COMMUNITY DIALOGUES HELD TO IDENTIFY UPCOMING QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS

IOM’s reintegration activities are improving the ability of host communities to absorb a large number of internally displaced persons & returning refugees from Tanzania by creating platforms for dialogue, strengthening existing basic service infrastructure, and providing opportunities for short-term employment and job training. IOM conducted 30 community dialogues in March 2019, which created an open exchange to collectively determine Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) that will increase the capacity of host communities to absorb returnees from Tanzania, as well as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Nearly 9,400 people attended the preliminary sessions and more than 1,600 people were included in the in-depth dialogues in Makamba, Muyinga, Rutana and Ruyigi provinces, 60% of whom were women. Community members were able to determine and prioritize projects that address their needs through a participatory and bottom-up approach. Each dialogue included women, youth, returnees, IDPs, host communities, community leaders, elderly and people with disabilities.

The most important communal needs identified for the communities according to the dialogue results, are:

- Roads/bridges
- Water sources
- Schools
- Market places
- Playgrounds/football fields
- Soil conservation to protect watersheds
- Rehabilitation of fishing-related infrastructures

For some of the projects identified by communities, comparative engineering and cost studies must be undertaken to determine the most feasible QIP option. All studies will be finalized in May and the construction works on the 30 QIPs will begin in June 2019 using a Cash-for-Work approach. These projects are supported by ECHO - EU Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid, DFID - UK Department for International Development and German Humanitarian Assistance.

FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION’S DESK

Welcome to the March-April 2019 edition of the IOM Burundi newsletter. This edition’s highlights include IOM’s efforts to strengthen public health emergency preparedness and response in Burundi and the DRC, the donation of IT equipment and solar power systems at border posts with Tanzania, reintegration and protection initiatives for returnees from Tanzania, the launch of “Rungika” remittance service and the construction of a playground for Congolese refugee children, among others.

Though Burundi’s last rainy season draws to a close, its effects continue to be felt by thousands of people whose homes were damaged or destroyed due to heavy winds, rain and landslides. IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) recorded 124,578 internally displaced persons in Burundi as of March 2019, 75% of whom were displaced due to natural disasters, and tracked 29 emergency events in March and April alone.

As part of an ongoing effort to strengthen collaboration in the domain of labour mobility, IOM Burundi and the Ministry of Public Services, Labour and Employment recently signed a cooperation agreement which outlines IOM’s engagement in programmes contributing to the management of labour mobility – both for Burundian nationals seeking work opportunities abroad and for migrant workers within Burundi. We are delighted to strengthen our relationship with the Ministry of Labour and look forward to continuing to provide support to migrant workers both in Burundi and abroad.

AJ Morgen, IOM Burundi Chief of Mission
VALIDATION OF COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF WORKERS IN EAC

Thanks to support from the IOM Development Fund, IOM launched the Comparative Study on the Free Movement of Workers in several countries in the East African Community, including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda & Tanzania. The study examined the legal frameworks regulating migration & the systems for collecting, managing and sharing migration data in these four countries. The recommendations in the study will enable EAC Member States to develop harmonized policies and to fill existing gaps in data collection and availability, and support the formulation of appropriate policies on the free movement of workers.

LAUNCH OF “RUNGIKA” REMITTANCE SERVICE

IOM officially launched the money transfer service “Rungika” in partnership with the Burundi National Postal Service and the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Rungika is now available in 144 post offices throughout Burundi and provides affordable and secure money transfer even in rural areas. Its international service, launched in November of last year, has already begun to facilitate cost-efficient money transfer between the diaspora and the communities of Burundi. This project was made possible thanks to support from the Belgian government.

BURUNDI TO DEVELOP NATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION POLICY WITH IOM SUPPORT

IOM, through funding provided by the IOM Development Fund, is supporting the Government of Burundi to develop a gender-sensitive National Labour Migration Policy that aims to provide longer-term protection and good governance for migrant workers. Launched in April, the two-year project will include an analysis of the labour migration context in Burundi and data collection from major stakeholders, including migrant workers’ associations, national institutions, trade unions and employers’ associations. National authorities will also benefit from technical assistance on labour migration policy development and techniques for negotiating bilateral labour agreements. Combined, these actions will facilitate the development of a National Labour Migration Policy that will help authorities, particularly the Ministry of Labour, to have an improved understanding of the flows and dynamics of migrant workers. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will embark upon negotiations for bilateral agreements for Burundian male and female migrant workers with selected Gulf States during the course of this project.

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

TWO BORDER POSTS EQUIPPED WITH IT AND COMPLETE SOLARPOWER SYSTEMS

This March, IOM Burundi’s Immigration and Border Management team donated information technology equipment to the Government of Burundi to improve humanitarian border management (HBM) involving significant migratory flows between Burundi and Tanzania. IOM also rehabilitated electrical systems at Mugina and Gisuru border posts, in Makamba and Ruyigi provinces respectively. The donated equipment includes two complete solar power systems, computers, printers, uninterruptible power supplies to provide battery backup in case of power failure, and a one-year license for antivirus software. With these donations, it is expected that officials manning these points of entry will provide improved services to migrants and have increased capacity to manage population flows at the border, even in situations of mass displacement. The participation of national and local authorities in the handover ceremonies demonstrated a national implication and ownership for these activities.

The donation is part of a project jointly implemented by IOM, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to promote concrete cross-border, human rights-based, and multi-agency approaches to peacebuilding in border areas between Burundi and Tanzania. It is supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund. Upon closure of this project in late March, the three UN partners and stakeholders involved in the project met in Bujumbura to present the main results and achievements.
IOM STRENGTHENS EBOLA PREPAREDNESS IN BURUNDI

In Burundi, IOM is part of the National Committee for the Fight against Ebola and was appointed as technical expert for the “surveillance” component. IOM was also appointed by the Ministry of Health and the Fight Against AIDS the lead on Points of Entry together with WHO, as part of Burundi’s preparedness planning. In April, staff from IOM Burundi’s MHD and Immigration & Border Management team conducted a supervisory health assessment to identify existing gaps in Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) preparedness with the Ministry of Health’s EVD taskforce team at Kabonga Point of Entry (PoE) in Nyanza-lac, Rumonge.

IOM Burundi’s Chief of Mission and MHD colleagues also joined Burundi’s Minister of Public Health, Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana, OCHA, UN Agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO) & partners at Ruhwa border point in Cibitoke & other key sites to assess the level of preparedness for an eventual Ebola outbreak.

IOM is also currently working in close conjunction with the Ministry of Health to equip key Points of Entry with essential materials in Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, and Rumonge, thanks to support from the Government of Japan. The procurement plan will be finalized subject to site evaluations at all key PoE in these provinces the week of 20 May. IOM’s counterparts for MVE Preparedness at the Ministry of Health will be encouraged to attend.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY AT IOM BURUNDI

On 8 March, International Women’s Day, the team at IOM Burundi recognized the many achievements made by its staff both for women, and by women, and called for an end to gender inequality in all its forms. To mark the occasion, a screening of “We Should All Be Feminists” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was held, followed by discussions and refreshments. Thank you to all who made the event a success!

SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN BURUNDI AND DRC

As part of a Health and Humanitarian Border Management project supported by the IOM Development Fund, IOM is supporting public health emergency preparedness and response in Burundi and the DRC. To date, 199 frontline border officials, including border health officials, have been trained on Health and Border Management.

The training provided an excellent opportunity for border officials from Burundi and DRC to share best practices and discuss ways of reinforcing cross-border cooperation between the two countries in relation to preparedness, response and control to diseases of public health interest. To complement this, basic equipment was distributed to the Gatumba border on Burundi side. Donated materials included thermoflashes, personal protective equipment, examination tables, stretchers, first aid kits and observation beds, among others.

MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS TRAINED ON TRANSVERSAL PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

In March, IOM trained 50 community focal points in Rutana and Ruyigi provinces on “transversal protection” and “community dialogue,” in collaboration with the Red Cross. The training included practical exercises and games that allowed them to identify cases of vulnerability in the community and the role of focal points in transversal protection. These focal points will be directly involved in the execution of a project funded by ECHO that addresses the most urgent reintegration needs of returning refugees from Tanzania, with a particular focus on protection concerns.
DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX: IOM Burundi published the March DTM dashboard with the number of IDPs by province, IDP provinces of origin, periods of displacement, accommodation types of IDPs, displacement reasons, displacement trends and natural disaster displacements by province.

As of March 2019, The DTM recorded:

- **124,578** Internally Displaced Persons
- **75%** of displacement due to natural disasters
- **5%** decrease in the number of IDPs

IOM staff conducted 18 visits (one in each province of Burundi) to provide technical assistance and training to the BRC in mobility tracking of IDPs.

FLOW MONITORING: Flow Monitoring data highlights areas that are particularly prone to internal, cross-border and sub-regional migration. This data is essential for providing a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of populations in transit, as well as the socio-economic, geographic and demographic characteristics of the migrants traveling through these points. Thanks to support from DFID, IOM continued flow monitoring in Cankuzo, Muyinga, Ruyigi and Rutana provinces at 8 unofficial borders crossings during the month of April. IOM published the October to February trend report presenting migration trends among Burundian and Tanzanians along the shared border. IOM also published its third Flow Monitoring Report highlighting the details of more than **36,000 observed movements**, of which **83%** are Burundian nationals.

DTM EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING (EET/DTM): March’s emergencies included torrential rains, landslides and strong winds. DTM tracked **21 emergency events** and **4 emergency dashboards** were published during the month of March. More than **3,190 people were displaced**, **140 houses destroyed** and **340 houses lost their roof**. Torrential rains that occurred in Bujumbura Rural province on 17 March were the most severe emergency observed by DTM in March.

April’s emergencies included torrential rains, strong winds and a landslide displacing more than **600 people** within the first 24 hours of the event. More than **2,000 people were affected**, **over 42 houses were destroyed** and **322 homes were damaged** in emergency events. DTM tracked **8 emergency events** and published **4 emergency dashboards** during the month of April. This was made possible thanks to support from DFID, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF EMERGENCY EVENTS IN BUTERERE

Burundi’s last rainy season was particularly destructive for Buterere in Bujumbura Mairie province. Floods and torrential rains left many houses heavily damaged or destroyed. As part of its emergency response funded by the Government of Germany and the Government of Japan, IOM Burundi has been able to assist the most vulnerable households in the area with the construction of 70 emergency shelters, the construction/reparation of 70 latrines, the distribution of 70 non-food item (NFI) kits complemented by hygiene items, the provision of 70 shelter repair kits and 20 emergency shelters. Repairing works were carried out by committees of shelter recipients, supported by local masons.

4-DAY NFI/SHELTER WORKSHOP HELD IN BUJUMBURA WITH THE LUXEMBOURG AND BURUNDI RED CROSS

In collaboration with the Luxembourg and Burundi Red Cross, the workshop “From Emergency to Durable: Revision of Shelter and Non-food Items (NFI) in Burundi” took place the second week of April with a participation of 47 people from the local and national authorities, local and international NGOs and UN Agencies. During the workshop, presentations were given on NFI support and emergency, transitional and durable shelter for those affected by natural disasters. Thematic workshops on topics such as gender and inclusion, land tenure systems, cash transfer assistance, disaster risk reduction, shelter monitoring and maintenance, and site planning were also held. These presentations gave rise to recommendations that will harmonize the methods and national standards used by the NFI/Shelter sector partners in Burundi. The outcomes of the workshop will be officially shared by the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender in June 2019.
In March and April, the USCIS team conducted adjudication interviews at IOM’s Transit Center (TC) in Bujumbura. Over 1,200 refugees under the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP) were interviewed. Additionally, the TC hosted 614 departing Congolese refugees who went through surveillance (PDMS) before flying to their new countries.

IOM Burundi’s resettlement team cares about the dignity and well-being of refugees. To that end, entertainment at the transit center has been improved: a playground for refugee children as well as additional new games for adult refugees were finalized and are now fully operational.

MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT CENTER (MHAC)

During March and April, a total of 1,221 health assessments were carried out for Congolese refugees (97%) and migrants (3%) in Burundi, 50% of whom are women, who will be resettled to third countries. 92% of the refugee screenings were carried out through USRAP.

MHAC staff in Bujumbura are working closely with Burundi’s National Programme for the Fight against Tuberculosis (PNLT). National counterparts visited the MHAC in April and were impressed with IOM’s capacity to carry out latent Tuberculosis (TB) testing using IGRA screening, as well as pulmonary TB investigations using Genexpert tests and the use of digital x-ray technology to immediately review chest x-ray images for the early detection of TB.

IOM supported the resettlement of 665 refugees during March and April: