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## RWANDA

## REFUGEE FACT SHEET

RELEASED IN FULL

## I. NUMBERS: REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

- \* **Burundi Refugees in Rwanda:** There are currently about 287,000 Burundi Refugees in Rwanda. More than 300,000 arrived following the October 1993 coup attempt and inter-ethnic conflict in Burundi; after repatriation in early 1994, some 260,000 remain. An additional 25,000 remain from an influx in 1972.
- \* **Rwandan Refugees:** There are an estimated 550,000 Rwandan refugees in Central Africa, most of whom fled Rwanda during the 1959 - 1964 period. Countries of asylum are as follows:

Uganda:	200,000
Burundi:	245,000
Tanzania:	50,000
Zaire:	50,000

- \* **Rwandan Displaced Persons:** Approximately 350,000 Rwandans, down from 900,000 in 1993, remain displaced in northern Rwanda due to the conflict between the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandan Patriotic Front. Many are currently returning home.

## II. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- \* **Burundi Refugees:** UNHCR is coordinating assistance to the new Burundi refugees in cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The UN World Food Program (WFP) is supplying food aid. The International Federation of Red Cross/Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Rwandan Red Cross are distributing food and non-food relief. Medecins sans Frontieres/Belgium and Holland (MSF), Medecins du Monde (MDM), and CARITAS are providing health care. CARE and OXFAM have set up water systems.
- \* **Rwandan Refugees:** The bulk of Rwanda's 550,000 refugees are considered self-sufficient and are no longer assisted by the international community. UNHCR provides minimal assistance to 80,000 refugees in Uganda and 77,000 in Burundi.
- \* **Rwandan Displaced:** Displaced persons in northern Rwanda are assisted primarily by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and IFRC in conjunction with the Rwandan Red Cross Society. Food aid is provided by WFP.

### III. USG ASSISTANCE

- \* State Department's Bureau for Refugee Programs (RP) earmarked \$250,000 in FY91 for UNHCR Preparatory Activities for a Comprehensive Plan of Action for Rwandan Refugees. Additional contributions to UNHCR are anticipated once Rwandan refugee repatriation appears imminent.
- \* RP has also responded in FY94 to appeals for funds to assist new Burundi refugees in Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. Contributions are as follows:

UNHCR:	\$4,250,000
IFRC:	\$ 750,000
WFP:	\$ 502,700

RP has also made unearmarked contributions to UNHCR and ICRC 1993 and 1994 programs in Africa which include Rwanda. RP contributed \$43 million for 1993 and \$41.7 million to date for 1994 to UNHCR's General Program for Africa. RP also contributed \$41.5 million to ICRC's 1993 Emergency Appeal for Africa and \$35 million to date for ICRC's 1994 appeal.

- \* In December 1994, the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs airlifted over 9,000 blankets to Rwanda for UNHCR to distribute to Burundi refugees.
- \* USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has provided \$3.87 million in assistance to internally displaced Rwandans since FY91. In FY93, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) provided food contributions valued at over \$30 million for internally displaced Rwandans. In FY94 to date, FFP has authorized \$9 million in commodities for WFP in response to the Burundi crisis, a portion of which will go towards refugees in Rwanda.

### IV. BACKGROUND

- \* **Rwandan Refugees:** Between 1959 and 1964, approximately 150,000 Rwandans fled to Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Zaire following the overthrow of the Tutsi monarchy in Rwanda. During the past thirty years, the refugee population has more than tripled due to high birth rates.
- \* **RPF/GOR Conflict:** On October 1, 1990, Rwanda was invaded by the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a force of about 7,000 Rwandan exiles from Uganda. The RPF was not able to take the country (due largely to French and Belgian intervention) but became entrenched in northern Rwanda fighting a guerrilla war with the GOR. About 350,000 persons remain displaced (down from 900,000 in 1993) from the RPF-held zone. The war generated 9,000 new refugees who fled to Uganda.

- \* **Arusha Peace Accords:** On August 4, 1993, the RPF and GOR signed peace accords in Arusha, Tanzania signifying the official end to the conflict. Under the Arusha Accords, refugee return is to be addressed sequentially following (1) the formation of a new government, (2) the completion of a humanitarian plan of action to address resettlement of displaced and refugees, and (3) the resettlement of displaced persons.
- \* **Burundi Refugees:** Beginning in October 1993, Rwanda received a new influx of over 300,000 Burundi refugees following the attempted coup and subsequent inter-ethnic violence that broke out in Burundi. Due to repatriation which began in early 1994, the current number of new refugees in Rwanda has decreased to about 262,000.

#### V. CURRENT ISSUES

- \* **Stalemate on Formation of a New Government:** Under the Arusha Accords, the return of displaced persons and refugees will be addressed only after the new government is formed. The current stalemate on formation of a new government in Rwanda has delayed large-scale repatriation and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons.
- \* **Spontaneous Repatriation:** In early 1994, some 8-9,000 Rwandan refugees returned from Uganda and settled in northern Rwanda in the RPF-held demilitarized zone. UNHCR is providing assistance to this group. Should additional Rwandan refugees return, conflict may occur between returnees and displaced persons competing for land.
- \* **Landmines:** The RPF-held zone is heavily mined (50,000 uncleared landmines). A UN peacekeeping force is currently developing a landmine-clearing strategy with the GOR and RPF. Until the mines are cleared, however, the area is considered unsafe for resettlement. Casualties may result should refugees and displaced return prior to demining.
- \* **Conditions of Burundi Refugees in Rwanda:** UNHCR has reported initially high death rates among Burundi refugees in Rwanda as a result of disease and malnutrition attributed to extremely poor sanitation, over-crowding, and shortages of both potable water and food. Some 50% to 75% of the deaths are attributed to dysentery. Malnutrition is also a serious concern; nutritional surveys indicate that between 13% to 20% of children under five are malnourished.