1. General Context and Security

1.1. The Transitional Government of Burundi and some representatives of CNDD-FDD met this month in South Africa to continue the discussions on the application of cease fire and the participation of the armed groups to the transitional political institutions. During this meeting, a significant progress was observed for reaching a general political agreement. The results of this meeting will be known at the next ‘Heads’ of State sub-regional summit on Burundi planned for September 2003 in Dar Es Salaam.

1.2. The sixth tripartite commission meeting on the voluntary repatriation of the burundese refugees living in Tanzania was organized in Bujumbura. Participants to the summit (Government of Burundi, Government of Tanzania and UNHCR) once again were committed to provide necessary means for the success the repatriation process under good conditions: sensitization of the refugees, sensitization of the administrative authorities involved of repatriation of refugees in good conditions. Since then, the repatriation process has been accelerated. Burundi already recorded more than 52,000 repatriates from January to August 2003.

1.3. A financial agreement (for the 9th European Development Funds) was signed between the Government of Burundi and the European Union for a total value of 172 million Euros. These funds will be used for the reconstruction of the country and the improvement of burundese living conditions (for 115 million Euros) and also in support to the African Union activities in Burundi (for 25 million Euros).

1.4. In Bujumbura, an increase of criminal acts were reported these last days with armed robberies, cars stolen and aggressions on expatriate of ONGs.

1.5. The security instructions for the UN staff in Burundi remains unchanged: phase IV of UN Security is prevailing in the following provinces: Bubanza, Bururi, Bujumbura Rural, Makamba, Rutana, and Cibitoke and phase III for Bujumbura Mairie, Kirundo, Muyinga, Karuzi, Ngozi, Kayanza, Muramvya, Mwaro, Gitenga, Ruyigi, Cankuzo and Cibitoke Mairie. A curfew is prevailing from 10 pm to 6 am.

2. Humanitarian Situation

2.1. The resumption of the fighting in Bubanza province caused this month a population displacement in Mpanda commune for approximately 21,000 people who fled the homes to take refuge in the neighborhoods of the military positions and the commune administrations’ building. However, a few days after, a progressive return to their homes was observed once the fighting stopped.

2.2. In Bujumbura Rural, ten thousand (10,000) people were displaced to Ruvyagira commune following the fighting between the national army and the armed group (FNL- Palipehutu).

2.3. More than 194 tons of food were distributed by WFP for displaced population of Bubanza and Bujumbura Rural provinces.

3. Health and epidemiological surveillance

3.1. Malaria Situation:
- In Burundi, the first line treatment of malaria was chloroquine and Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine for the second line. But for the past years, a high resistance to Plasmodium Falciparum was observed for these drugs (chloroquine: 51.2% to 73.7% and Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine: 8.9% to 49.1%). Thus national health authorities decided to adopt a new treatment protocol composed of Amodiaquine+Artesunate for the first line.
- Actually, malaria is the first public health problem in Burundi because of its morbidity (45.67%) and mortality (53.02% for children under five). According data from the national health statistics, the number of malaria cases reported increased from 548,201 cases in 1991 to 3, 547,319 cases reported in 2002.
- The process of the implementation of the new treatment protocol is going on. The training activities of the national and regional trainers were financially supported by WHO. A technical support from the Regional Office of WHO was also provided with the presence of a consultant who took part in the training activities. The training of health personnel at health center level continues.
- A part of the new protocol drugs (combination Artesunate / Amodiaquine) already arrived in Burundi and the remaining part is planned to arrived in Bujumbura in the coming weeks with the support of UNICEF and MSF.
- The monitoring and the follow up activities are being prepared. A technical group was set up by the Minister for Health.

3.1.1. Meningitis Situation:
- The meningitis epidemic strike that was observed in Bubanza province is under control (meningitis type A). Data collected showed that from 26 July to 18 August, 40 cases were notified without death (37 cases in Bubanza, 2 cases in Bujumbura Rural and 1 case in Cibitoke). As action, in addition to case management and the reinforcement of the epidemiological surveillance, 38,000 people at the risk were vaccinated (See table 1 and 2 below).
- A sporadic case of meningitis W 135 was notified in Kirundo province. The total number of meningitis W135 from the beginning of the year to date is 15 cases. The surveillance system was reinforced and a stock of Chloramphenicol is now available in the province for case management.

3.2. Other epidemic situations:
There were no other epidemic declared this month in Burundi.

4. WHO among partners

4.1. The partners information exchange meetings continued (WHO and OCHA). Discussions were about the meningitis epidemic, the malaria new treatment protocol, training of NGOs personnel, follow up of the implementation of the new protocol and the CAP 2004 process.

4.2. A national workshop of development of the Community mutual insurance was organized from 19 to 20 August with the support of WHO. The objectives of this workshop was to sensitize the administrative authorities and health personnel to improve equity in the access to health care and to develop new solidarity mechanisms.

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1 This document is not an official transmission of epidemiological data. This will be transmitted through the normal channel.
**Tableau 1 : Meningitis cases per age**

![Diagram showing meningitis cases distribution by age in Burundi, 2003](image)

**Tableau 2 : Weekly evolution of the meningitis epidemic**

![Diagram showing weekly evolution of meningitis epidemic in Gihanga, Bubanza Province, Burundi, 2003](image)