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OCRA

Regional Office for the Great Lakes Region

Affected Populations In the Great Lakes Region

(as of May 2000)

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NOTE TO OUR READERS

This May 2000 report on Affected Populations in the Great Lakes region is slightly different from previous issues: While trying to give the most accurate and relevant picture of the situation in each country, we were soon faced with two main problems:

Firstly, the concept of "affected populations" is by far too general, insofar as it can encompass almost all citizens of a country. The displaced and refugee populations are easy to identify and to classify, but there are so many other groups that do suffer, either directly or indirectly, from the social-economic political disruption of their countries during times of war: children (whether orphans or not), the poor, the elderly, the sick, detainees, those affected by natural disaster::: The list goes on:

Secondly, the humanitarian space is in many areas very limited and many affected groups remain inaccessible to humanitarian operators: In this context, it is very difficult (and sometimes impossible) to accurately report on all affected groups: As a result, the level and nature of reporting vary from one country to another:

In order, therefore, to give the most relevant picture of the situation in the Great Lakes, we introduced the following changes in the report

- The Affected Populations that will be reported on regularly and systematically from each country will only encompass the Refugees and the Internally Displaced Persons: IDPs in this case will only cover the persons who are presently displaced and those who are in the process of returning but who are not yet resettled in their homes at the time of the report: People resettled in villages as in the case of Rwanda will not be accounted for as IDPs.
- Other affected groups (referred to as Other Vulnerable Groups) such as resettled populations in villages, unaccompanied children, detainees, people living in refugeelike situations, drought affected groups will be reported on, on an ad-hoc basis and in a separate table: As not all the countries report on the same segments of populations, there will be no comparative analysis of these figures but this data will anyway constitute a precious indicator of the situation in a given country:

We hope that these changes will bring more clarity and will help us understand better the plight of the affected populations in the tormented

Great Lakes region, Should our readers have comments or suggestions, please address them to this office:

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The information presented in this document represents identified and best estimates of the number of displaced, refugees and vulnerable populations throughout the Great -Lakes' Region. Sources of the information contained in this document include UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross family, central governments and local authorities. Internally displaced people are those who have been forced to move out of their residences and who are living dispersed in the bush or in sites, The information is organised by country, by location, by category and by national origin. The total population figures per country are taken from the World Fact Book published by the U.S. Government.

As months go by, and despite many efforts to bring about peace in the Great Lakes region, the number of affected populations continues to rise. From 24 December 1999 to May 2000, the total number of affected persons (IDPs and refugees only) in the region rose from 4,140,983 to 4,818,658 (i.e. +677,675 persons or +14%). Without the various mediation efforts, what would the increase have been?

Over the reporting period, almost all belligerents intensified their activities. Despite ceasefire agreement, parties to the conflict in DRC (Government, rebels, backers) multiplied their offensives against their respective enemies. But the absurdity having no limits, DRC was also the theatre of fighting between allies in Kisangani, resulting in hundreds of Congolese citizens victims of these foreign disputes on their territory. In Uganda, extinguished fires rekindled and there are now at least three fronts burning at the same time, as well as the "heat" on the common border with Rwanda and the ongoing activities in DRC. In Burundi, civilians continue to be trapped in war games of all sorts (heavy artillery offensives, guerrilla attacks, ambushes, lootings, murders) and the dismantlement programme for regroupment sites has had minimal effect, as for many people it left lives unchanged.

Fear, violence, rapes, lootings, killings have, again and again, pushed too many people out of their homes, their villages, their countries, In the last five months, there were nearly a million people on the move, the majority seeking a safe haven in a neighbouring locality or simply in another country, and the minority going back home. The number of IDPs increased dramatically with almost half a million newly displaced persons. The most severe displacements took place in Eastern DRC (+340,000 IDPs) and in Uganda (+146,000 IDPs). In the meantime, 374,000 people were fleeing to

the closest neighbouring country. In Tanzania alone, the number of Burundian refugees doubled (from 289,000 to 499,000).

On a more positive note, the significant progress registered in the RoC cease-fire agreement resulted in the return of hundreds of thousands of displaced people. Out of the 800,000 identified IDPs, almost 600,000 are now back in their localities of origin. They are, however, still accounted for in the total IDPs for RoC, as they have just recently returned and have not yet resumed their "normal" lives. The level of destruction and the severity of the disruption of all kinds of services make the resettlement of these populations more difficult.

In this particular period, even though the noise of the canons has stopped, it is nevertheless utterly necessary to support RoC's transition. Firstly, there are still huge emergency needs as several areas, which have been totally cut off for two years, are now

accessible. The health system is down, and diseases are spreading. Secondly, thousands of men who lived as warriors have now to be assisted in their reintegration, in the absence of which they will take up their guns again. In the Great Lakes region, one conflict impacts on the next one. Alliances between enemies or allies keep changing. We need then to keep up with relief assistance while commencing rehabilitation activities in RoC, otherwise this tiny country could fall again into turmoil.

Uganda is now experiencing the exact opposite situation. During the last few years, generous international support to Uganda has been focusing on development. Now that the country has significant emergencies (thousands of resettled displaced returned to their camps fearing LRA attacks), it is almost impossible to gather support for relief activities. There are currently almost 700,000 displaced in Uganda who require emergency assistance. Bridges, good roads, governance advice are necessary but they are not an adequate response to the suffering of the presently displaced.

The plight of the Congolese in DRC should also be highlighted. Victimized by all parties, killed in the name of someone else's differences (as in Kisangani), poorly supported by the International Community (12% of the Appeal being so far covered), there are 1,200,000 Congolese identified as "affected" in this report, but there are in reality several millions being deprived of the basics and deprived of dignity. The same applies to the whole region. Whereas we "only" report on 850,000 other vulnerable persons (children, drought affected, detainees...), there may certainly be millions of persons going through a daily ordeal. In Rwanda only, 60% live below the poverty line. In the region, 40% of the IDP and refugee population are children...

This region, as earlier mentioned, is the best case-study on how alliances are done and undone, how enemies in one place are allies in another one, at the expense of the populations. In this ever-changing context, humanitarian needs keep on increasing. To respond to these emergencies, to enable humanitarian workers to

operate, flexibility is required from all. Flexibility in disbursing funds when and where needed, in accepting that relief and rehabilitation activities have to be run simultaneously, and in deploying swiftly the necessary staff. Similarly, to negotiate (and obtain) increased access to beneficiaries also require that resources be available because what can one do with newly accessible territories if warehouses remain empty. Humanitarian workers in the field are standing in the middle of this turmoil, with empty hands. Not only is their safety in jeopardy (as they become suspect in the eyes of the population if they do not deliver), but their moral is also threatened as they look at somebody's pain without being able to do anything to alleviate it.

Affected Populations Summary

	Internally Displaced Populations	Refugee Populations	TOTAL Affected Populations as of May 2000	TOTAL IDPs & Refugees as of Dec. 1999*	Changes (in figures and %)
BURUNDI	725,613	22,445	748,058	873,285*	-65,227 -8.7%
RoC	791,000	54,518	845,518	830,626 *	+74,892 +7.8%
DRC	1,256,500	318,666	1,575,166	7,770,826 *	+404,340 +25.7%
RWANDA	40,000	29,867	69,867	783,325*	-773,458 -162.4%
TANZANIA	N/A	622,200	622,200	339,474*	+282,726 +45.4%
UGANDA	695,444	197,005	892,449	743,929*	+748,520 +76.6%
Other	N/A	65,400	65,400	59,578*	+5,882 +9%
TOTAL	3,508,557	1,310,101	4,818,658	4,140,983*	+627,675 +14.1%

* To enable a relevant comparison and as explained in our "Note to our Readers", unaccompanied/abducted children and detainees in Rwanda accounted for in December 1999 are not reflected in these totals,

SUMMARY OF OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS (see details in presentation per country)

BURUNDI	(unaccompanied children, war and AIDs orphans, street children and children living in prison)	197,173
RWANDA	(unaccompanied children, people living in refugee-like situation, detainees and drought affected populations)	642,283
UGANDA	(abducted children)	6,063
TOTAL		845,519

BURUNDI

Total population: 6,654,766

LOCATION	ORIGIN	FIGURES	COMMENTS
Bubanza	Burundi	119,700	Estimated number of IDPs in 48 sites.
Bujumbura Mairie	Burundi	434	Estimated number of IDPs in 2 sites.
Bujumbura Rural	Burundi	309,445	Estimated number of IDPs in 49 sites.
Bururi	Burundi	89,994	Estimated number of IDPs in 36 sites.
Gitega	Burundi	10,344	Estimated number of IDPs in 18 sites.
Karuzi	Burundi	2,621	Estimated number of IDPs in 8 sites.
Kayanza	Burundi	21,539	Estimated number of IDPs in 18 sites.
Kirundo	Burundi	3,583	Estimated number of IDPs in 15 sites.
Makamba	Burundi	93,215	Estimated number of IDPs in 49 sites.
Muramvya	Burundi	37,472	Estimated number of IDPs in 23 sites.
Muyinga	Burundi	17,639	Estimated number of IDPs in 29 sites.
Ngozi	Burundi	7,877	Estimated number of IDPs in 13 sites.
Rutana	Burundi	10,800	Estimated number of IDPs in 16 sites.
Ruyigi	Burundi	950	Estimated number of IDPs in 8 sites.
Burundi	DRC	21,119	Refugees includes estimated figure for 1960s caseload + new caseload.
Burundi	Rwanda	1,298	Refugees,
Burundi	Other countries	28	Refugees.

	Internally Displaced Population	Refugee` Population	TOTAL AFFECTED POPULATION
	725,613	22,445	748,058

Refugee figures provided by UNHCR (as of December), IDP figures provided by OCHA/Burundi (as of April 2000).

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS IN BURUNDI

UAC figure UNICEF (as of January 2000)

Approximate number of Unaccompanied Children (UAC)	7,000
Approximate number of war orphans	25,000
Approximate number of AIDS orphans	160,000
Approximate number of street children	5,000
Approximate number of children living in prisons	173
TOTAL	197,173

Humanitarian Situation

Following his nomination as facilitator of the Arusha Peace Process, the former South African President Nelson Mandela has deployed immense efforts to bring about peace in Burundi. He visited Burundi on 28 April 2000 and met on this occasion with political and military authorities as well as President Buyoya, the Minister of Defense, the Army Chiefs of Staff and the National Assembly. Mandela has made it clear, however, that after almost two years' worth of negotiations, the process should be concluded speedily. Despite Mandela's call for an all-inclusive peace talks approach, some armed rebel groups did not attend the Arusha negotiations and there is therefore no certainty as to a possible positive outcome before the summer.

Burundi's economy is showing no sign of immediate improvement. The economy has been on a steady decline ever since the election of 1993. The economic framework is deteriorating rapidly. The new General Price Index (GPI) figures show that the cost of living has increased 28% from February 99 to February 2000. Over the same period food items increased 38%. On 25 April the World Bank declared an emergency credit loan of US\$35 million for economic restructuring and the re-establishment of essential social services in order to facilitate and support the ongoing negotiations in peace building, This credit will support private sector activities to rebuild health, education and agriculture infrastructures and also to increase the economic status of families affected by internal conflicts.

Security remains a cause of concern and the fighting intensified in the build up to Mandela's visit. There were clashes between the army and armed rebel groups as well as amongst the rebel groups, most notably between the Front National de Liberation and the Interahamwe and ex-Forces Armées Rwandaises. While the situation around the capital has been relatively calm since the beginning of the year with fewer incidents reported in Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural has witnessed an increase in fighting. Many incidents have been reported in the provinces of Rutana, Ruyigi and Gitega. Some analysts believe that the rebels are attempting to set up new bases in the eastern part of the country because of the intensified deployment of Tanzanian armed forces along the border to prevent rebel cross-border activities. In addition, there are reports of ex-FAR and Interahamwe infiltration from Tanzania into the eastern provinces. Makamba province has seen an increase in rebel infiltration and consequently stepped up fighting and a large number of people from Kibago commune have fled their homes and moved into the centre of the Province. In Bubanza, there has been an increase in rebel infiltration from the DRC and a number of attacks and ambushes have occurred.

The UN security phase IV was reviewed by UNSECOORD. As a result, on 25 April 2000, phase III came into effect in the following 11 provinces; Bujumbura Mairie, Kirundo, Muyinga, Karuyi, Ngozi, Kayanya, Muramvya, Mwaro, Gitega, Ruyigi and Cankuyo. Cibitoke City and Bubanza City are now also in phase III.

A measles epidemic has been declared in Burundi. The first cases were reported in September 1999 and through the months of December to March 2000 the number of reported cases has escalated substantially. To date, over 7000 cases of measles have been reported in seven provinces. The number is expected to rise as other provinces are assessed. This is the first measles epidemic in 10 years. As of 8 May the first of a number of vaccination campaigns began, targeting all people from the age of 6 months to 15 years. The funding is a collaborative effort between NGOs, UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee issued a statement in January condemning the forcible relocation of the population in Bujumbura Rural, On 7 February, the GoB launched its programme of dismantlement. It should be noted that no assistance was provided during the dismantling. In the first week of April, Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment teams evaluated phase one of dismantlement, in Bujumbura Rural. At the time, according to the Government of Burundi, a total of 23 sites had been dismantled. Out of the 23 sites only nine were regroupment sites. The findings from the assessment indicate only five sites were empty and two partially empty. The dismantlement of the last two were not possible due to insecurity. The IDP population of the remaining 14 sites refused to return home. NFIs and healthcare remain a priority.

A Humanitarian Think Tank meeting including UN Agencies, NGOs, donors and diplomats took place after the Inter-Agency mission to discuss the findings and agreed that the Humanitarian Agencies operating in Bujumbura Rural would continue to follow recommendations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee

for responding for the needs of the regrouped population remaining on site. This includes life sustaining assistance, planned reintegration process of the affected populations, support IDPs to access local services, access of Human Right Observers to the sites and basic education for displaced children. No assistance should be provided to the creation of permanent structures in the site, or administration of the sites. Rehabilitation and reinstallation assistance to the returnees is postponed due to the security situation. Inter-Agency assessment teams have recommended an in-depth assessment of the humanitarian situation of the IDP

population. The Humanitarian Think Tank recommends using the same criteria for the IDP population as for the regrouped population, based on the IASC policy.

The President of Burundi, Pierre Buyoya visited the Ruziba regrouped site and officially announced the plans to turn Ruziba into a village. Ruziba will be an experiment and that if required by the security situation and feasible, it may be applied also in other regroupment sites. The International Community is unsure of the government's real objectives on villagization.

Chronic food insecurity persists as a result of the war, insecurity, regroupment and drought. An increase in food aid beneficiaries from 330,000 in 1999 to 450,000 in 2000, 33,000 beneficiaries in over 240 feeding centres, over 800,000 IDPs and over 500,000 Burundian refugees makes the overall humanitarian situation highly complex to work within. It is estimated that 26% of the population is affected by the drought and the worst affected provinces are Kirundo, Musinga and Cankuzo. Despite a six week suspension of activities, insecurity in some of the provinces and insufficient food FAO and WFP managed to complete a distribution of seeds, tools and food to the regrouped and drought affected populations. Poor rainfall is of concern as this is currently in the critical period of the growth season. The 2000B harvest is in May and it is expected that in low altitude areas there will be production losses. An evaluation will take place at the end of May to assess the drought situation.

The number of Burundian refugees leaving the country from January - April 2000, has also decreased. For example, in January 23,967, February 6,891, March 5,304 and as of 24 April 1,442 have left Burundi for refugee camps in Tanzania. The majority of people leaving Burundi are from the eastern provinces and are fleeing due to the insecurity as well as because of the drought.

There has been a decrease in the number of Burundian refugees returning from Tanzania. As of 10 February 2000, the Tanzanian Government has refouled 661 Burundian refugees back to Burundi, many of whom had fled the country after the conflict began in 1993. A total of 1,396 refugees have voluntarily returned to Burundi since January 2000.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO (ROC)

Total Population: 2,658,123

LOCATION -	ORIGIN	FIGURES	COMMENTS
Bouenza	RoC	80,000	Estimated returning IDPs
Brazzaville	RoC	25,000	Estimated IDPs
Brazzaville	RoC	250,000	Estimated returning IDPs
Dolisie	RoC	45,000	Estimated returning IDPs
Lejourmou	Roc	25,000	Estimated IDPs
Lekoumou	RoC	21,000	Estimated IDPs
Niari	RoC	65,000	Estimated IDPs
Niari	RoC	70,000	Estimated returning IDPs
Nkayi	RoC	60,000	Estimated returning IDPs
Pool	RoC	80,000	Estimated returning IDPs
Pointe Noire	RoC	30,000	Estimated IDPs
Pool	RoC	40,000	Estimated IDPs
Pointe Noire	Angola	5,933	Assisted refugee population
Pointe Noire	Angola	14,939	Urban refugees (some assisted)
Kintele	Rwanda	4,099	Assisted refugee population
Loukolela	Rwanda	1,789	Assisted/integrated refugees
Impfondo	Rwanda	258	Assisted refugee population
Impfondo	DRC	17,500	Estimated refugees (some assisted)
ROC	DRC	10,000	Estimated refugee population

Internally Displaced Population	Refugee Population	TOTAL AFFECTED POPULATION
791,000	54,518	845,518

Refugee figures, as of 31 March, provided by UNHCR. Estimated refugee figures can not be verified and are hence only estimates as these populations are not hosted in camps. IDP figures as of end May provided by OCHA.

Humanitarian situation

In accordance with the Cease-Fire Agreement, signed on 29 December 1999, the Government has appointed representatives of civilian authorities and deployed government forces (police and "gendarmerie") in the four provinces of Niari, Bouenza, Lekoumou and Pool. Some rebel and militia combatants who surrendered themselves to government authorities have already been integrated and deployed within government forces to several localities. Many locations in Niari province are not yet covered, and the weapons that the militia deposited remain to be collected. It is reported that some militias including those who fought on the side of the Government (such as the Cobras, Rwandan Hutus, ex-FAZ and Chadian militia) have not yet been disarmed.

As per the military authorities, a total of 15,000 ex-militia are accounted for. Five thousand ex-militia (Cobra, Ninja and Cocoyes) would be recruited by government forces (as per the Cease-Fire agreement) and the remaining would be reintegrated. Currently, UNDP is in the process of initiating a reinsertion programme for 120 ex-militias, it is envisaged that a total of four thousand militia members could be considered for reinsertion. Other funding sources and projects are required to assist in the reinsertion of another group of 6,000 exsoldiers. The vast majority of the target group is not willing to engage in agricultural activities and has expressed the desire to start small businesses. Prospects of re-insertion are raising considerable enthusiasm amongst ex-militias. The delay, however, in starting these projects is a source of disappointment for numerous militia members who surrendered several months ago and are still awaiting the promised demobilization package. On 21 May, ex-soldiers mutinied in Dolisie as a result of these delays and they looted shops, markets, fired shots and threw grenades. All humanitarian personnel in town (WFP, OCHA, ICRC, IRC, CAM, ASU, ACF) were regrouped in the UN building under the protection of a special unit of Government forces.

The past six months have seen dramatic changes in the humanitarian situation, accompanied by the signature by the majority of belligerents of a reinforced Cease-Fire and Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in December 1999. A cease-fire followed at the beginning of the year, and is holding. Population return has, therefore, accelerated. By May 2000, of over 800,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), more than 600,000 have returned to their place of origin. Humanitarian access has also improved dramatically throughout the country, including areas still under the control of non-state actors.

Access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance up until the second half of 1999 was mainly restricted to Brazzaville and the relatively secure town of Pointe Noire, on the coast. Very little of the interior of the country was reached by either international or national humanitarian agencies on a significant scale. Since January 2000, however, the United Nations and international NGOs have sent assessment missions into most affected areas and many of the latter have started activities to cover the most urgent needs. The UN now has a temporary sub-office in Dolisie (Niari) and provides logistical support to humanitarian agencies in the area.

Population return received new impetus from the signature of the accords, with new waves of many thousands surging home from January 2000. The re-opening of train traffic between Brazzaville and Mindouli, in Pool region, for example, allowed over 1,200 persons per week to go back to their former towns along the railroad (offer) having already visited and assessed before deciding to return. Not long after, the line between Pointe-Noire,

Dolisie and Nkayi was also re-opened, giving a tremendous boost to small commercial exchange in the southern economy. This entails a shift in the type of assistance needed, from the previous IDP emergency assistance to a growing emphasis on assistance with reintegration and rehabilitation in home communities.

The opening of access to the affected interior in the South during the year 2000 is providing the opportunity to meet humanitarian needs in most affected communities for the first time.

Malnutrition rates have dropped as the returning population quickly re-started cultivation in many areas, and changing seasons provided an abundance of fruit and other food. In many places the humanitarian community was not able to arrive in time to address the previous high malnutrition rates, but in time to assist with the reintegration and initial rehabilitation process.

Health care needs are pronounced, having accumulated during several years of non-access to even the most basic care. There are dramatic needs for clean water and other basic services. Schools need to be re-built in every community. The vulnerable require assistance that will help in re-establishing their livelihoods, through support to income-generating activities.

In the northern part of the country, UNHCR estimates that some 27,500 DRC refugees have crossed into RoC, mainly from Equateur province, since July 1999, over a stretch of some 500 km from Njoundou in the South to Betou in the North along the Ubangui River. The refugees have settled in some 40 villages along the border in order to stay close their places of residence. This, however, is making UNHCR's assistance efforts more difficult. The majority of the refugees are coping and needs are mainly in NFIs and seeds and tools. Those who settled in flooded areas and hence do not have access to land are in need of food assistance; however, many of them take the risk of crossing back home to harvest. UNHCR has therefore initiated contingency planning for an envisaged outflow of up to 100,000 refugees from the Mbandaka area to northern ROC. UNHCR also reports a trickle of DRC asylum seekers arriving in Brazzaville.

It is envisaged that some 13,000 ROC refugees currently in Gabon wish to return once the areas of origin have been secured.

All remaining 2,550 Rwandan and Burundian refugees from Loukolela camp have been integrated in Loukolela and some 16 surrounding villages, albeit not without difficulties. Social tensions between villagers and integrated refugees emerged as a result of land availability and access to arable land.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Total Population: 49,000,511

LOCATION	ORIGIN	FIGURES	COMMENTS
Equateur,	DRC	250,000	Estimated displaced figure.
Katanga,	DRC	195,000	Estimated displaced figure.
Maniema	DRC	80,000	Estimated displaced figure.
North Kivu	DRC	287,000	Estimated displaced figure.
Orientale	DRC	115,000	Estimated displaced figure.
South Kivu	DRC	188,500	Estimated displaced figure.
Eastern Kasai	DRC	141,000	Estimated displaced figure.
Bas-Congo, Mbanza Ngungu Kimanza	ROC	6,000 2,594 381	Non-assisted refugee caseload. Assisted refugee caseload. Same as above.
Kinshasa Bas-Congo, Kimpese Bandundu, Kahemba Katanga, Kisenge	Angola	3,230 34,258 8,329 46,132	Assisted urban refugees. Assisted refugee caseload. Same as above. Same as above.
DRC	Angola	59,600	Non-assisted refugee population.
Bas-Congo, Tshela	Angola	1,795	Assisted refugee caseload.
Kasai, Mbuji-Mayi PMKO	Burundi	427	Assisted refugee caseload.
South Kivu, Bukavu	Burundi	200	Assisted refugee caseload.
South Kivu	Burundi	19,000	Estimated non-assisted refugees.
Orientale, Aru (Boga)	Uganda	3,200	Estimated refugee figure.
Bandundu, Mbandaka	Rwanda	74	Assisted refugee caseload.

Kasai, Mbuji-Mayi PMKO	Rwanda	1,413	Assisted refugee caseload.
DRC	Rwanda	60,000	Estimated non-assisted refugees.

Orientale, Aru Biringi Aba Dungu	Sudan	5,349 21,169 11,015	Assisted refugee caseload. Same as above. Same as above.
Orientale,	Sudan	34,500	Non-assisted refugee caseload.

Internally Displaced Population	Refugee Population	TOTAL AFFECTED POPULATION
1,256,500	318,666	1,575,166

Refugee figures, as of 31 March, provided by UNHCR. Non-assisted refugee figures can not be verified and are hence only estimates as these populations are not hosted in camps. IDP figures as of end April/beginning May provided by OCHA.

Humanitarian Situation

Notwithstanding the realization, by all parties to the conflict, that a military solution is highly unlikely, all the signatories of the Lusaka agreement have repeatedly demonstrated a clear lack of willingness to allow a peaceful resolution to their differences. Interests in maintaining the momentum of the war which are often divergent, such as economic, political leadership, governance, fighting genocidal forces, internal security and even personal wealth factors, are clear. The DRC remains "a free land for all" to intervene and execute many, if not all, of these interests.

Accusations of cease-fire violations by all sides have continued since the beginning of the year. Credible reports circulated of military and communications equipment being airdropped to armed non-state actors who are not party to the Lusaka agreement. As a result the war in the Kivus has intensified, numbers of affected populations swelled dramatically and the humanitarian needs of the many displaced and dispersed remain unmet, mainly due to insecurity and insufficient resources. Reports of an RCD/RPA offensive along the axis Ilebo-Katnanga and another towards Kabinda are circulating. Meanwhile, government forces and their allies have reportedly launched their own offensive in northern Katanga and South Kivu along the Kabalo-Kongolo axis. Ikela in Equateur, the scene of much attention in January as some 700 Congolese, Namibian and Zimbabwean troops were encircled by rebel forces. Ikela is reported to be surrounded, yet again, by Rwandan forces.

Despite repeated calls by all states signatory to the Lusaka agreement for a speedy deployment of UN troops, reaffirming support for the Lusaka cease-fire agreement, giving assurances to the UN Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations to respect the cease-fire, allow free access and guarantee the security of UN personnel and another cease-fire agreement signed in Kampala on 8 April, fighting continues. The recent fighting between Uganda and Rwanda in Kisangani which started on 5 May, is yet another example of the lack of willingness to witness and facilitate the deployment of UN troops.

The United Nations has, to date, deployed 111 military officers in the DRC and the region. On 24 February, unanimously adopting resolution 1291 (2000), the Security Council extended the mandate of MONUC until 31 August and authorized an expansion of MONUC to consist of 5,537 military personnel, including up to 500 MILOBS. This resolution provides the authority for phase II deployment that consists of reinforced battalions in Mbandaka, MbujiMayi, Kindu and Kisangani. Phase III of the deployment is only envisaged when authorized by the Security Council in the event that the provisions of resolution 1291 (2000) are met and Phase II is completed and the appropriate conditions exist.

As called for in the Lusaka agreement, the neutral facilitator of the inter-Congolese national dialogue, Sir Ketumile Masire, started consultations - with some of the parties concerned - and visited Kinshasa, Kigali and Kampala. Nonetheless, the national dialogue has not advanced; during the third week of March when on a visit to the DRC, the facilitator was not granted permission to visit rebel-held Gbadolite, Goma and Bunia. Moreover, the DRC Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that Mr. Masire is a "complicateur" and not a "facilitateur". However, since then, Sir Masire visited Kinshasa in mid May and proceeded to eastern DRC on a three day visit to Goma, Bunia and Kisangani during which it was announced that a preparatory meeting will be held in June.

Differences and power-struggles are becoming permanent characteristics of the rebellions. The resignation and/or dismissal of three RCD-Goma rebels in recent weeks and the absence of leadership within RCD-ML are all but examples. Within this context, the fighting in Kisangani and Ituri district is hardly surprising. In Ituri district, the scene of violent clashes between the Lendu and the Hema, the military, ethnic, political and humanitarian situation is explosive. The economic factor of the conflict is much more significant than ever imagined. Certain individuals from both communities are controlling resource-rich areas by manipulating community tensions. Joint assessment missions during the reporting period were able to identify new pockets of displacement and suffering. A series of workshops were then held to disseminate humanitarian principles and expand humanitarian space. After an initial ease of access to many affected communities, access to Lendu communities is now diminishing and humanitarian actors are facing insurmountable difficulties when delivering assistance.

In the middle of this, the suffering of the Congolese people continues. In an attempt to display discontent with the war and the presence of foreign armies in the country, "ville morte" were called for in Bukavu, Goma, Uvira, Kindu, Kisangani and Kinshasa in the period between the end of February and the

beginning of April. The response to these calls varied. For example, two days of inactivity were observed in Bukavu while in Kinshasa the population did not respond.

Nonetheless, ethnic impunity and hatred, regular attacks by armed militias, retaliation by one side of the conflict or another against civilians for alleged support of the other side continues to force people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries and forcing additional hundreds of thousands to become displaced and dispersed since the beginning of the year. On average, some 400 Congolese refugees, mainly from South Kivu, are currently being registered per week in Tanzania. It is also reported that those in Tanzania are building permanent structures, unlike during the previous war.

During the reporting period, a number of assessment missions were organized and hence the numbers and needs of the displaced are better defined. A recent mission to Mbandaka was hailed as a success in obtaining authorization from government authorities. In addition, assessments of Ankoro in Tanganyika district, Bunia, Rethy, Fataki, Iga Barrier in Itri district and Sake, Minova, Kalonga in North Kivu and Walungu in South Kivu were undertaken. In addition regular missions to Uvira and Kisangani were also undertaken.

Micro-planning, logistics, sensitisation and general preparations for NIDs 2000 started. Three immunization rounds to be carried out in July, August and September are planned.

Luozi camp (Bas Congo) which hosted ROC refugees and extended services, to resident population was closed on 5 April. The majority of the refugees in the camp have been assisted to repatriate by UNHCR from Luozi to Brazzaville. The remaining caseload, mainly consisting of political refugees, was transferred to Kimanza camp. In the second week of April, UNHCR reported a new DRC refugee influx into Zambia from Katanga.

The influx of Angolan refugees into DRC continues unabated. In excess of 1,000 refugees are reported to have arrived in Kimpese camp at the end of March and were transferred to Nkondo camp. Insecurity along the borders is restricting access and hence UNHCR and NGOS are unable to assess the situation and numbers of refugees living in the villages. In northeastern DRC, Province Orientale, no new Sudanese arrivals have been reported nor SPLA incursions in the Aba and Dungu areas. In the beginning of May UNHCR was able to transfer 74 UAMs to Kinshasa and consequently closed the office in Mbandaka. In early May a UN Common Humanitarian Office (WFP/WHO/FAO/OCHA) was established in Mbandaka.

Repatriation of Rwandan refugees from North and South Kivu is continuing. During 1999, UNHCR reports that some 31,950 Rwandans were assisted to repatriate from the Kivus.

R W A N D A

Total Population: 7,956.172

LOCATION	ORIGIN	FIGURES	COMMENTS
Rwanda	Gisenyi	40,000	IDPs from Gishwati forest
Gikongoro	Burundi	496	Refugees.
Byumba and Kibuye	DRC	27,671	Refugees.
Kigali	Various	1,700	Urban refugees

IntemaliyDisplaced Population	Refugee Population	TOTAL POPULATION	AFFECTED
40,000	29,867	69,867	

Figures for refugees provided by UNHCR. IDP figures provided by OCHA

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS IN RWANDA

Detainee figure by ICRC and UAC figures by WFP.

Drought affected (in Kigali Rural)	147,783
Estimated number of UACs	3,800
Population living in Refugee like situation.	370,000
Detainee figures.	120,700
TOTAL	642,283

Humanitarian Situation

The Rwandan political situation has been evolving rapidly. Monday, April 17 saw the election of Major-General Paul Kagame as the new President of Rwanda in a predictable result following the resignation of Pasteur Bizimungu. The resignation of Bizimungu was the culmination in a whole series of political wranglings within the Rwandan Patriotic Front which included accusations of corruption, the fleeing of the Speaker of the

Parliament and the resignation of the Prime Minister. Kagame's election compounds the RPF's power base and ostensibly removes high-level Hutu representation from the Government.

Two human rights reports released at the end of April have cast accusations on the Rwandan authorities for gross abuses of human rights. Amnesty International's report entitled: Rwanda, The Troubled Course of Justice, focuses on the patterns of arrest,

detention, treatment of detainees, releases, the death penalty and the justice system. It asserts that many arrests appear arbitrary and genocidal accusations relate to disputes about property rights. Successive extensions of the pre-trial period to up to seven years is similarly criticised as a violation of international treaty obligations. Gacaco, a traditional justice system, is being widely feted by the GoR as a mechanism to deal with the 120,700 detainees but lack of legal training and the fact that the defendant will not be granted a defence attorney is cause for concern. Human Rights Watch's (HRW) report: Rwanda: The Search for Security and Human Rights Abuses , focuses on the high priority given to security by the GoR: the 50,000 troops, local defence units, communal police and the military training provided in "solidarity camps" . Within this context, HRW reports a state of tension: detentions without trial, lack of freedom of expression and increasing division amongst various strata of society. HRW recommends that decisions to provide development assistance should be made "after weighing the human rights record".

The Interahamwe attack in the Northwest in January meant a change in security precautions but the situation had been calm until mid-May when rebel activities again resumed. Internal security remains a high priority. The recent tensions with Uganda and the military buildup on the border has resulted in the cancellation of all UN field trips in the border areas. There are military patrols on the main roads and strategic spots are guarded. The UN continues to use military escorts to Ruhengeri and Gisenyi and to those communes far off the main roads. Currently all UN personnel have to get security clearance to go to any Prefecture. A rise in alleged political crimes, the unsolved killing of a WFP staff member in March and an increase in violent crime are contributing to a state of unease within Kigali.

The UN country team in Rwanda is to establish a Country Task Force to monitor the food security situation in the country and to address questions of longer-term food security issues in the region. The task force will mirror the composition of the Horn task Force comprising UNDID, FAO, WFP, IFAD, World Bank, ECA, WHO, and UNICEF with coordination by OCHA. Food security improved in the Northwestern Prefectures of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri. The FEWs bulletin of March 31, reports that by "early April the rainfall season was established across Rwanda, signalling the start of season B, 2000". An expected rise in food prices due to the recent 12% increase in fuel prices did not materialise. WFP Food for Work programmes are increasing in relation to emergency food aid. Pockets of food insecurity exist including most recently concerns over lack of rainfall in Bugesera district in Kigali Rural. A joint assessment mission has recommended that a large-scale swamp reclamation project be undertaken but in the meantime food has been distributed to some 24,000 families.

Confirming reports of spontaneous returns of refugees to eastern DRC, UNHCR's recent registration exercise of the DRC caseload in Kiziba camp, Kibuye and Gihembe camp in Byumba, 25-27 April revealed a reduction of 4,345 or 13.5% to 27,671. The return of Rwandans from eastern DRC has been continuing steadily and since January some 4,575 have passed through the transit centres at an average of 150-300 per week. The voluntary nature of this is still not 100% clear. UNHCR expects the influx to continue until the 3rd quarter of the year and expects up to 35,000 to return. Meanwhile UNHCR has complained to the Tanzanian authorities about the seemingly ad hoc refoulement of Rwandans found outside the refugee camps, many of whom have been settled in Tanzania for many years.

The issue of villagisation raised its head again when 8,300 families were relocated from Gishwati forest on the border with eastern DRC. The people were displaced to insufficient

sites. A joint UN/NGO assessment mission recommended assistance but the relocation of these people is still under debate within the GoR.

The figure of 370,000 people who are living in refugee-like conditions relates to those people who are still living in temporary shelters in conditions of poverty and includes those who have been relocated by the GoR to villages (or Imidugudu).

TANZANIA

Total Population: 30,608,769

LOCATION	ORIGIN	FIGURES	COMMENTS
Tanzania	Burundi	499,000	Refugee population.
Tanzania	DRC	98,500	Refugee population.
Tanzania	Mixed	1,300	Refugee population.
Tanzania	Rwanda	20,100	Refugee population.
Tanzania	Somalia	3,300	Refugee population.

Internally Displaced Population	Refugee Population	TOTAL AFFECTED POPULATION
N/A	622,200	622,200

Refugee figures, as of end December 7999, provided by UNHCR.HQ. UAC figures, as of 1st week of August 7999, provided by UNICEF.

Humanitarian Situation

The killing of the brother of Nyangoma, the Burundese CNDD leader, in Muyovozi camp together with his wife and three children in mid February, was viewed by many as a continuation of political activities in the camps in western Tanzania. Nyangoma's brother was a medical doctor working with the Tanzania Red Cross Society.

With the upsurge in fighting between the rebels and government forces in Burundi, refugee arrival rates in western Tanzania increased dramatically in December 1999 and January 2000, whereby some 22,000 and 23,000 Burundian refugees crossed the borders to Tanzania making an average arrival rate of some 5,000 refugees per week for the two months period. Arriving refugees reported continued fighting, particularly in Gitega and Ruyigi provinces and a resurgence of fighting closer to the borders with Tanzania. Rebels also fired at villagers when they refused to hand over their cattle, thereby forcing most of the villagers to flee. After the rebel attacks, government soldiers arrived and opened fire at the remaining villagers.

In the first week of February, however, the arrival rates from Burundi declined to 200 per day were being registered as opposed to 1,000 daily arrivals when rates of asylum seekers were at its peak in January. In February, March and April some 7,000, 4,800 and 1,440 Burundian refugees, respectively, were

registered in Tanzania. On average, numbers of asylum seekers from Burundi during this period was 250-500 persons per week. This reduction in numbers could be attributed to expectations around the Arusha peace talks and re-enforcement of military presence along the borders by the Tanzanian authorities.

This massive refugee influx placed a considerable amount of strain on the preparedness measures put in place by UNHCR and WFP; particularly refugee sites and food. As a result, Karago contingency site has now reached its initial capacity of 42,000 and hence UNHCR together with implementing partners increased the camp capacity to 55,000 and upgraded the water supply system.

The influx into western Tanzania of Congolese refugees has been steady during the reporting period and an average of 200 to 400 per week were registered. In January, some 1,300 Congolese refugees crossed Lake Tanganyika mainly from the zones of Baraka, Fizi and Uvira. Those from Baraka reported an acute food shortage while those from Uvira and Fizi cited continuing atrocities by the rebels as the main reason for their departure and also reported detentions by RCD-Goma and disappearance of people attempting to cross the lakes. Other arrivals, during the reporting period, from the zones of Kalemie and Moba reported continued fighting.

An influx of Rwandan asylum seekers, although small in comparison to the Burundian and Congolese caseloads, continues. In January and February some 182 and 234 Rwandans were registered as refugees in Tanzania. In the meantime, UNHCR reports that during the period 1 January to 29 February, some 82 Rwandans were assisted to return to Rwanda.

During the month of February, 215 Burundian refugees and 74 Rwandan asylum seekers were refouled by the Tanzanian authorities. UNHCR intervened with the authorities to ensure the protection of the refoulees.

UNHCR is planning a refugee re-registration exercise in June. The last re-registration exercise was carried out in August 1999, and the result was an overall reduction in the refugee population of 15.2 per cent.

WFP's buffer stocks in Tanzania have now been depleted. In February, the build-up for all commodities (except CSB and Salt) continued, in March a CSB supply gap was covered by a loan from the Rwanda programme and a pipeline break is likely to set in by September if pledges are not made immediately, given the long lead time between pledges and actual food arrival. Since the beginning of the year, WFP's Great Lakes pipeline has been resourced for very short periods only. In the words of a senior WFP official, this situation means "literally feeding from hand to mouth."

Due to drier than normal conditions in Tanzania, the food situation outlook is rather bleak for many parts of the country. In early May, the Government announced the dispatch of experts to determine the amount of grain needed to stem a looming food crisis in parts of the country that have received

insufficient rain. The affected regions according to the government are Morogoro, Singida, Dodoma, Mara, Tabora, Arusha, Iringa and Mwanza. These eight regions are amongst thirteen that experienced similar problems in 1999. The UN estimates that some 347,000 poor living in semi-arid zones of Dodoma are facing 35-40 per cent food deficit and that if the long rains do fail or are late, this group will find it hard to cope and interventions will be required to assure minimum food security. Tanzania is one of six countries in the Greater Horn of Africa expected to be included in a regional drought appeal.

UGANDA

Total Population: 22,167,195

	LOCATION	ORIGIN	FIGURES	COMMENTS
	Adjumani	Uganda	10,000	Estimated displaced population
	Bundibugyo	Uganda	111,250	Estimated displaced population.
	Gulu	Uganda	237,590	Estimated displaced population.
	Kabarole	Uganda	20,000	Estimated displaced population.
	Kapchorwa	Uganda	5,000	Estimated displaced population.
	Kasese	Uganda	35,000	Estimated displaced population.
	Katakwi	Uganda	35,000	Estimated displaced population
	Kitgum	Uganda	162,646	Estimated displaced population.
	Kibaale	Uganda	12,000	Estimated displaced population.
	Kumi	Uganda	2,500	Estimated displaced population
	Lira	Uganda	15,000	Estimated displaced population
	Masindi	Uganda	46,958	Estimated displaced population.
	Soroti	Uganda	2,500	Estimated displaced population
	Adjumani	Sudan	71,564	Refugee population.
	Arua	Sudan	43,657	Refugee population.
	Hoima	DRC	5,991	Refugee population.
	Kabarole	DRC	1,621	Refugee population.
	Kitgum	Sudan	23,581	Refugee population.
	Masindi	Sudan	13,594	Refugee population.
	Mbarara	Mixed	9,607	Refugee population,
	Moyo	Sudan	27,040	Refugee population.
	Urban refugees	Mixed	350	Refugee population,

Internally Displaced Population	Refugee Population	TOTAL AFFECTED POPULATION
695,444	197,005	892,449

Refugee figures provided by UNHCR. IDP figures provided by OCHA and the

GoU, OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS IN UGANDA

Abducted children figures provided by UNICEF

AbducteeChildren	6,063
TOTAL	6,063

Humanitarian Situation

Concerns had been raised about the delay in formulating the question to be asked in the referendum scheduled for June 29th. In May the question; "Which political system do you wish to adopt, Movement of Multiparty?" was finally presented to the electoral commission. The National Resistance Movement (NRM) is embarking on awareness-raising campaigns while the Multipartists are still urging a boycott. Donors continue to insist on a transparent process with equal opportunities. The mechanisms to hold a country-wide mechanism will undoubtedly be affected by ongoing insecurity in the North, East and West. Government harassment and discriminatory legislation are suppressing independent political activity in Uganda, Human Rights Watch charged in a report. This report, entitled Hostile to Democracy. The Movement System and Political Repression in Uganda charges that Museveni's NRM has outlawed most of the activities by political parties, including holding meetings and public rallies and sponsoring candidates for election. At the same time, the report recognizes that Uganda had made significant progress in many areas of human rights. The Human Rights record of the government was also criticised by both National and International HR bodies; The US State Department on Human Rights as well as the Ugandan Commission for Human Rights.

In spite of the criticism President Museveni received during the 5 day consultative group meeting with donors in March, Uganda has received pledges of some \$800 million. Donors have, however, been sending disapproving signals to the GoU. The planned purchase of a presidential jet, delayed for a short period, the final decision by the IMF on whether to grant Uganda inclusion in the enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. In addition resumed hostilities between Rwanda and Uganda in Kisangani have delayed a decision on debt relief from creditors belonging to the "Paris Club".

Despite reconciliation efforts by the Carter Centre to bring Sudan and Uganda closer together, after a period of calm the Lord's Resistance Army who are based in southern Sudan resumed its destabilising activities in Gulu and Kitgum on 23 December. Since then the continued attacks have resulted in reduced assistance activities due to lack of security for humanitarian organisations and most staff have been confined to the district centres. It is believed that all the IDPs who had left the camps in Kitgum returned to the camps (85,000) and in addition to the 24,000 in Gulu a further 30-40,000 have joined the camps. The peace initiatives are being conducted within a backdrop of criticisms,

particularly from the Ugandan side which indicates rather a half-hearted attitude to any political solution to the relationship, although hopes were raised somewhat when a number of concrete steps were initiated : abducted children and adults were returned to Uganda and a number of political prisoners were returned to Sudan.

A request for NFIs and food aid to the GoU by Katakwi district local officials, prompted a joint GoU/UN/NGO assessment mission in March to the new district of Katakwi which has been affected by incursions of Karamojong warriors from Kotido and Moroto. The main findings include the following: an ever-increasing number of displaced - the mission estimated above 35,000 people living in poor conditions. Those who have revisited their homes have discovered their granaries and fields looted. The most urgent needs are food, water, NFIs and healthcare. Sanitation is also of concern particularly with the anticipated rainy season. These problems are not just limited to Katakwi but all the neighbouring districts are being affected by the raids: Soroti, Lira, and Kitgum. At a meeting in April following the Katakwi mission, district leaders reported little change since the assessment at the end of March. The displaced are eager to return home and get on with planting but are restricted by insecurity although some people, especially men, are cautiously moving back from town to parish centres nearer their homes which are being guarded by Local Defence Units (LDUs). It has been noted that the violence this season has been extremely severe and rapes, violent crime and murder have been widespread. The GoU made, in March, a controversial decision to provide weapons to authorities in some counties to protect residents from the raids, in advance of a disarmament campaign planned for July. Additional troops have already been deployed to the area. Future humanitarian interventions rely on a marked improvement in security arrangements. Following two food security assessment missions in Kotido and Moroto WFP is monitoring the situation closely and while warning of an impending crisis WFP does not yet consider it to be a famine. MSF Holland relayed that it was planning to intervene in the health, water and sanitation sector and UNICEF is exploring with ActionAid the provision of much needed water. The EU planned a large market intervention in order to maintain food prices. Some observers have blamed the Karamojong violence on the historical lack of development in this part of Uganda.

The ADF issued a threat in January to aid agencies working in Bundibugyo and activities were suspended until at the end of January WFP, following negotiations with the army, resumed deliveries. A recent inter-agency mission to Bundibugyo heralded the return of many agencies who had been working there prior to the ADF threat. The

assessment mission undertaken 18-20 April estimated that 120,000 of the 140,000 population of the District is displaced and living in 49 camps. In addition there are an estimated 2,000 refugees from DRC. Overcrowding is exacerbating poor health and sanitary conditions. Pockets of insecurity remain but cultivation is possible around the camps and along the edges of the Rwenzori mountains when the people receive escorts from the UPDF. Measles immunisation was highlighted as a priority and an outbreak of cholera has resulted in 22 deaths out of 303 cases, most of whom come from Mantaroba camp. WFP, MSF/F, UNICEF, World Harvest Mission and ActionAid are currently working in the district and ARC, ICRC and Oxfam have expressed intentions to return. Meanwhile the GoU continues to assert its success in over-running ADF camps and has reorganised its DRC UPDF structure in order to strengthen its cross-border activities in the Rwenzori area but the ADF remains active and there are few indications that the population in the affected districts will return home soon. The Amnesty Law would appear to be attracting some takers with the reported surrender of the ADF Chief of Staff and six colleagues

Great Lakes Region Refugees in other locations

(source: UNHCR HQ as of Jan 2000)

Refugee figures, as of end December 7999, provided by UNHCR HQ.

ORIGIN	LOCATION	FIGURES	COMMENTS
Burundi	CAR	60	Refugees.
ROC	CAR	200	Refugees.
DRC	CAR	9,500	Refugees.
Rwanda	CAR	440	Refugees.
Burundi	Gabon	40	Refugees.
ROC	Gabon	12,200	Refugees.
DRC	Gabon	670	Refugees.
Rwanda	Gabon	90	Refugees.
Burundi	Zambia	1,600	Refugees.
DRC	Zambia	36,400	Refugees
Rwanda	Zambia	4,200	Refugees

Total Great Lakes' Refugees outside the region

65,400
