Burundi: Food Assistance to Affected Populations of Political Violence in Burundi

Highlights

- An in-depth needs assessment confirmed that 20,000 households (100,000 beneficiaries) urgently require emergency food assistance.
- GFD distributions for the identified households are being planned for week of July 6th
- According to the UNHCR statistics, Burundians seeking asylum in neighboring countries are estimated at around 106,228 (as of 16 June).

Situation Update

- The North (Kirundo Province) is facing an alarming humanitarian situation due to a variety of factors including large displacement, drought, depreciation of Burundian currency, lack of none farming income, poor sanitation and illnesses. A large number of people have fled the province and have sold their asset before their departure. Their farms have been looted in their absence. Additionally, Kirundo has faced a severe drought during the last rainy season which affected negatively food production.
- Most of the households reportedly do not eat more than one time a day because their granaries are empty and they do not have money to buy enough food to feed their household members. Before the security crisis, people in Kirundo was able to get some income by working in Rwanda as casual labor. Now with the restrictions of movements imposed by the Burundian authorities that opportunity is reduced.
- Women and children are also exposed to a large burden of diseases linked to low access to health care services, poor nutrition, bad hygiene and sanitation conditions and lack of potable water. Children are not provided with complementary food after 6 months. The situation will get worse in July and August when the merger harvest will be exhausted. An additional concern is the return of refugees in coming months when the security situation gets better. This will add more pressure on the resources that are already stretched.
- At health facility level, there is no increase on the number of admissions at OTP because of the large number of displacement. The province does not have any SFP program. Few NGOs have presence in the province but they do not have nutrition activities.
- The situation is similar in the South (Makamba Province). There are a high number of displaced populations coming mainly from Bujumbura. They are hosted in families.

In numbers

- People affected: 270,000
- Provinces affected: Makamba, Kirundo, Bujumbura
- People displaced: No IDPs
- People in need of food assistance: 100,000 (1st phase, GFD [June –September)

Funding Update:

- IR-EMOP 200851 (USD1.5 million) approved and funds disbursed under Immediate Response Account (IRA).
- FFP/USAID has just contributed USD 1 million based on preliminary needs estimates.

WFP Response

- An in-depth needs assessment report issued last week recommended immediate GFD for 15,000 households in Kirundo, following a streamlined and detailed beneficiary criteria. Identification of beneficiaries is now on going in Kirundo Province. Immediate GFD is also to be carried out for 5,000 households in Kabonga- Makamba Province. WFP is preparing to carry out general food distributions for those
The Minister of Health and partners including WFP are conducting a nutrition screening in Kirundo province; preliminary results are expected in July. A similar in-depth Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening supported by WFP is to be carried out in Makamba. Based on the findings of the screening, WFP is ready to start a MAM treatment in those regions.

**Food Assistance**
- WFP is preparing to provide immediate GFD for 15,000 households in Kirundo, following a streamlined and detailed beneficiary criteria. Identification of beneficiaries is now on going in Kirundo Province. Immediate GFD is also to be carried out for 5,000 households in Kabonga-Makamba Province. GFD distributions in both localities is being planned for week of July 6th based on request from local authorities.

**Logistics**
- 14 mt of HEB (high energy biscuits) are expected to arrive in Burundi from Dubai on 29 June.
- Following the need to assist additional beneficiaries impacted by the current crisis, logistic capacity in terms of transport need to be increased. According to needs already identified by the emergency coordination, about additional 80mt/day will have to be delivered in July in Makamba province while road condition doesn’t allow truck loading more than 10mt to move around. 8 to 10 trucks will have to be allocated to that area for the full month.
- In some area where there is no distribution facilities/shelters for distribution purposes, the CO will have to install some wihkhalls to support the operation.

**Clusters**
- Clusters are not yet activated

**Partnerships**
- WFP is partnering with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and other humanitarian actors to carry out a nutritional screening in Kirundo and Makamba provinces.
- The needs assessment was carried out under the leadership of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction/Prevention and involve sectoral ministries, the UN system (UNICEF, UNCHR, WFP, FAO, IOM, UNFPA and UNDP) and national (Red Cross, Karts) and international (World Vision, CRS, IRC and Food for the Hungry) NGOs.

**Resourcing Update**
- A PRRO budget revision is under process to accommodate additional needs brought about by the crisis. FFP/USSAID has just contributed USD 1 million based on preliminary needs estimates.
- WFP and UNICEF have just submitted a joint proposal to FFP for additional funding to finance nutrition intervention in Kirundo (for USD2.5 million: USD1.75 for WFP and USD0.75 for UNICEF).
- WFP has just submitted a proposal to the Belgian government for EUR500,000.

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