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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Rwanda: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRRW012	
Date of issue: 11 May 2015	Date of disaster: 3 April 2015
Operation manager: Vinay Sadavarte, IFRC Operations Coordinator (Acting)	Point of contact: Angelique Murunghi, Head of Disaster Management
Operation start date: 8 May 2015	Expected timeframe: Three months (End date: 8 August 2015).
Overall operation budget: CHF 244,580	
Number of people affected: 24,635	Number of people to be assisted: 7,500 people (1,500 households)
Host National Society (ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 70 volunteers, six staff, four National Disaster Response Team members.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Belgian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and International Committee of the Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: ADRA, Africa Humanitarian Action, American Refugee Committee, Care International, Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugees Affairs (MIDIMAR), Ministry of Health, PAJER, Plan Rwanda, Save the Children, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Population Fund, World Food Programme, World Health Organization and World Vision	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Since early April 2015, over 24,000 Burundi nationals have sought refuge in Rwanda due to pre-election tension and violence. On 25 April, Burundi's current President announced he would run for a third term in the upcoming presidential elections (26 June 2015), which has sparked widespread protests in the capital, Bujumbura, and intensified the pre-election tension across the country. Bujumbura currently remains particularly unstable, and refugees are crossing into Rwanda through 25 border entry points across 10 districts along the Burundi-Rwanda border, in the south east of the country.

According to the Rwanda Red Cross Society (RRCS), the borders that have the largest influx of refugees are Gasenyi and Kamabuye in Bugesera district, and Kanyaru in Gisagara district whereby approximately 3,200 new arrivals are received per day. Many refugees have said they had fled due to verbal abuse within their neighbourhoods, and due to fear of militia groups. New arrivals typically spend two to three days at the entry points before being transferred to three transit camps (Bugesera-Gashora, Nyanza-Muyira and Ruzizi-Nyagatare), where they spend one – three weeks, and are then later transported to the main/permanent camp of Kirehe-Mahama in Eastern Province. As of 4 May 2015, the number of refugees registered by RRCS and MIDIMAR (Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs) at entry points had reached 24,635 (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)), which comprises people that have been transferred to the camps, as well as those being accommodated in communities, including some Burundian politicians. Please refer to "Table 1: Affected beneficiaries, as of 4 May 2015 (Rwanda Red Cross and UNHCR)".

In the Bugesera-Gashora and Nyanza-Muyira camps, the population is being accommodated in existing old buildings (old government schools) and/or temporary shelters; however they are not able to accommodate the increasing number of new arrivals. Water collection points and electricity are limited, which has become a challenge for both the refugees and the host community; while local supplies have also been exhausted. The government of Rwanda in collaboration with UNHCR is planning to expand both the Bugesera-Gashora and Nyanza-Muyira camps; while MIDIMAR have also indicated that need for increased basic infrastructure.

Table 1: Affected beneficiaries, as of 4 May 2015 (Rwanda Red Cross and UNHCR)

Summary	Total
# of people affected/displaced	24,635
# of people injured	6

It is reported that the majority of refugees are arriving with nothing, having left behind livestock, harvested crops, bicycles, and other household equipment while many are suffering from malaria due to travelling and sleeping outside en-route to Rwanda. In addition, cases of malnutrition among children under five years old has also been recorded (estimated at 5 per of children in the camps according to the RRCS), along with other communicable airborne diseases such as tuberculosis (TB).



RRCS volunteers conducting registration of refugees in transit camps of Bugesera-Gashora and Nyanza-Muyira. Photo: RRCS

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Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The RRCS national headquarters (NHQ) is working with its Bugesera, Nyanza, Kirehe and Gisagara branches to coordinate the response. RRCS NHQ has deployed six National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) and 50 Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) multi-disciplinary trained volunteers have also been deployed to support the response in the three transit camps, one permanent camp and another 25 entry points where the Burundi refugees are arriving. An additional 20 volunteers are on standby to support the response if required.

At these the entry points, the BDRTs have been involved in the distribution of food, water, and offering registration, hygiene promotion and first aid services. At present, there are very few actors offering services which means RRCS activities are essential. In addition, RRCS volunteers are supporting new arrivals in the three transit camps, and one permanent camp – supporting the distribution of food, non-food items (NFIs) and tents (provided by ADRA International), as well as offering a welcome and tracing service. As of 4 May 2015, the RRCS had distributed NFIs to 725 families, including blankets, disinfectants products, jerry-cans, kitchen sets, kitenges (clothing item), plastic mats and washing soap. Please refer to “Table 2: Distribution of non-food items (now partially complete)”. Additional NFI distributions are planned for 775 households in the permanent camp (Kirehe-Mahama) and in the transit camps of Bugesera-Gashora and Rusizi-Nyagatara.

Table 2: Distribution of Non-Food Items (now partially complete)

Items	Unity	Quantity
Blanket	Pcs	600
Buckets	Pcs	400
Jerry cans	Pcs	400
Kitchen set	Sets	725
Kitenge (clothing items)	Pcs	480
Plastic mat	Pcs	600
Soap	Pcs	1,200

RRCS volunteers are also conducting ongoing monitoring at the entry points and within the transit camps in coordination with other actors, with the aim of identifying the most vulnerable beneficiaries such as children/mothers who need vaccination, health and hygiene sensitization, children with malnutrition, the disabled, elderly, pregnant mothers. The RRCS has been requested by MIDIMAR, UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) to coordinate food distributions at all 25 entry points in the 10 districts in the Eastern, Southern and Western provinces of the country, with volunteers deployed according to the expected number of refugees for a period of three months. RRCS is participating in coordination meetings at both the local and national level.



Volunteers conducting the distribution of NFIs in Bugesera-Gashora transit camp (Phase I distribution). Photo: RRCS

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is providing assistance through its East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands (EAIOI) regional representation and Africa zone office, which are based in Nairobi, Kenya. Since the onset of the disaster, there has been regular contact with the IFRC EAIOI regional representation's disaster management department and regular updates on the situation and activities. On 28 April 2015, an alert was issued using the IFRC disaster management information system (DMIS), and an Operational Strategy Call carried out with colleagues at Secretariat, zone and regional level. It was agreed that an allocation should be made from the Disaster Relief and Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the RRCS to respond to the situation.

The Belgian Red Cross and Danish Red Cross, who have an in-country presence, are actively involved in the operation and coordination updates, the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) and budget for this DREF operation have all been shared with them with the intention of mobilizing additional assistance if available and/or required. The ICRC is also working closely with RRCS in the reunification of separated children. Mobile call facilitation is being provided among the separated families whereby the refugees are allowed to make free phone calls to try and locate missing family members that have been left behind. This service is provided in all transit camps.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Following the Burundi refugee influx, the government of Rwanda through MIDIMAR has coordinated the response in collaboration with local government authorities at the district levels in Bugesera, Kirehe, Nyanza and Rusizi; and is managing the camp coordination in collaboration with UNHCR. The Rwanda National Police (RNP), Rwanda Defense Force (RDF) and Rwanda Reserve Force are present at all transit and permanent camps as well as at entry border points, and are responsible for refugee security and protection. UNHCR is responsible for camp coordination in collaboration with MIDIMAR. The Rwandan Immigration and Emigration services in collaboration with MIDIMAR and

RRCS are supporting the registration of the refugees in all of the camps. ADRA is coordinating all logistics; PAJER and World Vision are providing water and sanitation; WFP is providing food and special diet for cases of malnutrition; Plan Rwanda is leading on child protection and child psychological support, gender based violence (GBV) support, and education occupation games; the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) and American Refugee Committee (ARC) are offering assistance to prevent and treat malaria (distribution of mosquito nets) within the population; while cases of communicable diseases are being addressed by the AHA and ARC in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH). Other partner organizations involved in the response include: Care International, Save the Children, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the World Health Organization, as well as government ministries. As noted, at the entry points, there are minimum actors and services available.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs analysis

In late April 2015, the RRCS carried out a preliminary needs assessment and as noted volunteers are continuing to monitor the needs of the population at both the entry points and in the camps.

Following a needs assessment carried out by the MIDIMAR, UNHCR and WFP, there has been a call for all partners to support the response with NFIs due to delays in stocks arriving in the country. RRCS has been requested to provide trained volunteers to support the coming refugees at all 25 entry posts, to reinforce hygiene and sanitation activities and to offer psychosocial support to refugees who require it. In addition, based on monitoring and observation by RRCS volunteers, it is clear that the primary needs include NFIs, first aid, psychosocial support, tracing, vaccinations, and access to water and sanitation. Many refugees have arrived from Burundi with minimal supplies, and some are also injured or ill due to the journey to Rwanda. The majority of arrivals are women and children, and with minimal access to clean water and sanitation facilities, the risk of disease outbreak is high.

From 7 May 2015, a number of organizations will begin a joint detailed needs assessment in the transit camps, specifically related to health, which will inform a revision to the activities planned (if required) by the RRCS based on the current needs, as more information is released from the assessment.

Risk Analysis

Based on the current situation and the likelihood of additional refugees arriving, the capacity of existing organizations to cope is likely to be quickly overwhelmed. If the total number of refugees reaches 100,000 by the end of June 2015, as the Rwanda National trend analysis predicts, there may be a need to revise the DREF operation to meet these additional needs. Some of the risks to be monitored, include disease outbreaks (air and water borne), injuries related to the long distances travelled by the refugees, and increasing tension between the refugees and host communities. Depending on the rate of arrivals from Burundi, there is also a risk of increasing competition for resources between the refugees and host communities. This should be closely monitored throughout the response.

While the majority of risks are related to the worsening situation for refugees and affected communities, there are also some risks which may impede the RRCS efficient involvement in the response. These risks include a possible deterioration in security, delays with procurement, and gaps in human resources. Despite these possibilities, there are also risks to RRCS not intervening in this refugee response, which could include increased and intensified beneficiary needs, as well as reputational damage to the Host National Society.

Beneficiary selection:

The RRCS will also ensure that the DREF operation is aligned with the IFRC's commitment to realize gender equality and diversity, by adapting a beneficiary selection criteria that targets female headed-households, people with disabilities etc. Other aspects considered will include prevention of sexual violence and gender-based violence, and the protection of children. Many of households are female-headed, and have been identified by RRCS as particularly vulnerable. It is expected that 1,500 households (7,500 people) will be reached through this DREF operation.

Overall objective

The Burundi refugee population's survival and immediate needs are met through the provision of essential emergency relief and shelter items; first aid, hygiene promotion, psychosocial support, registration and tracing services, targeting

a total of 7,500 people (1,500 households) in the three transit camps (Bugesera-Gashora, Nyanza-Muyira and Ruzizi-Nyagatare), one permanent camp (Kirehe-Mahama), and 25 entry points, in collaboration with the Rwandan government and other humanitarian actors.

Proposed strategy

The proposed strategy aims to support 7,500 people (1,500 households), located in the in the three transit camps (Bugesera-Gashora, Nyanza-Muyira and Ruzizi-Nyagatare), one permanent camp (Kirehe-Mahama), and 22 entry points through activities focused on:

- Conduct preliminary needs assessment by RRCS branch field staff and volunteers to inform the activities planned within the DREF operation. Please note that this activity has been completed and the costs (per diem and transportation) will be reimbursed through the DREF allocation.
- Training of 16 Local Disaster Response Team (LDRT) volunteers on preparedness and response activities in camp settings (two per district from eight districts which border Burundi (Bugesera, Gisagara, Huye, Kirehe, Ngoma, Nyanza, Nyaruguru, and Ruzizi). The LDRT volunteers will receive a four-day training, held in Kigali, which will cover basic camp-environment concepts, such as distribution practices, registration processes, etc. For the preparedness side, the training will help the LDRT better understand the RRCS' preparedness plan and strategy. The 16 LDRT will then cascade this learning to their peers.
- Distribution of NFIs for 1,500 households, specifically: blankets (3,000 pcs; two per household), Kitenge clothing of double pc (1,500 pcs; one per household targeting women headed households), kitchen sets (one per household), plastic mats (3,000 pcs; two per household), and second hand clothing (50 bundles, 10 pcs per household). In one of the larger entry points a cooking shelter for new arrivals will also be constructed. As previously mentioned, the distribution of these items has been partially completed (refer to "Table 2: Distribution of Non-Food Items (now partially complete)"; and will be replenished through the DREF allocation
- Distribution of shelter items, specifically: plastic sheeting (3,000 pcs; two per household). Other fixings, materials etc. as well as technical assistance is being provided by other organizations; and as such the plastic sheeting will complement this support.
- Set up of four volunteer tents (two in Bugesera-Gashora camp; two in, Kirehe-Mahama camp) to replace the used tents and facilitate volunteer work in camps related to first aid, psychosocial support and tracing services. First aid kits (four), which have been used in the response will also be replenished through the DREF allocation.
- Distribution of hygiene related NFIs for 1,500 households, specifically: buckets (1,500 pcs; one per household), jerry cans (3,000 pcs; two per household) and soap (12,000 pcs; eight pcs per household). The distribution of these items has been partially completed (refer to "Table 2: Distribution of Non-Food Items (now partially complete)"; and will be replenished through the DREF allocation.
- Refresher training of 40 volunteers (10 per camp) in PHASTER and Mobile Cinema production in emergencies.
- Community hygiene promotion (weekly by the Mobile Cinema) in the three transit camps of (Bugesera-Gashora, Nyanza-Muyira and Ruzizi-Nyagatare) and one permanent camp (Kirehe-Mahama, with the intention of improving hygiene practices within the camps of the Burundi refugee population. Mobile cinema equipment is already available from nearby branches and 48 cinemas are planned: one cinema per week in four camps. In addition, 2,000 leaflets containing hygiene promotion messages will also be distributed.
- Provision of first aid and psychosocial support services in 22 entry points
- Support government of Rwanda with registration in 22 entry points
- Work with other actors to provide tracing services to reunite refugees with lost family members

Through this DREF operation, the RRCS intends to complement the actions of other organizations, particularly in the entry points where there is currently minimal support being provided. In addition, the activities planned will be distributed across the entry points/camps depending on the gaps and/or changing refugee numbers. If there are increasing numbers of refugees at any one entry point, the RRCS will re-orientate their efforts here within the existing strategy that is proposed; while if there are increasing numbers of refugees across all areas, and the actions of other organizations are overwhelmed it is possible that an additional DREF allocation would then be requested. RRCS volunteers will continue to monitor the situation across the entry points/camps so that the strategy can be revised as/where necessary. All activities planned will be in accordance with the recognized SPHERE standards. Note that non-standard items such as the Kitenge are being provided to respond to specific cultural needs of the Burundi refugees.

Operational support services

Human resources

The DREF operation will require the mobilization of the following personnel:

- Six NDRT members deployed, for a period of eight days to support volunteers with the distribution of the NFIs shelter and hygiene items, as well as operation coordination at branch level. The NDRT have a general relief profile, including one with a shelter profile. In addition seven RRCS staff are also to be deployed to ensure the effective coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the activities planned.
- 50 RRCS volunteers (with 20 volunteers on standby) will be deployed for 90 days. Each volunteer will support with the implementation of activities planned, for example, preliminary assessment, distribution of NFIs, shelter and hygiene items; and refugee hygiene promotion; and are deployed to the transit camps for three month period. These volunteers have been trained, however the BDRT will require refresher training in preparedness and camp management. Each volunteer will be issued with protective equipment (caps, gloves, gum boots, jackets, rain coats and t-shirts).
- An IFRC Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member will also be deployed, for a period of two months to support the effective implementation of the DREF operation. In addition one technical regional beneficiary communication support will also be deployed for a period of two weeks, to set up the mobile cinema.

Logistics and Supply Chain

RRCS logistics plans are in place to support the operation including the procurement, storage and distribution of the NFIs, most of which are available locally (buckets, clothing, jerry cans, soap and tarpaulins etc.). RRCS has warehouse facilities in Kigali, which have sufficient space for the NFIs to be procured in-country. RRCS has also been allocated warehouse space in one of the transit camps and can use this space during the NFI distributions. The only items that RRCS cannot access in Rwanda are four volunteer tents (for first aid, tracing and psychosocial support), which RRCS will request the IFRC EAIOI regional representation based in Nairobi, Kenya to purchase and send these by DHL courier. The customs exemption process for items sent from Nairobi should take one week from the government of Rwanda.

The existing RRCS procurement manual will ensure the fastest solution is found and budgeted to ensure good practice and accountability. Additional to that, there is existing strategic stock at RRCS level that has capacity to accommodate 5,000 NFI items. Following the approval of the DREF allocation, RRCS will start using NFIs from the strategic stock and the new stock purchased will be stocked back in the warehouse. The RRCS will also lease a vehicle and truck to support the transportation of items to the area of implementation; as well as support the movement of staff and volunteers mobilized for this DREF operation. Fuel and maintenance costs have also been budgeted.

Information technologies (IT)

Information updates will be shared through DMIS and email. Communication costs have been budgeted within the DREF allocation.

Communications

The RRCS will work closely with the IFRC to raise awareness of the specific role and added value of Red Cross volunteers in emergency response. This will be done through the collection of human-interest stories as well as key messages and photographs. In addition to regularly providing communication updates within the Movement, media will also be engaged to ensure awareness is raised among donors and the general public. Communications and visibility materials will be produced during monitoring visits carried out by the IFRC EAIOI regional representation and Africa zone. RRCS will work in collaboration with the IFRC EAIOI regional representation to ensure the communication and visibility of the DREF operation, which will include raising awareness of the activities planned; as well as preparation of case studies/photographs for use on the RRCS and IFRC websites, and social media platforms. A film documentary on the DREF operation will also be produced and has been budgeted within the DREF allocation. In addition, the RRCS will facilitate visits by the local media in relation to DREF response implementation in transit and permanent camps.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Rwanda:** Apollinaire Karamaga, Secretary General, Rwanda Red Cross; phone: +250 078 8301377; Email: apollinaire.karamaga@rwandaredcross.org
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Finnjarle Rode, Regional Representative for East Africa; Nairobi phone +254 20 283 5000; email: Finnjarle.rode@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, Phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **Zone Logistics Unit (RLU):** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of zone logistics unit; Tel: +254 733 888022/ Fax +254 20 271 2777; email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- Penny Elghady, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; Addis Ababa; Email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting)

- **In IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator, Africa phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world. The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace

DREF OPERATION

11/05/2015

MDRRW012 Population Movement

Budget Group	DREF grant budget
Shelter - Relief	30,435
Shelter - Transitional	580
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	47,826
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	4,348
Medical & First Aid	5,217
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	35,870
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	124,275
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	1,175
Distribution & Monitoring	5,797
Transport & Vehicle Costs	18,889
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	25,861
International Staff	12,000
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	4,916
Volunteers	29,553
Total PERSONNEL	46,469
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	7,638
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	7,638
Travel	7,000
Information & Public Relations	14,086
Office Costs	825
Communications	2,250
Financial Charges	1,250
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	25,411
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	14,927
Total INDIRECT COSTS	14,927
TOTAL BUDGET	244,580