

# SITUATION REPORT

14 – 20 May 2007

UNITED NATIONS  
Office for the Coordination of  
Humanitarian Affairs in Burundi  
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## ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

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**Food security:** To support its programme for the production and distribution of quality seeds to vulnerable families, the FAO/Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (ERCU) started the rehabilitation of community storage warehouses in various provinces. This activity which first began in 2004 with financial support from Belgium and Sweden is undertaken in collaboration with provincial agricultural and livestock departments and FAO/ERCU partner NGOs involved in the food security sector. This year a total of 26 community storage warehouses will be refurbished. The added value for such an operation is that seeds produced can eventually be sold at low prices or consumed. This also enables better quality control of seeds by relevant services in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.



FAO/ERCU, May 2007

### **Repatriation of Burundian refugees**

During the reporting week, UNHCR registered a total of 48 Burundian returnees. This number includes facilitated returnees from Tanzania (13) and those who arrived by plane from Zambia (29), Kenya (5) and Ivory Coast (1). Since the beginning of this year, 3,236 Burundian refugees have returned to their homeland. There are still more than 300,000 Burundian refugees in Tanzania, and more than 17,000 in the DRC.

**Sexual gender-based violence (SGBV):** An increase in the number of SGBV cases has been reported in several areas throughout the country. Over the reporting week, two primary school girls from the communes of Gihanga (Bubanza province) and Buganda (Cibitoke province) were raped. This crime was blamed on a policeman and a soldier. According to the 2006 report on the human rights situation in Burundi issued by Ligue Iteka (a human rights association), 1,930 cases of sexual violence were recorded in 2006. According to the Iteka representative, Jean Marie Vianey Kavumbagu, the majority of victims were children younger than 12. The report reveals that contrary to preceding years where sexual violence was mainly blamed on the military and rebel groups, 63.2 percent of rape cases are now blamed on neighbors and sometimes close relatives. Iteka ligue

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urges families not to shield perpetrators of rape from justice, citing the case of a 12-year-old victim whose father accepted 60,000 francs (US\$60) from the perpetrator to drop the case.

**Update on Burundians expelled from Tanzania:** During the reporting week, the Government project for the reintegration of war-affected persons (PARESI) registered 220 persons (132 families) expelled from Tanzania. 72 persons (40 families) were registered at the entry point of Kobero (Muyinga) and 148 persons (92 families) at the entry point of Mishiha (Cankuzo). Since January 2007, PARESI has recorded 2,421 expelled persons (1,322 families).

**Update on food aid distribution:** WFP distributed 1,920 MT to 343,852 beneficiaries through its various programmes: Feeding centers, food for work/food for training, assistance to refugees, HIV/AIDS affected persons and targeted distribution.

**Security:** The situation remains calm in the provinces of Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural and Cibitoke despite the alleged presence of Palipehutu-FNL combatants. Cases of money being extorted from passengers in public transportation vehicles were also reported.

**Coordination:** Further to the meeting held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> where the provincial Governor of Makamba and representatives of UNICEF and OCHA discussed the case of Burundians expelled from Tanzania, a follow-up joint mission was carried out in Makamba during the reporting week. Participants included: the Governor's adviser, communal administrators of Makamba and Mabanda communes, UNICEF, OCHA, the Burundian Red Cross Society and Norwegian Council for Refugees NGO. An action plan will be elaborated in preparation to assist expelled persons upon their arrival in Makamba.