



EQUIPMENT DONATION TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO REINFORCE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS DURING HEALTH EMERGENCIES © IOM 2020 / T.NTORE

### KEY FIGURES\*



\*Source: MSPLS, 18 May 2020

## OVERVIEW OF IOM'S COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

In Burundi, IOM has been designated lead agency for the Points of Entry (PoEs) and Crossborder Coordination pillar under the COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan and the National Contingency Plan for COVID-19, following its position as lead agency for crossborder coordination and PoE for Ebola preparedness. Since the onset of the pandemic, IOM has been working with the Burundi Government and the humanitarian community to respond to the complex challenges created by COVID-19. IOM is currently providing assistance in strengthening public health surveillance at border areas, monitoring crossborder population flows, training health and border officials, providing health and non-health equipment and materials at PoEs, assessing protection needs at the borders, and organizing risk communication and community engagement initiatives targeting crossborder communities.

### COORDINATION

- Collaborated with WHO to draft a **COVID-19 National Contingency Plan** (validated in March 2020) and **National Response Plan**.
- **Validated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for land, sea and airport PoEs adapted for COVID-19**, which will be valid for any disease of epidemic potential.
- Steers weekly multisectoral meetings among all partners intervening in PoE for COVID-19 and health surveillance; Terms of Reference (ToR) in process of being validated by the Burundi Ministry of Health.
- Coordinates weekly with other pillar leads and the international donor community under the direction of the UN Resident Coordinator Office to ensure the **evidence-based and effective monitoring** of the COVID-19 response in country.

### PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

- **Trained 330 community health workers** in Bujumbura, Makamba, Muyinga, Rumonge and Rutana provinces on Psychological First Aid and shared IASC MHPSS guidelines for COVID-19. As a result of these trainings, the trainees have been conducting door-to-door sensitization visits on COVID-19 prevention measures, **reaching more than 2,500 people**.
- Within the Protection cluster, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA and partners **drafted the national Humanitarian Response Strategy** for COVID-19-related MHPSS, PSS, child protection and SGBV activities in Burundi, which will be shared with the Burundi Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs for validation.
- **Donated equipment** (vehicle, motorbikes, beds, IT & office equipment) to Burundi's Ministry of Health intended to help the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic in Bujumbura to treat and protect suspected cases of COVID-19.
- **167 immigrants and 309 refugees screened** for Ebola and COVID-19 through temperature checks and questionnaires at IOM's Migration Health Assessment Center in Bujumbura.

## POINTS OF ENTRY

- **Delivered personal protective equipment (PPE), communication and hygiene equipment** for immigration officers at the central level and for priority PoEs to help screen travelers for COVID-19 and share timely information.
- Refurbishing several PoEs to support COVID-19 Prevention and Protection measures including the 'no touch policy' between travelers (waiting areas to reduce contacts between passengers, setting up of passenger's queues with temporary fencing, etc.).
- Continuing PoE evaluations **to assess the structural rehabilitation needed** of PoE transit and waiting areas in order to limit COVID-19 and Ebola transmission, including ad-hoc quarantine areas. Assessments have been carried out in Bujumbura Rural, Cibitoke and Rumonge and will soon be followed by other priority districts.

## DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

- All Flow Monitoring Points (FMP) in Muyinga and Cankuzo are still active and observe population movements, but the number of crossborder movements has significantly decreased through formal crossing points. As of April 2020, data collection started in Cibitoke to monitor movements through informal crossing points, and three new points along the Tanzanian border have been identified for relocation.
- Due to COVID-19, IOM Burundi DTM has adapted a new strategy for data collection; DTM data collection is being conducted remotely.

## NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)/SHELTER

As the NFI/Shelter sector co-lead in Burundi, IOM finalized with its partners a UN common Business Continuity Plan **to maintain critical sector activities** while taking into consideration the new risks linked to the current context. Due to the humanitarian emergency presented by the flooding in Gatumba and the thousands of people displaced and in extremely vulnerable condition, IOM is responding to the crisis while taking into account hygiene and distancing recommendations for COVID-19, especially during distributions.



GATUMBA DISPLACEMENT SITE VISIT © IOM 2020 / T.NTORE

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## RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

- IOM and UNICEF jointly delivered a COVID-19 **training to 18 operators** from the Emergency Hotline (109) and the Child Assistance Hotline (116), two of the main emergency hotlines in Burundi.
- Supported partner Caritas **to organize round table discussions** in Cankuzo, Gitega, Kayanza, Makamba, Muyinga, Rutana and Ruyigi provinces to enhance coordination and communication between humanitarian actors in these provinces, focusing on the management of epidemics including COVID-19.
- Coordinating with UNICEF **to provide RCCE** at priority PoEs and to crossborder populations.
- Working with the Centre d'Information, Education et Communication en matière de Population et développement **to adapt mental health messaging** to COVID-19 context.



IOM STAFF CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS AT RUHWA BORDER POINT © IOM 2020 / J.BARBÉ

## PROTECTION

- Conducted a Protection analysis at the Ruhwa border post in Cibitoke province **to have a better understanding of the protection needs and risks** at this PoE, particularly regarding the management of travelers in transit and waiting areas, as well as those being transported to ad-hoc quarantine areas.
- Began discussions on the need for protection assessments at borders/quarantine sites, within the Protection Sector.
- Drafting materials for a protection module to be integrated into IOM Burundi's capacity building for the preparedness/public health and border management response trainings.

IOM'S COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY:

