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UN ARCHIVES

SERIES S-1120

BOX 47

FILE 1

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HAC
UNAMIR HQ
Kigali

// September, 95

See Distribution

WEEKLY HUMANITARIAN REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 27 AUG - 02 SEP 95

GENERAL SITUATION

1. The general situation over the whole country is relatively calm. The expulsion of refugees from Zaire into the country has not yet created too much impact on the humanitarian situation as envisaged.
2. Reports received from all the sectors indicate that the Humanitarian needs tend to be on the increase due to the number of returnees coming into the country. Most of the requests are those of water, food and housing.

HAC ACTIVITIES

3. HAC coordinated a number of humanitarian activities within the country during the period under review. HAC liaison officer briefed at HACU on Tue 29 Aug 95.

Sector 1A

- a. Gen Situation. There has been a marked increase in the inflow of returnees particularly from Burundi. These returnees are being assisted by UNHCR and IRC. Increase in the inflow of returnees is likely to aggravate the paucity of foodstuff in the rural areas. Priority must be accorded to encourage the cultivation of crops in the forthcoming rainy season.
- b. HAC Activities. HAC activities of Sector 1A were primarily directed towards monitoring and improvement of the state of returnees over the past week. The following major activities were carried out:

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(1) Butumwa Commune. In order to provide recent returnees at Butumwa Commune with food and shelter, UNHCR and WFP were contacted and they agreed to provide assistance in terms of shelter and food respectively. A joint patrol with a rep of UNHCR was thereafter organised to visit the returnees on 30 August 1995. The degree of assistance to be provided would be decided jointly by reps of UNHCR and MINIREISO on 02 Sep 95.

(2) Gashora Commune. A total of 103 refugees were expelled from Burundi between 07 - 23 August in four batches. In addition 1007 voluntary returnees arrived from Burundi at Rutete on 29 August. More returnees were expected within the week.

(3) Ngenda Commune. It was projected that the prison at Ngenda with 170 inmates requires regular supply of water. A total of 82 returnees from Zaire arrived the commune through Cyangugu.

(4) Nyamirambo Commune. On a patrol to Nyamirambo Commune and Kigali Prison it was observed that USA Development Agency was working to improve the conditions of the prison along with Red Cross organization.

c. Gen Living Conditions

(1) Food. The availability and supply of food in the rural areas is not satisfactory. This condition is likely to deteriorate further with the increase in numbers of returnees.

(2) Water. The supply of drinking water in rural areas is meagre and is likely to continue until the onset of rains.

(3) Health Care. The supply of medicine in most health centres is inadequate despite the efforts of NGOs and the local authorities.

(4) Housing. It has been observed that all available houses in most communes are already occupied. New returnees are therefore having serious problems in obtaining shelters for themselves.

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(5) Education. Most schools have reopened but they lack teaching materials and furniture.

(6) Farming. People in rural areas including fresh returnees need to be assisted with provision of seeds and basic farming implements so that they can take maximum advantage of the forthcoming planting season.

d. People With Special Needs

(1) Orphanage. The Orphanage at Gikoro with 26 children requires food and clothing.

(2) Hospitals. The Medical Centre at Gikoro and Rutungo need assistance in supply of water and medicines.

5. Sector 1B

a. Gen Sit. The general situation has not noticeably changed during the last week.

b. HAC Activities.

(1) Two trucks from INDBATT transported firewood for the RPA from Mukingi Commune to Birambo Commune.

(2) The Sector coordinated the transportation of 40,000 litres of water for the Gitarama prison. Additional 70,000 liters of water would be transported to the same prison later on.

c. General Living Conditions

(1) Food. The overall food situation in most of the communes has not changed as projected in previous report. Some of the communes, Kaynzi (8389), Taba (8883) and Nyabikenke (7292) have received some food aid from WFP. The distribution is however yet to be made.

(2) Health Care. In Murama Commune locals complained of lack of drugs at the health centre.

6. Sector 2A

a. General Situation. The humanitarian situation during the week demanded a reasonable amount of attention due to the the high number of returnees from Zaire. In addition those


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from Uganda and Tanzania continued to cross into Rwanda through Buziba, Kagitumba and Gatuna border posts.

b. HAC Activities. The Humanitarian team monitored returning refugees at the Prefecture and visited the following areas:

- (1) IRC Byumba.
- (2) Urumuli Orphanage.

c. General Living Conditions

(1) Kiyombe Commune. GOAL Ireland has installed a water pump which supplies water to MULINDI health centre which attends to between 100 - 150 patients a day.

(2) Cyumba Commune. AMREF which runs RUGASI health centre is rehabilitating the place. The NGO provides drugs and transport for patients to Byumba.

(3) Food. Due to the influx of returnees and the bad harvest a number of UN Agencies have offered food aid to various communes.

(4) Water. The problem of water is now a general complaint in most areas of the sector. Some health centres are worst affected.

(5) Education. Kageyo Primary school needs furniture assistance.


7. Sector 2B

a. General Situation.

(1) The humanitarian situation remained quite stable. A good number of returnees came back this week and the trend is likely to continue. Shortage of water remains an acute problem all over the area. Due to the prevailing dry season, cultivation is yet to begin. However, some agricultural activities were observed in the lowly lying areas of the lakes. The security situation in the sector remained calm.

(2) A massive registration of refugee for voluntary repatriation is being conducted in the refugee camps by

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the UNHCR both in Burundi and Tanzania. The result and the figure are expected to be known very soon. Preliminary information given by UNHCR indicated that a figure of 58,000 refugees have voluntarily agreed to come back from Burundi.

b. HAC Activities

(1) There was a security conference between the MILOBS and the representatives of local NGOs held at MILOB Sect HQ, Kibungo.

(2) The Sector Comd also visited the UNHCR complex at Kibungo and talked to the local Director of the organization about the mechanism for the return of the refugees. He also enquired about the present project of the UNHCR in Kibungo Prefecture.

c. General Living Conditions.

(1) Food. Due to the on going dry season the locals are yet to start cultivation. But different NGOs are distributing food stuffs in various communes to ensure the people have enough food to eat.

(2) Water. Shortage of drinking water still prevails in almost all the communes in the sector. However, the shortage of water in Rwinkavu hospital and Nyakarambi transit camp has been overcome temporarily by the UNHCR.

(3) Health Care Problems. There was no report of outbreak of any disease anywhere in the sector. Malaria and dysentery remain the major diseases in the area.

d. Housing. There are reports of shortage of accommodation in Birenga Commune (5959) and Rwenteru (7979). The Bourgmestres are carrying out survey of empty houses for accommodating the incoming refugees.

e. Education. Most schools of the Prefecture have reopened but there are reports of shortage of text books and writing materials in almost all the schools.

f. Refugees. A total of 1764 refugees arrived at Birenga transit camp during the week from Burundi and 211 refugees came to Nyakarambi transit camp from Tanzania. Unexpectedly about 1000 returnees from Burundi arrived on 31 Aug 95 and another 1000 more on 01 Sep 95. All these

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returnees are at the moment at the Birenga Transit Camp. The camp is without water and an urgent request to get a trailer with water from Kigali was forwarded from UNHCR to HQ UNAMIR via MILOBS HQ Sect 2B.

g. UN Agencies and NGOs

(1) The IRC repaired the water tank and the pump at Kirehe 7250 which provides a portion of its water supply to the Nyakarambi transit camp.

(2) UNHCR water tankers filled up the water tanks of Rwankwavu hospital and the Nyakarambi transit camp.

(3) GHANBATT donated some clothes to the Kibungo orphanage.

8. Sector 3A

a. Sit Gen The general situation in the Sector has remained calm .


b. Own HAC Activities The Sector Humanitarian Officer attended meetings with local administration, UN Organizations and NGOs regularly to work out and monitor the integration programme of the returnees and the survivors of genocide. The sector HQ has also arranged for daily meetings between UNHCR, HCDH and the HAC of the sector to coordinate activities in the Prefecture by distributing the tasks between three agencies for each day. Approximately 1640 returnees from Zaire have so far been integrated to their respective communes.

c. General Living Conditions. The general living conditions in all the communes patrolled this week is satisfactory. However it is suspected that it may deteriorate with the influx of huge numbers of returnees to their home communes.

d. People with Special Needs.

(1) Orphans. There are three orphans staying with an old man at Cyanika (5630). The orphans are below the age of two years and are in critical health condition due to malnutrition. It is recommended that the orphans be shifted to SOS village in Gikongoro.

(2) Refugees. Returnees integrated in different communes are reported short of accommodation, food and health care.


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9. Sector 3B

a. Gen Situation The situation during the period under review was reported calm except that on 29 Aug 95 at around 1930 the chief tribunal of Butare was killed at his residence located at SAVE Sector of Shyanda (GR 7718) commune by some unknown persons. His body was later taken to Butare hospital for autopsy.

b. HAC Activities The Sector Humanitarian Team visited a number of communes to acquaint itself with the humanitarian situation in the sector. Among communes visited were Rusatira, Runyinya and Gishamvu.

c. General Living Conditions

(1) Muganza (GR 8407). The Bourgmestre of Muganza requested for roofing sheets and tiles to repair the commune office especially now that the rainy season is fast approaching.

(2) Ruhashya (GR 6926). The team visited a school and was informed by the headmaster that the school lacks teaching material. About 100 orphans are in this school.


(3) Nyakizu (GR 5694). The team visited the commune and was informed that a bridge is broken between Nyakizu-Kigembe route and is being repaired by locals, they need 50 kg of 15" nails for the repair work.

(4) Nyabisindu (7138). The director of Espanya Secondary School requested for 200 mattresses and beds, stationery, furniture and food for the school.

10. Sector 4

a. Gen Situation The humanitarian situation in Sector 4 is stable and under control of UN Agencies and NGOs. The refugees situation had stabilized over the last week and it is becoming evident that the policy of voluntary returnees is not producing the desired results and that has resorted to the mass expulsion.

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b. HAC Activities.

(1) One "crisis management" meeting was held on Mon 28 August 1995 at 1600 hrs and attended by MILOBS Sector 4 at the office of the Prefect of Cyangugu. The meeting focused on the upgrading of the Nyagatare transit camp (GR 805250) to accommodate 10,000 refugees as well as the Nyarushishi camp (GR854238) to accommodate the overflow from Nyagatare transit camp.

(2) A visit was made to Nyagatare transit camp on Sun 27 Aug 95 by Mr. Rene Degni Segui, Rapporteur Officiel on Human Rights for the UN Secretary General who was accompanied by a party of five, mostly from Human Rights, Kigali.

c. People with Special Needs

(1) Education. All Primary and Secondary schools in Cyangugu Prefecture require adequate classrooms, desks, blackboards, stationary, books.

(2) Housing. The most serious problem facing returnees is housing.

11. Sector 5A

a. Gen Situation. The general situation has remained calm during the period under review. The border post between Uganda and Rwanda at Cyanika remained open and a number of returnees were recorded.

b. HAC Activities. The Humanitarian Team visited :

- (1) Ruhengeri Hospital
- (2) Nemba Hospital
- (3) Ruhengeri UNHCR Office.

c. Refugees.

(1) The Mukingo Bourgmestre reported that at Rwinzovu sector, UNHCR transported 160 returnees who came from Zaire through Gisenyi. The returnees are presently in dire need of food, water and building materials to repair their houses.

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(2) At Kinigi Commune it was reported that about 300 returnees mostly 59/60 group have returned to the commune. They are said to have no farmlands and means to start life.

12. Sector 5B

a. Gen Situation. The situation remains stable, however, there was a brief flurry of activities on repatriation of refugees 22/23 Aug 95. In preparation for the anticipated large influx of refugees, work has commenced and continues to expand the potentials of the Nkamira Transit Camp from its present capacity of 700 to a surge capacity of 3,000. Some 6545 refugees were transported to the various communes within the Prefecture of Gisenyi this week. UNHCR was able to handle the sudden influx with little difficulty.

b. HAC Activities. A visit to the Gisenyi Prison was conducted to determine the crowding conditions. The prison was established to hold 700 prisoners. The present population is 1351, double the intended capacity.

c. General Living Conditions. As a result of the sudden influx of returnees, one of the problems was availability of shelters. The local authorities established a policy whereby all those 59/60 caseload returnees found to be occupying homes of the new caseload returnees would share their accommodation with the returnees for up to two months. After the two months the 59/60 caseload returnees would have to vacate and find their own shelters. To date no difficulty with this arrangements have been reported.

d. Local Authorities. The local authorities attended daily meetings sponsored by the UNHCR during the week. The purpose of the meetings was to bring together in one place all involved agencies, UNAMIR, NGOs and Local Government so that coordinated, resourceful and efficient solutions could be found to handle the sudden influx.

CONCLUSION

13. It is observed generally that the returnees have no land, houses, food and infact no means to start life anew. Efforts will not be spared in directing attention to these problems with a view of solving them within available resources.

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14. The need to involve officials of the local authorities in responsive dialogues need not be over emphasized if resource-efficient solutions are to be found to the problems of the returnees.

15. MILOBS patrol teams are enjoined not to be discouraged by the inability to meet their avalanche of demands. This was not out of complacency but principally due to the fact that demand outstrips supply.

16. Most reports from the MILOBS Sectors on the situation of the returnees are vague. Rather than stating the obvious like "returnees are facing housing problems", it is advisable to state that "at commune xyz, 30 families of 65 people are still waiting to be accommodated etc". The advantages of precision in reporting need not be over-emphasized if dealy in expected actions are to be avoided.



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