



Migrants use an informal crossing point into Tanzania in Giharo, Rutana province in Burundi. ©IOM Burundi 2015

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Following the official nomination of the current President Pierre Nkurunziza on April 25, 2015 as presidential candidate by his party (CNDD-FDD) for a controversial third term, opponents have declared his candidacy as unconstitutional. Demonstrations have now been ongoing since April 26 and have led to unrests, and in certain cases deadly attacks and shootings in the capital as well as in some countryside provinces. The majority of local and national news sources have been closed.

On 31 May 2015, an emergency summit of the East African Community (EAC) Heads of State on the situation in Burundi was held. The main outcome was to propose to the Government of Burundi (GoB) to postpone upcoming elections for no less than a month and half. Demonstrators declared their disappointment with regards to outcomes and urged supporters to resume demonstrations. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union will further discuss the situation in Burundi on 13 June 2015.

The current political climate in Burundi and subsequent unrest and violence have led population movement in and out of the country with considerable humanitarian impact for Burundi and the neighbouring countries. In this context, humanitarian agencies in Burundi have developed a contingency plan to ensure that preparedness measures are in place if the situation deteriorates. The plan outlines how humanitarian agencies will coordinate to save lives by providing necessary protection and assistance for people in need, including shelter, non-food items (NFIs), health assistance, food, water, and sanitation and hygiene.

IOM Burundi Capacity

IOM has been present in Burundi since 2007 and has 39 staff members

IOM operates through one main office and a medical clinic in the capital Bujumbura and one sub-office in Rutana

Three sub-offices in the provinces of Makamba, Muyinga and Ruyigi were temporarily closed in 2014 and can be easily reopened.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

Since the beginning of the crisis and as of 01 June 2015, 97,301 people have fled their homes and found refuge in neighboring countries as follow: 29,116 in Rwanda, 51,603 in Tanzania and 9,923 in the DRC and 6,659 in Uganda (Source: UNHCR).

Within Burundi, some populations have fled from neighborhoods that are affected by the protests to relatively calmer areas in Bujumbura and elsewhere. The reports from the inter-agency assessment that took place between 26 - 29 May in several provinces including Cibitoke, Kirundo, Muyinga, Makamba and Rutana indicate for instance, a case of an estimated 2,000 families (to be confirmed) that came from other provinces and stayed in Nyanza Lac province close to Tanzania. Those populations are waiting with relatives or host communities to see the evolution of the security situation before crossing. Other households found refuge in host families.

HUMANITARIAN ASSESSMENTS



IOM and the Red Cross undertake a rapid assessment in Rutana to assess the situation near the Border with Tanzania. ©IOM Burundi 2015

IOM undertook rapid assessments in the province of Rutana on 11 - 12 May in order to assess the situation of Burundians that live at the border with Tanzania. Preliminary results indicated an active cholera outbreak at the border with Tanzania, in Kabonga, Nyanza Lac province where 31 cases were reported. Although 28 cases were treated successfully, humanitarians are concerned about the possibility of cholera spreading inwards into other provinces due to increased population mobility.

While challenges are ongoing, the government at national and local level assures its commitment to promote peace and stability the county. The national platform responsible for disaster response has also led rapid assessment missions in

coordination with UN partners and NGOs in several provinces between 26-29 May. The main findings underline that the cases of active cholera in Nyanza Lac province in Burundi are depleting, surveillance and prevention are however required to avoid further spread in other provinces. As the situation is highly fluid, the inter-agency assessment mission also recommends regular population movement and profiling to ensure adequate humanitarian response. A mission to pilot Displacement Tracking Monitoring took place between 9 and 12 June 2012. The main findings are being finalized and will be shared with partners as soon as available.

IOM RESPONSE

Based on the needs of the potentially affected population, IOM will provide emergency and recovery assistance to most affected locations. The areas of highest risk as indicated in the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan include Bujumbura Marie, Bujumbura rural, Bubanza, Bururi, Makamba, Muyinga, Cibitoke, and Kirundo.

In Burundi, IOM serves as the co-lead of the Shelter and NFI sector as well as Camp Coordination and Camp Management. IOM is also an active member of the protection and health sectors. Proposed assistance includes the distribution of shelter and NFIs, the activation of the Displacement Tracking Matrix, psychosocial assistance and the transportation of refugees and third country nationals.

As cluster leads, IOM and UNHCR have convened sector meetings with all involved partners to ensure coordination, mapping of available stock, and partners' capacity for shelter and NFI kits.

Key Priorities:

- Procure and preposition 10,000 shelter and NFIs kits for most vulnerable populations.
- Support the containment of the cholera outbreak to avoid further spread through a mobile clinic targeting populations on the move in the border areas; construction of latrines and provision of hygiene promotion programmes in the provinces of Nyanza Lac and Rutana.
- Active Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). This system will help in tracking population movement, identify and prioritize needs, inclusive of cross border movement to clearly understand current needs for further humanitarian assistance, as required.
- Counter-trafficking and Psycho-social support.