunteers also initiated information, education and communication (IEC) forums on best practices on hygiene to prevent diseases. In addition, the Burundi Red Cross initiated an emergency response operation targeting 1,500 flood-affected households in Cibitoke, Ruyigi, Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie provinces for 3 months [\(DREF Bulletin MDRBI002, Update no. 1\)](#). This new emergency meant that the capacity of Burundi Red Cross was overstretched; it contributed further to the slow implementation rate of the returnee operation.

The National Society has been managing two transit sites for the returnees; one in the north east (Muyinga) and the other one in the east (Cankuzo). This operation has been running in parallel with the organizational development processes of the National Society which involves setting up of regional structures, particularly in areas experiencing massive repatriation. As part of the National Society's disaster management programme, an early warning system has been initiated. This will enable it to be more prepared and more efficient in responding to disasters. Disaster management coordinators have been recruited in the Muyinga, Ruyigi and Makamba provinces to oversee the implementation and coordination of disaster preparedness and response activities. Through this operation, the National Society has had an excellent opportunity to reinforce its image with the Burundian Government, donors and the targeted population, and strengthen its potential in disaster management in order to respond quickly and adequately to emergencies. In view of these operational developments, the National Society is now seeking to extend the Burundi returnees operation by six months to enable it to carry out activities which were not completed in 2006.



Burundi Red Cross volunteers demonstrate a method of administering first aid as part of CBFA training.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Goal: To provide humanitarian assistance, including food security, livelihood, water and sanitation, and health support, to the most vulnerable returnees and the communities receiving them.

Objective 1: To provide information, first aid and material assistance to 10,000 of the most vulnerable groups among the returnees.

Progress

In April 2006, training workshops were conducted for Burundi Red Cross staff and volunteers. The workshops covered sectors such as camp selection and management, logistics, resource mobilization, distribution of relief items, registration of refugees in camps, first aid, and water and sanitation. They aimed at increasing knowledge and skills, and improving effectiveness of service delivery.

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In Muyinga, the Burundi Red Cross, with assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), established a transit site for the returnees in Kinazi (about four kilometres from the Tanzania-Burundi border). The Kinazi Transit Site has so far registered 6,500 people, some of whom were originally from Kirundo and Ngozi provinces. Others were transferred to their communes of origin by the Ministry of Social Solidarity. Another transit site set up in Munzenze, Cankuzo Province, in December 2006 has registered 100 people. The transit camps have also continually provided food to the most vulnerable returnees.

BRC volunteers continuously provided guidance and information to returnees on the available services and activities at the Kinazi Transit Camp, thus facilitating transfer from the transit sites to communes. Red Cross Action Team members also gained practical experience in working with returnees. This was particularly useful in giving them a direct link between instruction and practice.

Objective 2: To provide appropriate shelter, modelled on UNHCR designs, for 500 vulnerable women-headed households in locations that may include Makamba, Ruyigi, Kirundo, and Muyinga.

Progress



A returnee mother and her children sit in their newly-constructed house after it was handed over by the Burundi Red Cross.

Red Cross volunteers in Cibitoke Province made 700,000 bricks to be used to put up 200 houses. The exercise targets to make bricks enough for the construction of more than 500 houses for vulnerable returnees and other vulnerable people in the community. If the house construction project is successfully completed, construction of primary schools and houses for teachers in Ruyigi Province – with assistance from other humanitarian agencies – will follow as part of a community reintegration action plan.

The Burundi Red Cross successfully built a total of 70 houses in five provinces (20 in Muyinga, nine in Makamba, 23 in Kayanza, 12 in Ngozi and six in Ruyigi); latrines were also built for each of these households (70 in total). The completion of the houses has enabled 70 vulnerable returnee households, including women-headed households, to have access to shelter thus reducing the vulnerabilities

brought about by homelessness. It is hoped that having shelter will further ease the burden of social reintegration and rehabilitation of the returnees.

Constraints

Most of the returnees could not contribute towards the construction of houses. Burundi Red Cross branches mobilized their volunteers to make bricks for building shelters based on the UNHCR model. This meant that other planned activities which required volunteer participation had to be given secondary priority due to human resource limitations.

Objective 3: To increase the resilience of 2,000 vulnerable returnees households through distribution of mosaic-resistant manioc seeds, tools and one-time food and non-food items distribution (500 vulnerable women-headed households in locations such as Makamba, Ruyigi, Kirundo and Muyinga and 1,500 who are still vulnerable after the UNHCR three month food basket concludes).

Progress

With support from the Burundi Government agencies, the Burundi Red Cross provided 500 returnees with food, between May and July 2006, before they were transferred to their communes of origin. Some of these returnees were also given small food rations comprised of 10 kilogrammes (kg) of beans and 10 kg of maize.

The National Society purchased food items to assist vulnerable returnees upon the conclusion of the UNHCR three-month return packages. Each returnee household received a three-month ration consisting of 36 kg of beans, 10.8 kg of maize, 1.8 litres of oil and 3.6 kg of maize flour to enable them to meet their immediate food requirements while allowing them to prepare for the next planting season. These food items were distributed based on the UNHCR distribution protocol. A total of 18 tonnes of beans, 5.4 tonnes of maize, 0.9 tonnes of oil and 1.8 tonnes of maize

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flour were distributed to 490 beneficiary families in Makamba, Muyinga, Kayanza, Ngozi and Ruyigi. These distributions ensured that there was continuity in food supply and averted a potential food crisis among the returnees following the end of the UNHCR food basket.

In collaboration with ICRC and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), mosaic-resistant manioc (cassava) cuttings were first grown in a Burundi Red Cross experimentation field and later distributed to beneficiary farmers in Gitega, Muramvya and Ruyigi provinces, to the benefit of 100 vulnerable households. These households are now less dependent on the host communities, making integration easier.

Objective 4: To contribute to a reduced incidence of malaria amongst vulnerable pregnant women lacking access to health care in areas that may include Makamba, Ruyigi, Kirundo and Muyinga through the provision of 2,000 insecticide-treated bed nets, through health promotion activities for the community, and through guidance to volunteers on pertinent methodologies.

Progress

Identification and targeting of vulnerable returnee and local pregnant women was carried out. These groups were subsequently referred to the Kinazi Health Centre in the Kinazi Site, ensuring that they were screened for malaria and hygiene-related diseases.

The Burundi Red Cross distributed insecticide-treated bed nets to 100 vulnerable women in the Bujumbura, Muyinga and Makamba provinces. The provision of these bed nets will minimize the risk of malaria among pregnant mothers and their unborn children.

Five hundred households belonging to vulnerable women returnees and other women in the host communities were disinfected with insecticides to destroy potential mosquito breeding sites.



A pregnant woman receives an insecticide-treated bed net from Burundi Red Cross volunteers.

Objective 5: To improve community access to safe water sources, to construct latrines for 50 of the most vulnerable families (returnees and from host communities) and to increase awareness regarding good general water and sanitation behaviours in the main destination communities of returnees through water source rehabilitation activities in Makamba, Ruyigi, Kirundo and Muyinga.

Progress

Red Cross volunteers dug 18 temporary latrines for use by the returnees at the transit camps before they were transferred to their communes of origin. The National Society is working closely with the ICRC to provide water using trucks. The need for potable water at the Kinazi Transit Site has been addressed through the installation of a water bladder with a capacity of 15,000 litres.

Furthermore, the National Society has constructed a total of ten water sources in villages that received large numbers of vulnerable returnees and suffer acute water shortages. Five of the water sources are in Muyinga Province, while the other five are in Ruyigi Province. Beneficiaries in these areas now have access to safe drinking water, thus minimizing the incidences of waterborne disease outbreaks. Women, in particular, have easier access to water since the water sources are within the proximity of their households, allowing time for other chores.

Objective 6: To reinforce the capacity of the National Society for appropriate management, implementation and coordination of project activities in areas that may include Makamba, Ruyigi, Kirundo and Muyinga.

Progress

Red Cross volunteers were trained in health, disaster response, Sphere minimum standards and community-based first aid in the Muyinga, Ruyigi and Makamba provincial branches of the Burundi Red Cross. The capacity of the volunteers to deliver effective services within their communities has been reinforced through the trainings.

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Disaster management coordinators have been recruited in Muyinga, Ruyigi and Makamba provinces to oversee the implementation and coordination of disaster preparedness and response activities. This has resulted in regular follow up of activities in the three provinces, which has in turn led to improved coordination, more accountability and better recordkeeping practices by the National Society.

The National Society acquired a pick up vehicle to facilitate logistics of the operation as well as the movement of staff and volunteers during monitoring, supervision and coordination of the operation. Information leaflets and instruction materials on health and security issues were produced.

Constraints

The lack of permanent staff in the provincial branches of the Burundi Red Cross as well as the limited human resource at the national headquarters did not allow for regular follow up of activities in the field.

Federation coordination

The ICRC provided water for domestic use during the initial stages of the operation. It also supported in the installation of a 15,000-litre water bladder with two water distribution stands (each with six taps) and water trucking. Talks were held with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and other humanitarian agencies for the sustenance of supply of water. The IRC, in collaboration with the Burundi Red Cross and other partners, is working on tracing biological parents and guardians who can accommodate children whose parents have not been traced. So far, nine children have been placed.

The International Medical Corps (IMC) has supplied a medical kit to the Kinazi Health Centre to assist the most vulnerable. The IMC identified and transferred seven severely malnourished children from the group that arrived on 12 August to the health centre.

The Norwegian Refugee Council expressed its interest in monitoring the situation – as regards the influx of Burundian returnees – and has begun gathering information. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provided 120 rolls of plastic sheeting, for temporary shelter, prior to the assembling of 600 iron roofing pieces from the Red Cross. CRS also conducted a joint needs assessment with the Burundi Red Cross (in August 2006) and has positioned a contingency stock of non-food items for 500 households at the Muyinga Diocesan bureau.

Twenty tonnes of dry food were dispatched to Muyinga by a government agency and the Ministry of Social Solidarity in July 2006. The World Food Programme has expressed interest in providing some wet food at the transit site. The Food and Agriculture Organization/Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (ERCU) has been working closely with the BRC on modalities for further assistance in the communes of origin by means of food and seed distribution. The distribution aims to assist 14,593 vulnerable families based on refined targeting mechanisms established by UN agencies, non-governmental organization partners and the Government of Burundi in July 2006.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement were addressed during the design of this operation and continue to be promoted during implementation within the target area. Among the returning Burundians, women-headed households are a particularly vulnerable group. In this respect, they are part of those who have been targeted as beneficiaries of the newly-constructed houses.

Communications – Advocacy and public information

The Burundi Red Cross will continue reporting on progress made in the operation through Operations Updates. The Federation's regional communications manager made a reporting visit to Burundi in 2006. Following the visit, a number of stories were produced on the challenges faced by the National Society in the returnees operation and in Burundi in general. The stories, which were posted on the Federation's website, helped to increase interest of Partner National Societies in providing longer-term support to the Burundi Red Cross. The stories included: [Coming home to Burundi after 13 years in a refugee camp: a cow from heaven](#); [The future trickles back to Burundi](#); and [Burundi transformation](#)."

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Operations Update no. 2 (Appeal extension)**

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- ***In Burundi:*** *Katiyunguruza Anselme, Secretary General, Burundi Red Cross, Bujumbura; email: croixrougeburundi2000@yahoo.fr; telephone +257.21.8871; fax +257.21.11.01*
- ***In Kenya:*** *Esther Okwanga, Federation Head of East Africa Sub-Regional Office; email: esther.okwanga@ifrc.org; telephone +254.20.283.50.00; fax +254.20.271.27.77*
- ***In Kenya:*** *Per Jensnäs, Federation Head of Eastern Africa Regional Delegation, Nairobi; email: per.jensnaes@ifrc.org; telephone +254.20.283.51.24; fax +254.20.271.84.15*
- ***In Kenya:*** *Youcef Ait-Chellouche, Acting Disaster Management Coordinator, Eastern Africa Regional Delegation, Nairobi; email: youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org; telephone +254.20.283.52.11; fax +254.20.271.27.77*
- ***In Geneva:*** *Amna Al Ahmar, Federation Regional Officer for East Africa, Africa Department; email: amna.alahmar@ifrc.org; telephone +41.22.730.4427 ; fax +41.22.733.03.95*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the National Society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

[<Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBI001 - BURUNDI REFUGEES & IDP RETURNEES

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/3
Appeal	MDRBI001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		1,580,239				1,580,239
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Government</i>		401,340				401,340
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		78,900				78,900
<i>Irish Government</i>		77,723				77,723
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>		49,790				49,790
<i>Libyan Red Crescent</i>		1,000				1,000
<i>PRM</i>		0				0
<i>Saudi Arabia - Private Donors</i>		5,042				5,042
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		169,820				169,820
C1. Cash contributions		783,614				783,614
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		783,614				783,614
D. Total Funding = B + C		783,614				783,614

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		783,614				783,614
E. Expenditure		-393,064				-393,064
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		390,550				390,550

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/5
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		1,580,239					1,580,239	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	345,680						345,680	
Construction Materials			58,855			58,855	-58,855	
Clothing & textiles	25,340		12,348			12,348	12,992	
Food	48,000						48,000	
Seeds,Plants			11,301			11,301	-11,301	
Water & Sanitation	33,851		6,005			6,005	27,846	
Medical & First Aid	4,913						4,913	
Utensils & Tools	34,000		364			364	33,636	
Total Supplies	491,784		88,872			88,872	402,912	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	337,037		6,825			6,825	330,212	
Computers & Telecom	43,210		1,215			1,215	41,995	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	20,371						20,371	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	400,618		8,040			8,040	392,578	
Transport & Storage								
Storage			24			24	-24	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	30,111		31,111			31,111	-1,000	
Total Transport & Storage	30,111		31,135			31,135	-1,024	
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	80,000		13,768			13,768	66,232	
Delegate Benefits	78,000		11,370			11,370	66,630	
National Staff			18,923			18,923	-18,923	
National Society Staff	135,901		6,270			6,270	129,631	
Consultants			10,244			10,244	-10,244	
Total Personnel Expenditures	293,901		60,575			60,575	233,326	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	45,925		9,465			9,465	36,460	
Total Workshops & Training	45,925		9,465			9,465	36,460	
General Expenditure								
Travel	60,082		18,830			18,830	41,252	
Information & Public Relation	50,466		3,243			3,243	47,223	
Office Costs			1,189			1,189	-1,189	
Communications			497			497	-497	
Financial Charges			7,200			7,200	-7,200	
Other General Expenses	104,636		228			228	104,408	
Total General Expenditure	215,184		31,187			31,187	183,997	
Federation Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies			138,241			138,241	-138,241	
Total Federation Contributions & Tr			138,241			138,241	-138,241	
Program Support								
Program Support	102,716		25,549			25,549	77,166	
Total Program Support	102,716		25,549			25,549	77,166	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,580,239		393,064			393,064	1,187,175	
VARIANCE (C - D)			1,187,175			1,187,175		

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBI001 - BURUNDI REFUGEES & IDP RETURNEES

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/5
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IV. Project Details

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
Disaster Management							
PBI541	Refugees Return	0	783,614	-393,064	390,550	1,580,239	1,187,175
Sub-Total Disaster Management		0	783,614	-393,064	390,550	1,580,239	1,187,175
Total	BURUNDI REFUGEES & IDP	0	783,614	-393,064	390,550	1,580,239	1,187,175