



## COUNTRY PROFILE: BURUNDI

### ***Nature of Conflict***

Conflict in Burundi is predominantly an internal, ethno-political struggle for power. While this conflict has regional aspects, with resulting interactions and alliances complicating the internal conflict, Burundi was not a major player in the regional conflict centered around the DRC.

### ***Demobilization, Reinsertion and Reintegration Program (DRRP)***

#### **National Program**

Following the signing of the cease-fire agreements with rebel groups in 2002, the Government began to prepare a national Demobilization, Reinsertion and Reintegration Program (DRRP) within the MDRP framework. The principal objectives of this program are to (i) demobilize an estimated 55,000 combatants from the *Forces Armées Burundaises*, members of armed political parties and movements, and subsequently members of the integrated Burundi National Defense Force, as well as support their reintegration into civilian life; (ii) support the reinsertion of an estimated 20,000 *Guardiens de la Paix* militia of Government and approximately 10,000 *combattants militants* militia of the APPMs; and (iii) contribute to the reallocation of Government expenditure from defense to social and economic sectors over a period of five years.

The overall program is estimated to cost US\$84.4 million. The World Bank is providing US\$33 million in grant funding, the MDRP will provide US\$42.4 and the German government is expected to provide approximately US\$7 million of complimentary financing.

The Government has established a National Commission for Demobilization, Reinsertion and Reintegration (NCDRR) to oversee implementation of the Program. An Executive Secretariat (ES) of the NCDRR has been put in place to lead implementation of the Program and to coordinate international assistance to the process. The ES/NCDRR is currently in the process of preparing two demobilization centers and procuring essential goods and services with a view to initiating demobilization activities in June 2004.

Pre-disarmament assembly of *Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie* (CNDD-FDD) troops is currently taking place, following a comprehensive power-sharing agreement between the Government and the CNDD-FDD in November 2003.

#### **Special Projects**

A special project proposal for the *Demobilization, Reintegration and Recruitment Prevention of Child Ex-Combatants*, to be implemented by the Government in close collaboration with UNICEF, has been approved by the World Bank. It aims to demobilize and reintegrate approximately 3,500 child soldiers. To date, 700 child soldiers have been de-mobilized using UNICEF pre-financing.

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### ***Major Peace Agreements / Cease-fire Agreements***

<u>AGREEMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MAIN POINTS</u>	<u>SIGNATORIES</u>
<a href="#"><u>Accord global de cessez-le-feu</u></a>	Nov. 2003	Upholds previous agreements ; demands entry of FNL into discussion with the government; lists institutions that are to help ensure implementation of accords	Government of Burundi, CNDD-FDD (Nkurinziza)
<a href="#"><u>The Pretoria Protocol on Political, Defense and Security Power Sharing in Burundi</u></a>	Oct. 2003	CNDD-FDD government positions in the legislature, local/provincial governments, diplomatic corps, etc; cantonment, verification and demobilization process; formation of and CNDD-FDD positions in national defense force, police force, gendarmerie, militia, intelligence ministry.	Government of Burundi, CNDD-FDD (Nkurinziza)
<a href="#"><u>Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement</u></a>	Aug. 2003	New constitution; adoption of measures against genocide; national reconciliation; better promotion of equality; National Truth and Reconciliation Commission; judicial reform; economic recovery program; National Commission for the Rehabilitation of <i>Sinistrés</i> and <i>Ubushingantahe</i>	Government of Burundi, National Assembly, ABASA, ANADDE, AV-INTWARI, CNDD, FRODEBU, FROLINA, INKINZO, PALIPEHUTU, PARENA, PIT, PL, PP, PRP, PSD, RADDES, RPB, UPRONA

### ***Links with other countries in the region***

<u>Country</u>	<u>Involvement</u>
DRC	Burundian armed groups have used both the DRC and Tanzania as rear bases for their operations against the Burundi Government. The Government, in turn, supported Congolese rebel groups in an attempt to cut off support by the DRC Government.
Rwanda	Some of the Hutus who fled Burundi following the 1993 ethnic massacre became involved with the <i>genocidaires</i> in Rwanda's 1994 Genocide. The interactions between the FDD and the Rwandan ex-FAR and <i>Interahamwe</i> have led to some support of the FDD in Burundi by Rwandan elements.
Tanzania	Refugee camps in Tanzania have been home to many Burundian refugees since the 1960s and have been used as recruiting and organizing bases for Burundian rebel movements.

### ***Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees***

Internally Displaced	According to a new survey, there are half as many people in camps for IDPs as there were in 2002. The results of the survey show that the number of IDPs dropped from 281,000 in 2002 to some 140,000 today. (OCHA, May 2004)
Refugees in Burundi	According to OCHA, as of March 2004, approximately 41,000 refugees from other countries were residing in Burundi, mainly from the DRC.
Burundian Refugees	According to UNHCR, between 2001 and 2003, there were 148,000 facilitated and spontaneous returns of refugees to Burundi. As of April 2004, 35,808 had returned, bringing the grand total since 2001 to 183,808 returns. According to OCHA, there are approximately 800,000 Burundian refugees residing in neighboring countries, with the majority of them in Tanzania (March 2004).