

ANNUAL REPORT



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

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This Annual Report is intended for reporting on the Federation's Annual Appeals only.

Appeal No. 01.11/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 3,374,756 (USD 2,078,954 or EUR 2,308,179)

Operational Developments

Eight years after the outbreak of civil war in Burundi, the population continued to suffer the consequences of the conflict. Following the departure of the Rwandan refugees in 1996, the Burundi Red Cross (BRC) and the International Federation reoriented their activities in the capital Bujumbura and in 12 of the 16 provinces where the BRC was present. Vulnerable groups who had fled their homes during the fighting and those living in camps for displaced persons, received humanitarian assistance. .

According to a UN report published in 2000 Burundi's progress when measured against political, health, and socio-economic indicators was negative. The country's economy was ranked 174th (out of 206). Over 60% of the population of 6.85 million lived below the poverty line while the country's gross national product (GNP) fell by 55%, from USD 240 in 1980 to USD 120 in 1999. A June 2001 study by UNICEF put the number of internally displaced persons at 432,809 in 212 sites, i.e. a 6% increase compared with the year 2000. Some 390,000 Burundians sought refuge in Tanzania, swelling the ranks of an estimated 200,000 persons who had fled the fighting in the 1970s and an additional 23,000 who had gone to eight neighbouring countries. In comparison, only 22,643 returnees were registered between January and September 2001. More than one million Burundians needed humanitarian aid; most displaced persons still lived in sites or were scattered across the country while the remaining population of 5.7 million had poor access to food, basic social services and economic opportunities. War-related destruction and insufficient maintenance of social infrastructure adversely affected the provision of basic social services, including health and access to drinking water and latrines, while 21% of the urban population and 7.4% of the rural community were infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. The provinces in the north and north east (Karizi, Kayanza, Kirundo, Muramvya, Muyinga, Mwaro, Ngozi) had suffered from persistent drought since 1998, resulting in a considerable drop in the production of legumes and cereals (-31% and -9%) and worsening food security (WFP estimated that 711,000 persons needed food aid). The malnutrition rate rose sharply (there were 94,554 admissions to supplementary and therapeutic nutrition centres in February 2001 as compared with 39,567 in 2000);

A malaria epidemic decimated an already weakened population, affecting the entire **country and** reaching, for the first time, the high-altitude regions; 722,712 patients were registered at hospitals and health centres in November 2000, compared with 162,553 in November 1999.

At the end of February 2001, violent fighting broke out between armed opposition groups and the national army in Bujumbura and in the outlying districts to the north, causing the temporary displacement of approximately 54,000 persons. In March and April, the conflict intensified in Rutana, Gitega, Mwaro and Muramvya provinces, prompting the displacement of more than 40,000 additional persons and the destruction of property, goods and public buildings.

Although a transition government was set up on 1 November 2001, in accordance with the Arusha peace accords, armed clashes increased in the provinces of Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Rutana, Karuzi, Kayanza, Bururi, Makamba and Bujumbura rural, causing further movements, kidnappings and the destruction of public buildings such as schools and clinics.

In all, about 100,000 persons were displaced throughout the country and in Bujumbura. The unstable security environment hindered access to victims and the provision of emergency aid by humanitarian agencies, and prevented the return of displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

Disaster response

Objective 1: to provide farming and non-food supplies to the most vulnerable groups thus enabling them to reduce their dependence on humanitarian assistance.

Achievements

As part of the national food-security programme, the FAO, through the BRC, provided agricultural supplies (seeds for crops and market gardens, and hoes) to be distributed by NGO partners throughout the country. In the provinces of Kirundo, Makamba, Ngozi and Bururi, where it is the lead agency, the BRC, with logistical support from the Federation distributed 1,602,455 kg of beans, 47,417 hoes, 918 kg of market garden seed and 123,965 kg of maize to 166,898 vulnerable families (i.e. 834,490 persons or 5 persons per family) in 2001. Non-food supplies were funded by ECHO and by participating national societies (PNS) in Norway, Switzerland, Great Britain, Finland and Sweden. Distributions for the year can be summarized as follows: displaced persons housed in camps and vulnerable people living in hilly regions (45,601 households comprising 202,534 beneficiaries) received 20,957 tarpaulins; 38,168 blankets; 33,259 jerrycans; 1,923 cooking sets; 40,865 kangas; 15,217 hoes; 423,826 pieces of soap; 5,839 kg of clothing 212 pots and pans; 135 mats; 5 shovels; and 4 wheelbarrows. Information was frequently updated during distributions and in other programmes: beneficiaries and their needs were identified, in collaboration with management committees on the sites, BRC provincial branches and their volunteers, the lead humanitarian NGO in the region and local administrative authorities .

Objective 2 : to foster a community spirit by involving beneficiaries in the renovation or construction of houses and schools.

Achievements

The regions targeted were:

- Mukoni in Muyinga province, where 128 dwellings were completed for 896 beneficiaries who actively participated in the renovations. The BRC supervised the work and provided windows, doors, sheet metal, nails and rafters, with funding from the British Red Cross.
- three schools with 33 classrooms were renovated or constructed in the province of Muramvya: 15 classrooms for 750 pupils in Bukeye; six classrooms for 300 pupils in Kibogoye and 12 classrooms for 600 pupils Nyarucamo.

Objective 3 : to repatriate Burundian refugees.

Constraints: The repatriation programme had not yet begun although the Burundi Red Cross kept up regular contact with the other actors involved (the UN and NGOs) regarding feasibility studies and future implementation. The Federation was to provide logistical support when necessary.

Lack of access to beneficiaries was the main obstacle to implementation of the programme. The prevailing insecurity owing to persistent fighting made it particularly difficult to draw up beneficiary lists. Lists provided by local administrators were often inaccurate.. In some places the BRC committee updated beneficiary lists prior to distributions. The influence of administrative or communal authorities in certain areas made it difficult to verify the identities of beneficiaries. The issue of accurate, verifiable beneficiary lists was a problem that concerned all the humanitarian agencies in Burundi and was discussed with government authorities under the aegis of OCHA and the UNDP humanitarian coordinator.

The agriculture programme remained crucial to the economy and greatly diminished the food insecurity prevalent in the country for the last three years. The programme's impact on the public was clear, as the population went along with proposals to strengthen it. However, insufficient funding posed a major challenge since certain agricultural inputs were unavailable when needed and the crop-growing season was therefore not respected.

The renovation and construction of houses in Mukoni, particularly for women with young children progressed slowly. To quicken the pace of reconstruction a proposal was put forward to have qualified labour construct the frames and cover the buildings and to have the beneficiaries complete the walls. The company renovating the primary school at Bukeye proved to be unsatisfactory and another firm was subsequently hired.

Over the course of the year, donors received monitoring indicators at regular intervals as defined in the Appeal. Reports were sent either by the BRC or by the delegation, according to the timetable agreed on in the clauses of the contract covering project implementations.

Disaster preparedness

Objective 1: to train emergency intervention teams in the provinces, first-aid instructors and NGO personnel.

Constraints

Although the BRC urgently needed to strengthen its disaster response capacities, lack of funds made it extremely difficult to train emergency teams. The Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross provided funds for training at the partnership meeting held in June in Mombasa, with an eventual contribution from the ICRC delegation in Burundi. Funds earmarked for this programme were reallocated or divided among other programmes where there were shortfalls.

Objective 2 : to prepare a national society emergency preparedness and response plan.

Constraints

Government coordination was still not in place to elaborate the plan. The BRC hoped to reactivate this initiative in 2002.

Objective 3 : to store and maintain an emergency non-food stock

Achievements

A pre-positioned emergency stock was funded by the British and Belgian national societies. Non-food items were purchased to build up stocks for at least 50,000 persons. A contract signed with ECHO in mid-2001 enabled stocks to be built up to meet the needs of 65,000 persons to prepare for a possible massive influx of returnees. Red Cross non-food stocks together with those of the UNHRC would thus cover the needs of about 200,000 returnees. However, repatriation has not yet started.

Constraints

The implementation of this programme was hindered primarily by the difficulty of finding the required products on the local market. The problem of customs clearance on imported items also surfaced, despite assistance on several occasions from the Ministry of Foreign Relations and Cooperation.

Health and Care

Objective 1: to improve health coverage for vulnerable populations in seven provinces, through the community health workers (CHWs) operating in the field.

Achievements

The French Red Cross provided funding for this project. The 250 CHWs already trained in 2000 were active throughout the year in their respective provinces - Kirundo, Muramvya, Muyinga and Ngozi - providing community-based first aid care, carrying out awareness sessions on hygiene and sanitation, reproductive health and nutrition for families living in the hills, as well as referring sick persons to the closest health centres. Most of the CHWs received refresher training in 2001; there were 83 new recruits, of whom 48 were trained, 34 were awarded diplomas, and 35 still needed to be trained. With funding provided by the Norwegian Red Cross and the French government, the CHW training programme was extended. The French Red Cross also paid a certain number of salaries.

Objective 2 : to include community health activities in relevant African Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI) 2010 sectors, in conformity with the Ministry of Public Health's priorities.

Achievements

In collaboration with the French Red Cross, the BRC was responsible for making slabs and SanPlat covers for latrines and providing narrative and financial reports. One hundred volunteers were trained in the PHAST / SanPlat programme, while a total of 4,192 slabs and covers were manufactured and 1,782 distributed in the provinces of Ngozi, Gitega, Muramvya, Kirundo and Muyinga. As planned, 2,000 slabs with SanPlat covers for latrines were manufactured and distributed to families, under the community-health project funded by the French Red Cross. An additional 24 BRC volunteers were trained in the PHAST method so that they could raise their community's awareness of hygiene and sanitation. In May the provincial health assistants (PHAs) attended two days of training given by the regional health delegate from Nairobi. The aim of this course was to learn about ARCHI, take ownership of it and implement it in line with the coaching model proposed, and to elaborate a BRC HIV/AIDS plan, which was subsequently submitted to the regional delegation. An agreement on an HIV/AIDS project was signed by the BRC and the UNFPA. The project aimed to increase awareness of AIDS through training of administrative officers and representatives from displaced persons' sites in the provinces of Bururi (50), Rutana (50) and Makamba (50). Those from Bururi attended three days of training in December. Training was also scheduled for 40 trainers of trainers who would then be responsible for instructing 700 peer educators and 1,500 young people. The project began in September when the first transfer of funds was received.

The malaria control project received support from the Spanish Red Cross, ECHO, and the German Red Cross via the Federation, and was implemented by the BRC. To date, a total of 47,000 nets were

manufactured, and 41,278 distributed in the provinces of Bubanza (10,000), Cibitoke (16,591) and Bujumbura rural (14,687).

In Ngozi province, the German Red Cross provided 14,350 impregnated mosquito nets for distribution in hospitals and health centres, sites for displaced persons and the population living in the hills. A total of 13,839 nets were distributed, and volunteers were trained in mosquito-net impregnation and the use of spray around houses. Construction began on a health centre in Mwaro. The pharmacy at the Kinindo health centre in Bujumbura began operating in July 2001.

Objective 3 : to improve the capacity to respond to endemic epidemics.

Achievements

Medical supplies were sufficient to cover eventual outbreaks of diseases such as malaria, cholera, bacillary dysentery and typhus, for some 10,000 persons. Quantities were determined by the prevalence of each disease. For example, during a typhus epidemic in Muramvya in June - July 2001, the BRC was immediately able to provide adequate medical supplies from existing stocks.

Objective 4 : to introduce the cost recovery system in BRC health centres.

Achievements

The Burara health centre in the province of Kirundo was financed by the British Red Cross, equipped with medicines and has been operational since the end of November 2000. It was managed, with the support of the BRC, by a community management committee which set up a cost recovery system (except for the destitute) based on the Bamako Initiative. During the first half of 2001, declared net profits amounted to FBU 900,000.

Objective 5: to increase the food self sufficiency of the vulnerable beneficiaries identified by the BRC, through socio-community and farming projects, particularly women heads of families, street children, the elderly and other persons in need of such assistance.

The German Government provided support via the German Red Cross for a farming programme set up and carried out by the BRC in all 13 provinces in which it was present, as well as in Bujumbura town. The programme initially targeted 4,700 families but a redistribution of items by sector became necessary as requests increased, thus enabling more people to benefit:

- farming: 317 groups comprising 9,197 families (i.e. 45,985 persons);
- poultry raising: 103 groups comprising 3,151 families (i.e. 15,755 persons).

The following quantities were distributed (exceptions are mentioned):

- Food crop seed: 57,705 kg of potatoes for 28.85 ha; 4,895 kg of beans for 61.2 ha; 1,029 banana shoots for 6.5 ha; 2,800 kg of ground nuts for 40 ha; 2,400 kg of rice for 24 ha, except in the provinces of Bururi, Muramvya, Mwaro and Kayanza which were unsuitable for growing rice; 2,600 kg of maize for 52 ha; 246,730 cassava cuttings for 12.3 ha; 5,000 kg of sweet potatoes for 3.5 ha; 1,200 kg of wheat for 24 ha (except for the provinces of Bujumbura town, Gitega, Karuzi, Muyinga, Kirundo, Ngozi and Makamba which were unsuitable for growing wheat); 140 kg of soybean for 2 ha (in Kirundo, Ngozi, Rutana and Gitega, as planned for this distribution) and 700 kg of sorghum for 14 ha.
- Market-garden seed: 4,500 bags of onions; 3,600 bags of leeks; 320 bags of tomatoes; 2,000 bags of carrots; 50 bags of parsley; 60 bags of eggplant; 30 bags of celery; 100 bags of pepper and 4,800 bags of cabbage.
- chemical fertilizer: 22,020 kg of DAP; 16,000 kg of Kcl and 16,000 kg of urea.

- farming supplies: 540 sprinklers, 100 sprayers, and 4,270 hoes were purchased of which 211 sprinklers, 75 sprayers and 4,270 hoes were distributed.
- livestock (goats) : 963 female and 107 male goats were distributed.

Constraints

Lack of funds was the main obstacle to the successful implementation of this project, and the prospect of ending some activities was raised during the budget review. This for example was the case with activities for street children that were supported by the Federation. Funding for PHW salaries and for the head of the Women's and Youth Department was also an issue. The Federation and the French and Spanish national societies eventually came to an agreement on funding for salaries.

Humanitarian values

Objective 1: to carry out dissemination activities for BRC members in 13 provinces .

Achievements

A three-day training session for women's groups was organized in the first quarter of 2001, in the province of Gitega. Some of the subjects discussed during the session were: the history of the Movement, the fundamental principles and voluntary service, socio-community projects initiated by the BRC: definition and orientations; "caring" and the principle of "humanity", and personal and collective responsibility in working out a community project. A committee was set up by the participants to follow up on resolutions and implement what had been learned.

Objective 2 to foster respect for International humanitarian law (IHL).

Achievements

In May 2001 the ICRC delegation in Burundi financed the training of five disseminators and of the BRC headquarters coordinator. At training sessions, the participants gained knowledge of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, of the role of the Movement, of the BRC and its activities, and on promoting awareness of IHL among the general public or target groups in provinces where the National Society was present. Salaries of dissemination officers were paid by the ICRC.

Constraints

A shortage of dissemination officers was the main obstacle to the successful implementation of this programme. All provinces should be covered, since an awareness of universal humanitarian values is vital to a country in which prolonged conflict has had a lasting impact on behaviour.

Organizational development

Objective 1 : to ensure that the BRC has an appropriate structure which will enable it to carry out its humanitarian missions;

Achievements

Progress was made in several areas:

- the British Red Cross funded the translation and copying of BRC statutes: 100 copies in French and 200 in Kirundi (the national language) were distributed at local Red Cross branches, some of which responded. Amendments were scheduled to be sent to the joint commission in Geneva for comments prior to the adoption of the statutes at the extraordinary general assembly. Provincial committees could then be elected in accordance with the new statutes;

- the British Red Cross also financed the construction of Red Cross provincial offices in Ngozi (5 rooms); Muyinga (5 rooms) and Bururi (5 rooms), and began renovation work at national society headquarters where the Federation delegation will eventually be housed.
- an information leaflet on the activities of the Burundi Red Cross was translated into Kirundi.
- the British Red Cross financed the salaries of two coordinators in the provinces in the north as well as that of the administration and finance manager at BRC headquarters, for 18 months.

Objective 2 : to strengthen institutional and operational capacities.

A new organizational chart was put into place to give the national society a more flexible operating structure.

Objective 3 : to strengthen partnerships.

Achievements

At the national level, encouragement to strengthen partnerships with other humanitarian actors, ECHO, diplomatic representations, UN agencies and the government has been quite positive since the signing of a bilateral agreement with the BRC in 2001 for the implementation of the projects mentioned above with the UNFPA, UNICEF, ECHO and the ICRC. The rescheduling of the programme financed by the French government, the agreement with the Belgian Red Cross to support ongoing DDP and malaria programmes and cooperation with the Algerian Red Crescent bear witness to this cooperation. The Federation's delegation in the country was, at every opportunity, either directly involved or consulted for advice on projects.

Objective 4 : to promote the development and diversification of resources.

Achievements

The French Red Cross hired a local consultant for two months to establish a resource development strategy for the BRC. The French, Spanish and German national societies funded a number of income-generating micro-projects at various centres throughout the country and the Algerian Red Crescent donated three mills.

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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.

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