

TO: **Calum Gardner**, Chief, RMBB

DATE: **24th February 2014**

**David Kaatrud**, Director of Emergencies, OME

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THROUGH: **Valerie Guarnieri**, Regional Director, OMN

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## IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION

### IR-EMOP 200678

Emergency assistance to victims of flooding

### PROJECT DOCUMENT

## PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

### Nature of emergency: Emergency assistance to victims of flooding

#### Location

1. Bujumbura town: communes of Kinama, Kamenge, Buterere, Ngagara, and Kanyosha; Bujumbura rural province: communes of Mutimbuzi and Isale.

#### Cause:

2. The flooding was caused by torrential rains that hit Burundi's capital Bujumbura and surrounding areas during the night of 9 to 10 February 2014. The torrential rains caused water to over top the banks of nearby rivers and to inundate several Bujumbura townships of which many were hard hit.

#### Effects

3. This situation has resulted in substantial flooding, leaving thousands of people homeless in both Bujumbura and surrounding areas, and causing massive destruction of community and individual assets, including local markets, schools and health centres. As of 10 February, officials reported 77 dead, 182 injured of whom 84 were in severe conditions, and some 3,800 houses destroyed either fully or partially. Many more persons are still reported missing. Accordingly, it is expected that the numbers will continue to rise as rescue process gains access to more areas that are yet to be reached and families continue to have better information on their missing members and assets.

4. The concerned flood is reported to be the worst ever experienced by the country from people's memory. The Government requested, and insisted on the importance of joining efforts to do all it takes to provided critically needed assistance to the affected population. The government of Burundi will pledge a contribution of 100 million Burundian Francs (Approx. US\$65,000) and distributed 20 mt of rice, 5 mt of beans and non food items to partially meet food and non food critical needs.

5. In its capacity as the lead agency for the humanitarian Task Force and of the DRR working Group, and in close collaboration with the Government of Burundi, the UN Resident Coordinator/ASRSG and other United Nations agencies, WFP is leading a series of meetings to facilitate timely response and coordination mechanism. These efforts build on the existing harmonized contingency plan whose worst case scenario for flood risk (20,000 Households affected) is now triggered. Joint rapid assessment teams were dispatched to the concerned townships to gather provisional tentative information. While some immediate assistance is being provided to a

limited number of affected people by the Government and a few local NGOs more substantive assistance is being planned, the Government of Burundi is also busy with and the burial of dead bodies to prevent contamination.

## **WFP IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMOP:**

### **Justification for an immediate response, expected impact:**

1. Around 20,000 people have been directly affected by this natural disaster. Close to 19,000 people are currently homeless due the destruction of 3,800 houses. Community and individual assets have also been destroyed, including, but not limited to, food stock, crops, schools and health centres, small businesses.
2. The Government and the Burundian Red Cross have set up four temporary sites to host flood victims: Buterere Church area with approximately 6,600 people, Kinama football ground with approximately 1,900 people, Carama II school with approximately 4,050 people and Buyengero Church area with approximately 550 people. The only organized sites are so far Kinama and Buyengero, but the Government, the Red Cross, and other actors including UNICEF are working on the other two sites to equip them with tents, latrines and bladders. The most urgent needs are water and sanitation, shelter, food and emergency health services. It is to be noted that a number of flood victims are hosted with family members or neighbours pending the organization of the camps.
3. With rains expected to continue and intensify throughout March and the month of February being the start of the lean season, an already serious situation threatens to worsen if immediate action is not taken.
4. Food assistance is critical at the outset of such a crisis in order to save lives and protect critical livelihoods and support early recovery activities. This critical situation requires immediate resources to support a direct, life-saving WFP food assistance intervention to assist the growing number of the population that has been displaced and lost access to their normal resources and community support structures and services.
5. **Therefore, immediate WFP food assistance is required to save lives of the affected population and ease the burden of displaced people on their hosts and community. The IR-EMOP will allow WFP to support the government and local authorities in meeting the food and nutrition needs of the flood victims.**
6. Complementary relief activities will be undertaken by various UN agencies, international NGOs, charities and Government ministries under the leadership of the DRR/RM National Platform as part of the overall response of the crisis management Committee gathered by the Government, the UNCT, NGOs, and the Red Cross Burundi. These bodies will invest in emergency projects focused on water and hygiene, emergency housing, sites identification and management, education, emergency health services, etc.

**Duration of assistance:** 3 months (01 March – 31 May 2014)

**Number of beneficiaries and locations:** 20,000 people in Bujumbura town (communes of Kinama, Kamenge, Butere, Ngagara, and Kanyosha) and Bujumbura rural province (communes of Mutimbuze and Isale).

7. Overall and according to the initial and preliminary assessment conducted by the United Nations Country team, food assistance will be provided to 20,000 displaced people/flooding victims, or 4,000 households, who are most in need of emergency food assistance. Special attention will also be given to the most vulnerable members of the population, mainly the 3,500 children in the targeted group who are under the age of 5. These requirements are based on the initial and preliminary estimates of food and non food items requirements done by the United Nations Country Team under WFP leadership as the lead of the Humanitarian task force in Burundi, in collaboration with the Government of Burundi, the Red Cross

Burundi and various non-governmental organizations. A comprehensive assessment by the UN Team and the National DRR/DRM platform will be conducted to refine the level of needs.

**Transfer modality, Food basket composition and ration levels:**

8. In order to enhance the effectiveness of WFP assistance for these flood victims, WFP will adopt a flexible approach using in-kind food distributions in the first two months and cash transfers in the last month. However, the decision to shift to cash transfer will be informed by a market assessment to be carried out in February. If the context is not conducive to introducing cash transfer modality, in-kind food distribution will be used throughout the project period. Full family rations will be provided for the duration of 3 months.
9. For in-kind food distribution, the food basket will consist of a general ration of 360g maize meal, 120g beans, 25g oil and 5g salt for all beneficiaries. In addition, children under 5 years will receive a blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) ration consisting of 250g Super Cereal, 25g oil and 15g sugar as a preventive measure for GAM deterioration among the IDPs. The BSF is planned for the total 90 day duration of the emergency operation, in complement to in-kind ration for the first 60 days and cash transfers for the next 60 days. WFP will engage with UNICEF and other nutrition partners to monitor and assess the need for continued nutritional support. For the cash transfer, the total value to transfer will be US\$0.53/person/day<sup>1</sup>. It is anticipated that affected households will have access to alternative markets in the nearby communes that were not affected by the flood. This assumptions will be confirm (or otherwise) by a market assessment.
10. The total food assistance requirements for the 3 months are summarized in the table below:

*a) In-kind food requirements (two months)*

General food distribution				
	duration	individual ration	01 March-30 April	Tonnage (mt)
Commodities	days	(g/j)		
MML	60	360	20,000	432
Pulses	60	120	20,000	144
Vegetable oil	60	25	20,000	30
Iodised salt	60	5	20,000	6
<b>Total</b>	60	510	20,000	612

Blanket supplementary feeding for Children 6-59 months				
	duration	individual ration	01 March-31 May	Tonnage (mt)
Commodities	days	(g/j)		
Super Cereal	90	250	3,500	79
Vegetable oil	90	25	3,500	8
Sugar	90	15	3,500	5
<b>Total</b>	90	290	3,500	91

<sup>1</sup> US\$0.53/day/person is the current general food distribution ration value planned in the current PRRO 200164 BR5 through the voucher transfer modality.

11. For an immediate response, WFP aims to borrow from its in-country very limited and unbalanced food stocks.

**Mode of implementation:**

12. WFP warehouse in Bujumbura will be used. For food procurement, the Country office will relay on both international procurement (for vegetable oil, super cereal and sugar) and regional procurement (for cereals, pulses and salt). A cash transfer modality will be piloted during the last month. This will be informed by a market assessment to ascertain the conditions are right (i.e. markets are functioning or have recovered, food is available and prices are low and stable). The market assessment will expand to include the feasibility of a local mobile company to deploy agents and support their cash liquidity.
13. Adequate targeting will be conducted by Government authorities, UN agencies, and cooperating partners such as CARITAS, Red Cross Burundi and local leaders so as to establish in advance a list of beneficiaries in order to ensure maximum transparency. The list of beneficiaries will be updated at the end of each distribution cycle. Training sessions will be conducted at the beginning of the distribution operation in order to reinforce the capacity of Red Cross, the DRR/DRM National Platform and local communities for food and cash distribution activities.
14. The implementation of the project will take place jointly with the other UN Agencies, in collaboration with the DRR/DRM National Platform. Red Cross Burundi and CARITAS will be responsible for the distributions of general family rations and supplementary children's rations as well as the general implementation of the project.
15. The ration will be distributed through affected women as much as possible and gender parity will be a key distribution rule.
16. WFP and other stakeholders expect to reduce both the exclusion and inclusion errors by relaying on participative approach for beneficiary identification and targeting. During food distribution, beneficiaries will have an opportunity to voice their concerns, if any. A complaint feedback table will therefore be available on each distribution site for this purpose.

**PART 2: EMOP BUDGET (ATTACHED)**

Total IR-EMOP budget is attached as Annex 1.

**PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL**

- 1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, RMBB: [Calum Gardner], Date: --/--/----

- 2) EMOP is approved

or  
Director of Emergencies: [David Kaatrud], Date: 21/02/2014