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Note to the Secretary-General

(Through the Deputy Secretary-General)

UPDATE ON PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS IN BURUNDI

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1. This note provides an update on the humanitarian preparedness efforts in light of the deteriorating situation in Burundi and following the visit of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Emergency Directors to Burundi from 2 to 5 December 2015

2. Since the beginning of the electoral period in April 2015, OCHA has been supporting humanitarian preparedness efforts in Burundi. Three international staff were deployed to coordinate the humanitarian response efforts, report on the in-country situation and develop information products. In September, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), which OCHA helped to develop a six-month inter-agency contingency plan calling for US\$32.5 million to enable emergency response for up to 400,000 people in the post-election period. The plan, however, is currently just over 20 per cent funded. With the available funds, humanitarian partners have started to provide life-saving assistance to affected people across the country. WFP, for example, has started a blanket supplementary feeding programme in the two most affected provinces of Kirundo and Makamba, targeting some 10,000 lactating and pregnant women, and children under two years old, to address malnutrition in these regions.

3. Given the deteriorating humanitarian conditions, an inter-agency needs assessment will be conducted in early January 2016 in Bujumbura city and surrounding areas. With violence escalating and following the recent attacks against military camps on 11 December, the HCT has decided to focus the assessment on protection aspects among others.

4. Meanwhile, a number of humanitarian needs assessments are ongoing across the country to identify areas for immediate life-saving response and where preparedness would require scaling up. For instance, IOM will be regularly reporting on displacement trends, including in Kirundo and Makamba provinces, using its newly developed displacement tracking matrix. UNICEF is monitoring the nutritional situation in health centres throughout the country and will have their initial analysis out by the end of December. According to WFP's emergency food security assessment in October, some 645,000 people are moderately food insecure and an additional 35,000 people severely food insecure in Bujumbura Rural, Makamba, Rumonge, and other affected regions. Nutrition facilities have been replenished throughout the country and prepositioning of stocks is also scheduled in January 2016. OCHA, through the HCT, is developing a needs, response and gap matrix.

5. There are, however, challenges in scaling up humanitarian preparedness and collecting reliable humanitarian data. The limited emergency capacity of a largely development-oriented country team and the lack of information to build a narrative of an emerging humanitarian crisis have constrained advocacy efforts for greater donor engagement. The tense security situation in some Bujumbura

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neighbourhoods has impacted the ability of humanitarian partners to access opposition areas.

6. With respect to humanitarian leadership in Burundi, a Humanitarian Coordinator ideally double hatted with the RC/DO function would be the best way forward. My office started engagements with the agencies on this proposal given the urgency of the situation.

7. Preparations are underway to open a small OCHA country office in early 2016, with possible field presence in the two worst affected regions of Kirundo and Makamba. OCHA and other humanitarian partners will surge additional staff to Bujumbura in January. A Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) will be developed early next year, which would contribute to raising the profile of the crisis. It is critical that donors scale up their humanitarian funding as the situation in Burundi requires swift and early action.

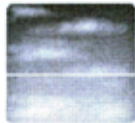
8. In light of the development of the contingency plan for Burundi, it would be important to ensure that humanitarian aspects are also included.

9. I will keep you informed of the developments.



Stephen O'Brien
19 December 2015

cc: Mr. Eliasson
Mr. Mulet
Ms. Clark
Mr. Feltman
Mr. Ladsous



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Note to the Secretary-General on updates on the preparedness efforts in Burundi

From: Amelework Desta/OCHA/NY@OCHA
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Cc: Sophie Nuon/OCHA/NY@OCHA
Date: 21/12/2015 10:30 AM
Subject: Note to the Secretary-General on updates on the preparedness efforts in Burundi

Dear Colleagues,

I would be grateful if you can forward the attached signed note to DSG office.



Note to the SG - update on Burundi.pdf

Warm regards,
Amele