

BURUNDI

BACKGROUND

The Republic of Burundi has made marked progress in the face of nearly a dozen years of civil conflict, a history of extensive ethnic violence and a ten year period of economic decline. Following the peace agreement signed at the end of 2003 between various warring factions and the recent inclusion of the last warring ethnic group in September 2006, the Government and international community have identified agricultural recovery and rehabilitation as the first priority towards consolidation of the dividends of peace.

While these developments have paved a more promising path towards recovery, the toll of recent strife leaves much work to be done. Over 300 000 Burundians perished during the conflict and 1.2 million people were internally displaced or made refugees in neighbouring countries. The continual return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees strains the country's already limited resources.

Burundi is a landlocked, resource-poor country with limited access to basic services, whose economy is predominately agricultural. While 93 percent of the population depends on subsistence farming, 65 percent subsists below the minimum standard of calorie intake and 41 percent suffers chronic malnutrition. Strengthening the capacity of the Government, particularly in terms of policy planning and overall management, requires extensive investment in the short- and medium-term in order to implement urgently needed development programmes and approach social and economic recovery.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Burundi requires a further transition from relief assistance for displaced people, malnourished children and severely food insecure people, to recovery activities in order to restore the livelihoods of people continually affected by the social and economic consequences of the conflict. Even if all 2007 harvests in Burundi perform well, the population will continue to face a food deficit compounded by high food and seed prices. Household vulnerabilities are most apparent in the food security sector as approximately 90 percent of the population lives in rural areas and only about one-third has an acceptable diet (2 100 kcal/person).

The drop in gross agricultural production by 1 percent in 2006 as compared to 2005 resulted in a greater gap between food production and needs, exacerbated by high demographic growth partly due to the return of resettling populations. Resettlement has placed rising pressures on degenerating land fertility and productivity. In addition, extreme weather events (primarily recurrent drought) and crop pests further the decrease in staple crop production. In particular, various diseases affecting banana plantations and Cassava Mosaic Disease continue to

KEY FACTS

- Population: 7.7 million
- GDP (PPP) per capita: US\$739
- Population below poverty line: 68%
- Labour force by occupation: agriculture 93.6%, industry 2.3%, services 4.1%
- Total land area: 25 650 sq km, bordering Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania
- Total arable land: 35%
- Life expectancy: male: 50 years, female: 52 years
- Literacy rate: male: 58.5% , female: 45.2%
- Human Development Index: 169/177

(Source: UN; World Bank)



“65 percent of the population subsists below the minimum standard of calorie intake”

FAO IN BURUNDI

In 2006, FAO programmes in Burundi supported 400 000 households over two planting seasons through various interventions, from seeds and tools distributions to the rehabilitation of wetlands. FAO's activities also included food security monitoring, the restoration of agricultural services at community level and support to particularly vulnerable groups, such as returnees and HIV/AIDS-affected households.

affect staple crop yields, the latter representing 70 percent of the daily food consumption of the most food-insecure households.

In addition, HIV/AIDS prevalence is on the rise resulting in both a weakened work force and increased need for good nutrition. The number of people infected with HIV has more than tripled over the last decade, with a significantly higher proportion among women.

FAO RESPONSE

In Burundi, sustained emergency agricultural assistance in 2007 should allow humanitarian and development actors to build on household livelihood stability in order to move towards addressing structural issues. Specific priorities in the agriculture sector include the provision of surveillance and early warning, support to rapid response, and assistance to vulnerable households.

FAO's proposals seek to provide assistance to groups with special vulnerabilities, such as households without access to land, refugees and IDPs, ex-combatants as well as households with vulnerability as a result of HIV/AIDS. Proposed projects include the distribution of essential inputs and small livestock, training in nutrition, improved farming and livestock-breeding practices, support to marketing and producer associations, and the rehabilitation of rural irrigation infrastructure with a potential for high productivity. Technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and various partners is also required to ensure the coordination of emergency agricultural activities, food security and an early warning and control system.

FAO will continue to support the coordination of agricultural activities and work closely with the World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners in sharing common baseline data and methods.

PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Total funding required: US\$9 405 000

Agricultural support to vulnerable populations with limited land access (small livestock and vegetable seeds)

Objectives: Improve the diet of families in terms of quantity and quality and expand household income by supporting small livestock production.

Activities: Provision of vegetable seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and basic tools (15 000 households with limited land access); livestock activities (15 000 people); and training on nutrition, agriculture and livestock breeding practices.

Beneficiaries: 18 000 households with limited access to land living in suburban areas of Kayanza, Ngozi, Gitega and Bujumbura Provinces (priority and support given to associations of farmers so as to obtain lasting results).

Implementing partners: WFP, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Ministry of Agriculture.

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$770 000.

Emergency agricultural assistance to most vulnerable and disaster-affected populations and to specific chronically vulnerable groups

Objectives: Provide agricultural inputs to the most vulnerable and disaster-affected populations and to specific chronically vulnerable groups during the three forthcoming agricultural seasons.

Activities: Identification of beneficiaries according to criteria established by the food security technical group; purchase of agricultural inputs in local or regional markets; and distribution of inputs for agricultural seasons 2007C, 2008A and 2008B in close cooperation with partners.

Beneficiaries: 340 000 households: returning refugees, IDPs during their initial reinstallation and other specific groups (40 000 households for season 2007C, 150 000 for season 2008A and 150 000 for season 2008B).

Implementing partners: FAO, WFP, UNICEF, NGOs, Ministry of Agriculture and the National Committee on Aid Coordination (CNCA).

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$4 400 000.

Rehabilitation of areas with high agricultural production potential for populations recently reinstalled

Objectives: Improve agricultural production by rehabilitating agro-hydraulic infrastructures.

Activities: Rehabilitation of 700 hectares of swamps in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rutana and Ruyigi Provinces for 8 000 households; and expansion of irrigation schemes through the provision of manual water pumps in areas bordering lakes and rivers (namely Bugesera, which is often affected by drought).

Beneficiaries: Rural communities: 8 000 households.

Implementing partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, WFP and the private sector.

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$1 265 000.

Agricultural and food security early warning and control system (SAP-SSA) and coordination

Objectives: Provide technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and various partners to ensure the coordination of emergency agricultural activities, food security and an early warning and control system.

Activities: Maintain and support the coordination of emergency agricultural activities; strengthen the food security early warning and control system; optimize inter-agency coordination on food security and nutrition; support the integration of food security monitoring within a sub-regional system; and provide technical support to field organizations and partners.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, communities and producers.

Implementing partners: FAO, Ministry of Agriculture, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), WFP, UNICEF and NGOs.

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$880 000.

Rehabilitation of traditional production and trade mechanisms for seeds and high-yield plants through the strengthening of producer associations

Objectives: Support the socio-economic reintegration of returning refugees and IDPs through improving agriculture and market gardening production capacity within the host communities.

Activities: Distribute a variety of seeds and cuttings adapted to local conditions to approximately 200 000 households.

Beneficiaries: 200 000 households: returning refugees and IDPs, unemployed young rural population, demobilized combatants and vulnerable persons.

Implementing partners: FAO, WFP, Ministry of Agriculture, CNCA, Direction Provinciale de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage, NGOs and private/community sectors.

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$2 090 000.