

UNHCR Begins Sailings to Kalemie, DRC

By Marjolijn M. Luchtmeijer, UNHCR Asst. External Relation Officer

On Wednesday, 11 April the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) organised a sailing to Kalemie in Katanga Province by the UNHCR hired ship, the MV Mwongozo.

Although most Congolese refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania originate from the areas of Fizi and Uvira in South Kivu Province (94%), a small number originate from Kalemie and Moba in Katanga Province (2%).

Most refugees, especially from Moba and the southern part of Katanga Province, fled southeast to the neighbouring country of Zambia.

The ship will take them from Kigoma to Kalemie in six and a half hours.

The sailing takes place now to coincide with the start-up of repatriation from Zambia later in April, when a team will be in place in Kalemie temporarily to receive returnees from both countries of asylum.

Furthermore the MV Mwongozo can only sail into Kalemie during the high water period (April to July) due to a sand bar across the harbour entrance.

Registration for future sailings to Kalemie remains open, even though at this point UNHCR can not guarantee when the next sailing will be, as it depends on demand and interest for registration.

The reception team will then have to go *(continued p3)*



Refugees board the MV Mwongozo as they return to DRC (photo by Marjolijn M. Luchtmeijer, UNHCR)

A Tense Welcome to Nyarugusu Camp

By Jonathon Wilondja

The relocation of 95 refugees from Mkugwa Camp in Kibondo to Nyarugusu Camp in Kasulu was the source of some tension at the reception center in Nyarugusu on Tuesday, March 20.

A number of Congolese refugees who had been living in Nyarugusu expressed their displeasure with the arrival of this group of Congolese, all of whom are of the Banyumulenge ethnic group.

When they arrived in Nyarugusu Camp, several of their fellow Congolese rejected them saying that the camp would become insecure.

Many Congolese refugees do not consider Banyumulenge to be Congolese, but rather Rwandan, and blame them for the Rwandan invasion of the Congo in the mid-nineties.

Tensions were high at transit center because these new arrivals had to wait in the UNHCR truck

for more than an hour as MHA officials discussed the matter of some missing paperwork.

The MHA officials in Nyarugusu expected a letter from MHA Mkugwa that verified the relocation of these 95 refugees. The letter was not available so MHA officials needed to find a solution.

As they resolved this problem, some curious refugees came to see who was in the truck. When they saw this group of new refugees, idle chatter led to unpleasant words.

“We didn’t want them to get off the truck because they are dangerous people to us. Congo is not Rwanda and they have to go back to their country,” said Beatrice Noela, a refugee in Nyarugusu.

Masumbuko Wakilongo, another refugee from Nyarugusu, said that Rwandans are not their friends and that they must find a new place to go for the sake of the security *(cont. p7)*

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Update on Camp Consolidation: Muyovozi

By Drew Hendrickson

Refugees from Muyovozi camp are currently being allocated new plots in Mtabila and preparations are continuing in accordance with the UNHCR plan for camp consolidation according to UNHCR Kasulu Head of Office, Bik Lum.

She emphasized that the camp will close at the end of May and by that time all refugees should be moved out of Muyovozi.

Because the school year also ends at the end of May, families with students will be able to move to Mtabila after the academic year, however, preparations for that move should begin as soon as plots are allocated.

Almost all plots in Mtabila will be assigned to Muyovozi refugees by April 20th and verification of those plots will take place shortly thereafter.

Making the bricks, building the walls and *(cont. p4)*

Truck Accident in Mtabila

By Bernard Bankukira

A 40-year-old man from Mtabila Camp died after a truck owned by UNHCR collided with him as he rode his bicycle.

Nyabanda Michel was riding home from food distribution when his bicycle was hit by the large truck a few minutes away from the departure center on the main road that goes through Mtabila I market.

Witnesses said that Mr. Nyabanda was traveling in the same direction as the truck and was trying to give it room to pass. The road, at this place, is uneven with many bumps so as the cyclist tried to avoid the truck, he fell and was run over by the back tires of this truck.

Mr. Nyabanda was rushed to the Mtabila II medical center where he received immediate attention but died about 20 minutes after he arrived.

A post mortem was carried out shortly thereafter.

Many refugees suggested that UNHCR should give assistance or compensation to the be-

reaved family because it was a UNHCR truck.

The brother-in-law of Mr. Nyabanda, Bukuru Samuel, said, "We are mourning and we have no assistance. The man left two widows and seven children so we need UNHCR to visit us in this period."

UNHCR Statement

UNHCR regrets to confirm that on Monday, 26 March 2007, a truck incident took place in Kasulu, whereby a male refugee lost his life.

The incident is currently under investigation by the Tanzanian traffic police.

UNHCR and implementing partner GTZ are following up to find out the circumstances in which the incident took place.

Once the investigation is this incident is complete, UNHCR will be in a better position to determine whether any adjustment is needed to the operation.

The UN Refugee Agency wishes to send its condolences to the family and friends.

Women's Day Mtabila

By Javan Nyakire

On March 8, 2007 in an enjoyable climate and fashion, refugee women in Mtabila refugee camp celebrated the International Women Day on the theme: "Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and Girls".

The celebration was enlivened by performances of cultural dances, songs, sketches, and speeches.

In her speech on behalf of other women, Uwizeyimana Judith, reflected on the crimes commonly inflicted upon women. She mentioned rape and other forms of violence. She also said that women are often not consulted on such decisions as selling of food rations and repatriation.

Ms. Uwizeyimana also said that women also face the challenges of rearing children alone, being victims of sexually transmitted diseases, having unwanted pregnancies and of being illegally separated from their families.

She warned the audience that these challenges did not decrease but actually increased over the course of the past year.

She went on to thank the government of Tanzania, UNHCR and its implementing partners in Mtabila for initiating committees in a bid to fight these problems of gender violence and discrimination.

As the woman is the pillar of the family, Ms. Uwizeyimana said, she is now in dilemma due to the cut in rations. She also mentioned problems collecting firewood even though the ban on collecting firewood has been lifted.

"Even though we're getting prepared for repatriation, the government of Tanzania, UNHCR, WHO and other NGOs should increase rations, find places where to harvest firewood and search for us a gynecologist", she said.

For Séraphine Ndikumana, a woman who took part in the celebration, women still have a long way to go to end impunity for violence against women and girls. She explained that many men do attend ceremonies like this and do not pay attention to sensitization campaigns.

Ms. Ndikumana also said that women should think about how to work to support their children. "Women should turn aside the cultural habit of expecting the husband to satisfy all family needs", she said.

Despite an uphill struggle against tradition and culture, women are devotedly claiming their rights even though many men turn a deaf ear to these claims.

The International Women Day which is celebrated every March 8 is an occasion for women activists to have their voices heard and announce to the world that women's rights should be respected.

Food Insecurity: Few Families Return to Tanzanian Camps

By Amani Théophile

In recent months, a small number of returnee families have returned to Nduta camp in Kibondo.

One of these new arrivals is a single mother of three children.

She repatriated from Nduta to Burundi in 2001.

When she arrived in Burundi, she began cultivating, but struggled as her plants did not grow as expected. She and her family did not have enough to eat.

Shortly thereafter, her husband left the family saying he was going to find something to help them survive. He never returned.

So this woman began working in the fields of wealthier people. She would work for an entire day for one kilo of maize flour. Given these circumstances, she decided to seek assistance in Tanzania.

But the situation in the camps for families like this one is precarious. The assistance in the camps is provided to registered refugees, and a refugee is defined as a person fleeing persecution.

Consequently, coming back to Tanzania in general is not a viable option for Burundian returnees facing food

insecurity.

Staying in the camps illegally and without ration cards, they do not receive the support provided to those who are officially recognized as refugees. They will have to rely on the help of friends and neighbors.

This is also the case of a woman from Butaganza commune in Ruyigi province. She is the mother of 12 children and repatriated four months ago.

She said she also began to farm once she arrived in Burundi, but she was not able to harvest any crops. She worked in another person's field where she earned cassava leaves and maize bread.

Under these conditions, she returned to Tanzania and secretly entered Nduta refugee camp where she received support from her former neighbors.

"We were neighbors before she repatriated. When I saw her suffering, I felt I should try to help," says one refugee.

Despite the recent food insecurity, the number of Burundians who spontaneously cross the border and secretly return to the camps in Tanzania remains very low.

"Reportedly there are some cases and we encourage these individuals to come

forward to the Humanitarian offices in the camps. MHA and UNHCR will look into solutions for those in genuine need of protection." UNHCR field assistant James Domician said.

"In general, coming back to the camps in Tanzania is no solution. Returnees facing difficulties and food shortages in Burundi should seek and find help in their home communes."

With the ongoing voluntary repatriation, international actors successively shift their assistance and resources from the camps to Burundi. Likewise, the food crisis is addressed in Burundi, in a joint effort by the government, the UN and other national and international actors.

UNHCR Sails to Kalemie

(continued from p1) back to Kalemie especially for this movement.

In addition, the UN Refugee Agency is registering refugees willing to repatriate voluntarily to Moba in Katanga Province, although there are very few refugees from Moba in Tanzania and thus interest in returning there is very low at present.

Considering the far greater distance from Kigoma and consequent financial implications for this movement, a sailing will only be organised if registration numbers increase.

A Congolese refugee heads home (photo by D. Hendrickson)



RIG Bulletin Production Team

Publisher: UNHCR AND JRS–
RADIO KWIZERA

Chief Editor:
Drew Hendrickson

Sub Editor:
Zénon Hatungimana

Swahili Translators:
Lucas Nghwagi, Boniface Mpagawe

Kirundi Translator:
Javan Niyakire

Enquiries or other concerns should be addressed to:

Chief Editor
R.I.G. Bulletin

Box 124 Kasulu

Tel: 255 28 2223679

Fax: 255 28 2223795

Email: rkngara@jrstz.co.tz

Burundi, FNL to hold new talks - SA mediator

Source: Reuters

Bujumbura - Burundi's last Hutu rebel movement will sit down soon with the government to discuss new demands the group has raised, a mediator said on Wednesday, April 4.

The Forces for National Liberation (FNL) quit a joint ceasefire monitoring team last week, saying government troops had not been withdrawn from areas under their control under the terms of a ceasefire signed in September.

The government said that was never part of the deal, but on Wednesday a South African mediator said there would be more talks soon.

"Both parties agreed there must be consultations about issues the FNL has raised, which is to know what will happen to the movement in future, what will happen to their leadership and their combatants," Kingsley Mamabolo told reporters.

He gave no other details.

The FNL have said they wanted new negotiations on what roles they could expect in the tiny country's armed forces.

Mamabolo said Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza had agreed to explain to the rebels what positions he could offer, and which the constitution ruled out. On Tuesday, Nkurunziza had criticised FNL for "changing its mind all the time".

"The remaining thing is to know when and where these discussions must take place," Mamabolo told the news conference.

The peace agreement between Nkurunziza and the FNL stirred hopes of lasting peace in the coffee-growing central African nation after years of civil war that killed 300 000 people.

But the rebels' persistent insurgency was seen as a final barrier to stability in the landlocked country of seven million.

Last DRC militia chief gives up his weapons

Source: MONUC

KINSHASA, April 7, 2007 (AFP) - The last active militia chief in an area of Democratic Republic of Congo where fighting has claimed some 60,000 lives, was formally integrated into the army on Saturday.

Peter Karim, whose Nationalist and Integrationist Front is accused of several crimes against the civilian population in Ituri, handed in his own weapons and joined the regular army.

"Peter Karim himself gave up his arms last night (Friday)," General Vainqueur Mayala told AFP.

"The official ceremony of his integration into FARDC (the DRC army) took place today (Saturday) at Kpandroma," northeast of Bunia, the main town in Ituri in the northeast of the country.

"It is an important stage that has been passed through, with the help of MONUC (the UN mission in DRC). Karim was the last rebel chief who resisted disarmament," Mayala said

More than 15,000 fighters have disarmed in the Ituri region since national demobilisation began in 2005, including almost all the

main militia leaders.

In July 2006, Karim agreed to take part in return for a general amnesty and a colonel position in the army, but fighting restarted after a few months.

Clashes between Karim's troops and the army have killed more than 100 people since the beginning of 2007, according to army figures.

"All the fighters who remain in the bush must now demobilise," Mayala said, adding that about 350 militia belonging to different groups were in the area.

Karim himself is blamed by the UN for an attack against a helicopter in 2005 that killed a Nepalese UN soldier.

"The main issue was to pacify the region, to allow the reopening of lines of communication, to build schools and hospitals," Mayala added.

Humanitarian groups say more than 60,000 people have died in fighting in Ituri since 1999. The UN estimates that more than 150,000 have been

Camp Consolidation Update

(cont. from p2) constructing the latrine are the refugees' responsibility.

It is calculated that the construction of mud bricks and the walls of the house can take about eight days, subject to weather conditions.

For those families who require house construction, once the walls of the house are built, the families should contact IRC for verification which will be conducted by a joint taskforce.

The following construction materials will be provided in batch per each family. This depends on whether the family constructs the house or latrine first.

Tree poles: 5 for roof and 4 for latrine;
Bamboo: 40
Sisal twines: 1 roll for two households
Plastic sheet: one

Given the unpredictable weather, UNHCR and its implementing partners will continue to monitor the weather situation to determine whether the sequence of distribution will need to be adjusted.

Once the house is built and the family is ready to move in, the plastic sheeting will be distributed. This is also contingent on verification from the task force assigned by camp management.

This verification will (cont. p9)

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Activities and Updates

Update on the implementation of agricultural season 07-B:

Activities aimed at implementation of agricultural season 2007B went on over the reporting period. FAO/ Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit and partners involved in the food security sector delivered seeds through direct distribution and seed fairs. In Bujumbura Rural province, community-based associations supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) started the distribution of cassava “cuttings” that are resist to the cassava mosaic disease.

WFP has completed the distribution of seed protection rations (SPR) to most vulnerable targeted households in the six provinces Cankuzo, Karuzi, Kayanza, Muyinga, Ngozi and Kirundo provinces. On the whole, approximately 1,500 MT were distributed to 60,000 families (300,000 persons).

Repatriation:

During the week under review, UNHCR reported 99 persons who arrived through the entry points of Gisuru (Ruyigi) and Kobero (Muyinga). Despite this slight increase, the caseload has not picked up again. Since the beginning of 2007, 2,457 persons returned to Burundi.

Update on Burundians expelled from Tanzania:

The governmental project for reintegration of war-affected persons (PARESI) registered 132 Burundians (89 families) arriving from Tanzania in the transit sites of Kinazi (Muyinga) and Munzenze (Cankuzo). Partners involved in the operation continued to assist registered expelled persons with food and non food items assistance as provided by UNICEF and WFP.

Towards Improvement of rights protection for orphans and other vulnerable children:

The national NGO Famille pour Vaincre le SIDA/Amis des Enfants (FVS/AMADE) held a training session for protection committee members in Makamba province. The training was held for 40 members and focused on setting up committee representatives on the community level. Trained persons will ensure the respect of rights of orphans and other vulnerable children, raise awareness against HIV/AIDS, and the creation of community-based association for orphans and vulnerable.

Security:

The situation remains calm throughout the provinces of Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza and Cibitoke. The number of cases of armed theft has also decreased in said provinces. However, households in almost all communes of Bujumbura Rural are forced to contribute money to the FNL-Palipehutu movement. Each month, populations in the communes of Kanyosha, Isale and Nyabiraba are allegedly required to give 1,000 Burundi francs for men and 500 Burundi Francs for women.

Refugees Risk their Health at Prayer Houses

By Jonathon Wilondja

The police have found that many refugees put their health at risk in Nyarugusu Camp because they prefer prayer houses to hospitals.

Three people are reported to have died in prayer houses over the course of the last six months.

MHA, TRCS, and UNHCR are working together to encourage refugees in Nyarugusu to receive the services provided at the hospitals in the camp instead of in prayer houses.

Because many are concerned that families delay to bring the sick patient to the health center, prayer healers are encouraged to come to the hospitals to pray for the sick.

Dr. Johann Tumaini, a curative doctor and spokesperson for TRCS, said, "We ask the family to bring the patient to the hospital and let the prayer healer come. They can come three times a day. And they are coming. Anytime between 12:30 and 3:30, you'll find them."

The challenge, however, is that some patients are released from the hospital before they are completely healed.

Endani Machozi is one example. She was 34 years old and had one child when she died on November 1, 2006.

The woman's father, Esengya Waaswa, said his daughter was suffering for a long time with headaches and an inflated belly that even caused abnormal bleeding. He said that his daughter was released from the hospital without enough medicine.

Mr. Waaswa said that when he saw his daughter after her stay in the hospital, the situation had gone from bad to worse.

As a result, they decided to go to a prayer house with the hope their daughter could recover there.

They arrived at the prayer house on September 26, 2006. Ms. Machozi died 5 weeks later.

When the police heard about this tragedy, the head of the prayer house, Mr. Jean Mlule, was arrested.

UNHCR, TRCS and the police have all expressed concerns about the risks of seeking medical care at these prayer houses and the importance of medical centers in the camp.

Efforts are being made to encourage refugees to go directly to hospitals if they are feeling sick and not to go to these prayer houses.

Dr. Tumaini said, "For those who continue to feel sick, they are requested to come back and be reassessed. We have 24 hour service and we don't question them."

The MHA Camp Commandant Mr. Barnabas Kipii, said, "We are trying to educate the people, but some don't understand. Some go straight to religious healers. It's still a problem and we need to continue to educate."

Mr. Kipii is aware of the recent deaths in Nyarugusu Camp and while MHA has not closed down these prayer houses, the head of one prayer house was put in jail for four days.

Mr. Kipii said the punishment was meant to discourage the practice of religious healers.

But some refugees say they go to prayer healers because the medical centers don't help them.

The case of Mnyaka Mtondo is an example of this.

Ms. Mtondo said, "I have lost my son Amisi Mtondo who was suffering from a head ache. At first, he was hospitalized. That was August 2006. After two weeks, we were told to take him home."

She said that at home, her son's health got worse and we returned to the hospital. His condition became complicated and she asked to transfer him to a hospital outside of the camp. The doctor told them to wait while a transfer was requested. It was then that they went to a prayer house.

Sadly, on November 7, while waiting for this transfer, Mr. Mtondo died. He was nineteen years old and a pupil in Form VI secondary school.

Sospiter Musiba, an employee at TRCS hospital, said, "We treat the sick, but some diseases such as HIV, diabetes or heart problems cannot be treated easily."

He said transfers are given to patients if a specialist is available outside the camp, otherwise patients receive care at the medical centers in the camp.

Transfers, however, are not solely the responsibility of TRCS.

IRC in Kigoma coordinates the referral and manages the transit center near Kigoma, and it is UNHCR who ultimately approves the referrals.

Dr. Tumaini said, "This is not an immediate or guaranteed process."

According to Dr. Tumaini, the major problem with these prayer houses is that these traditional medical men claim to be able to treat patients when the hospital fails.

"They say they can heal fractures, but scientifically broken bones will heal themselves at one time or another. That's science," said Dr. Tumaini.

One official from the TRCS dispensary, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that people are being misled by these prayer healers.

He allowed that sometimes patients go home and are still sick and that getting a transfer does delay sometimes, but he emphasized that several people have died in prayer houses.

Dr. Tumaini explained that the sensitization process is also going on in the maternity ward.

"We are writing prescriptions to new mothers that say, 'Don't take this child to a prayer healer.'"

While the efforts of TRCS, MHA and UNHCR are no doubt having a positive impact, the situation is still very serious.

According to TRCS, another refugee died in this same way in Nyarugusu on January 21, 2007.

Returnees Help Economic Growth in Fizi

By Itula Loius

With each convoy of returnees that goes to DRC, the economic situation in Fizi District improves. How is it that these returnees are helping the local economy grow?

Many of those returning from Tanzanian refugee camps undertook diverse training courses while in exile. They have returned to start businesses and build futures. Many are presently engaged in fishing, agriculture, and small businesses in markets.

Some are cooperating with others to start group projects and some are participating in trainings that will teach them valuable skills.

One woman who has had success upon returning to DRC is Jacqueline. She runs a small business in Baraka.

"I was in Lugufu Camp where life was miserable and now I am in Baraka selling beans in Aibaze market," said Ms. Jacqueline in a recent interview.

"I'm no longer dependent or need to be given each and everything. I have started a business and I can rely on myself economically," she said.

She continued, "While we were in the camps, we were given a two-week supply of food which was inadequate. For this reason, I found it better to return home and start a new life."

Ms. Jacqueline explained that she began her business with support from her friends and family, but now she operates independently.

Mr. Mapenzi Rashele, a Baraka resident who did not flee, said, "Let's learn from these returnees. Their knowledge is great and they have developed skills. Our coun-

try is so big and great efforts are required to build the economy. It's now time to cultivate. The soil is fertile and whatever we grow, we can harvest."

Many in the Fizi area share the feeling that the time has come for DRC to work together and build the economy.

Mr. Nyange Yamabwebana, the Director of Federation des Femmes pour le Developpment (FDD) said, "Returnees and those who didn't flee need to exert themselves so as to develop their district. The knowledge and skills returnees come with are profuse. Any whoever wants to be skilled can learn from them, discuss and set up training sessions."

One resident, Ms. Mukoko J., has noticed significant positive change since the arrival of many returnees to the region.

She said, "Because of war, the Fizi economy was down, but things have changed since returnees have started coming. Let us thank them for various reasons—the techniques they come with are really useful, such as constructing an earth stove. This is new to us and it saves firewood. This we can learn from them."

Mr. Sutemani Kuyate, director of AKTD, said, "We support refugees in their projects and this encourages returnees with different skills. AKTD has served over 300 refugees in projects that include carpentry, bicycle repair, masonry, and road construction."

These are some examples of how the economy in Fizi is growing as more returnees come home. Many in the area hope that this growth will continue and the huge potential of the Congo will finally be realized..

Tensions in Nyarugusu

(cont. from p1) of the camp.

These new arrivals are not the first Banyumulenge refugees to come to Nyarugusu, however. A few hundred have been living peacefully in the camp.

"We feel no need for alarm with the arrival of these refugees," said UNHCR Protection Officer, Rose Mwebi. "Banyumulenge have been living peacefully in the camps and if there is a protection concern, UNHCR will follow up on an individual basis like any other refugees."

The MHA Camp Commandant of Nyarugusu, Mr. Barnabas Kipii, however, explained that the refugees from Nyarugusu did not want to accept these new arrivals because of the ethnic difference.

He asked, "Why do refugees from the same nation not accept each other [in the same camp]?"

Over the past few weeks, these new arrivals have been allocated plots and been integrated into the general population of the camp.

Currently, sensitization activities are going on. Mass meetings and meetings with refugee leaders, religious leaders and ethnic leaders are being held to educate the camp population and encourage everyone to maintain security and live together peacefully.

Ms. Mwebi said, "There seems to be a misperception and presently UNHCR is giving information to refugees that there is no reason to be alarmed with the new arrivals."

She continued, "After several meetings, both communities have accepted to co-exist and tension is now reduced. Efforts to promote co-existence and reconciliation will be supported

on a continuous basis."

Mr. Kipii also said, "In case some don't accept [to live peacefully], refugees will need to report them to MHA so we can take legal measures."

Update

On March 26, a small explosion was heard near the departure center in Nyarugusu Camp.

It seems that a homemade device exploded near to where the group of newly arrived refugees from Mkugwa camp were staying.

No one was injured in this incident, but one of the new arrivals claimed to have been hit in the head by a rock thrown from outside the departure center.

MHA Camp Commandant, Mr. Barnabas Kipii, said that an investigation is under way to find those responsible for this unsettling occurrence.

At the time of this printing, it was unknown as to who was responsible for this disturbance.

However, since these new arrivals have been integrated into the Nyarugusu general population, no new problems have been reported.

Also of note is that voluntary repatriation has increased over the last month.

Some say the increase is due to the positive reports from the go and see visit, while others suggest that Nyarugusu refugees are repatriating because of the recent tensions.

News in Brief

- ◆ **WFP:** The WFP reports that until July of this year CSB, salt and oil will be maintained at 80% ration, but because of a break in the pipeline, pulses will be reduced to 80%. The problem of sugar continues as none is being distributed (Source: *WFP*)
- ◆ **Voluntary Repatriation to Burundi:** Voluntary repatriation to Burundi continues to be low as only 95 refugees repatriated from Mtabila and Muyovozi Camps in the month of March. The reasons: continued food insecurity in Burundi and recent fears that the FNL is not respecting the ceasefire agreement (Source: *UNHCR*)
- ◆ **Congolese refugees in Burundi:** The first batch of Congolese refugees who had survived a massacre at a transit center in northwestern Burundi almost three years ago are on their way to the United States to re-settle there. They are among a group of more than 500 Congolese refugees who had been impacted by the massacre (Source: *MONUC*)
- ◆ **Child Soldiers in Burundi:** About 3,021 child soldiers who took part in Burundi's decade-long civil war have been demobilized and reintegrated into civilian life, an official source said in Bujumbura on 13 March. However, the UN secretary-general's special representative for children in armed conflicts, Radhika Coomaraswamy, said the recruitment of underage children is still going on in Burundi. She urged the FNL to end recruitment and release all child soldiers. (Source: *Angola Press*)
- ◆ **National Army Integration in DRC:** Militias loyal to opposition leader Jean-Pierre Bemba have been integrated into the national army in Equateur province, in northern DRC, United Nations Officials said. Two hundred soldiers signed up on March 27 said a spokesperson for MONUC. Another 140 are expected to lay down their weapons soon. (Source: *IRIN*)
- ◆ **Camp Consolidation in Kibondo:** Refugees from Mkugwa Camp were transferred to Nduta Camp. Contrary to the previous plan of putting these new arrivals in separate blocks, all the refugees were integrated into the existing blocks and were received warmly. However, several refugees who feared for their security were transferred to other camps: 95 individuals were moved to Nyarugusu Camp, 6 individuals were moved to Mtabila Camp, and 55 individuals were moved to Kanembwa camp. Refugees from Mtendeli Camp started to move to Nduta on March 12. UNHCR hopes that the camp consolidation operation and handover of immovable assets to the Tanzanian Government will be finished by 30 June. (Source: *JRSEA Headlines, Issue No. 290, Fr. Romy Catagin, JRS Tanzania Country Director*)
- ◆ **World Bank Addresses Needs in DRC:** The World Bank has approved a 180 million dollar grant for the DRC to help fund emergency rehabilitation in the African country, said a statement by the World Bank. The project, which had been in preparation since December 2006, addresses urgent rehabilitation and social needs and hence provides tangible benefits to the Congolese people, especially the poorest, in the capital city of Kinshasa, which is vital to DRC's political and social stability, said the statement. (Source: *Xinhua*)
- ◆ **DRC: Jean-Pierre Bemba goes to Portugal:** Opposition leader Jean-Pierre Bemba left Democratic Republic of Congo on April 11, ending three weeks holed up in South Africa's embassy after his forces were routed in two days of fighting that killed 600 last month. A Reuters witness said Bemba boarded a private jet bound for Portugal, where he is due to have medical treatment (Source: *Reuters*)
- ◆ **Refugees Moved from Lukole to Kanembwa:** The Burundian refugees from Lukole camp, approved for resettlement to the United States, have been moved to Kanembwa camp in Kibondo District. The group, who initially fled Burundi in 1972 and experienced multiple displacements, will undergo three months training before being finally moved to the United States

Mtabila: Assistance Provided to AFHA

By Salvator Ntacondaryita

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) recently supported the Association for Fighting against HIV/AIDS (AFHA) which is engaged in development activities.

Béatrice Gakobwa, the coordinator of arts studies and development in Mtabila, said that approximately 40 persons benefited from the assistance provided by IRC.

300 kgs of wheat flour, 150 kgs of sugar and 2 scales was the package handed to AFHA members on March 6, 2007. She said that the assistance was supplied in a bid to support AFHA members in their income generating activities.

Ms. Gakobwa reminded the beneficiaries to use these goods wisely. She also said that this year's assistance was a major increase from last year when only minor things were distributed.

Bizimana Pascal, the chief of AFHA, said that they are grateful of the assistance from IRC which continuously support them. He requested that such assistance should be increased.

Bizimana added that AFHA accepts all candidates who wish to join the association. Those who are HIV positive, however, will be the first chosen, he said.

He also requested that other NGOs operating in Mtabila follow the example of IRC.

AFHA began its activities in April 2003 with 20 members. It now comprises 40 members who have openly announced that they are HIV

Increased Food Ration Package

UNHCR have received good news that WFP Burundi has agreed to increase the returnee Food Ration Package for an initial period of three months, from April until June 2007. Returnees, upon arrival in Burundi, will now receive a four months food ration package.

The additional food resources will help returnees while integrating into their communities. We hope that WFP will consider the extension of this increase to the end of the year.

Camp Consolidation Disrupts Education

By Abel Kagwira

The camp consolidation that started in the middle of March of 2007 in Kibondo District has become a hindrance to secondary school education in Mtendeli camp.

The Kibogora Secondary School in Mtendeli camp is expected to close at the end of the April of this year. This was made clear in an official letter written by the MHA representative of Mtendeli, Mr. Godfrey Massawe.

According to the students of Kibogora Secondary School, the building of the new houses and other preparations they must make for camp consolidation has affected their studies.

One student said, "When we arrive at Nduta camp we must build our houses. This takes a long time without studying. UNHCR and the government of Tanzania have also decided to shorten the school year of 2006-2007 in order to reinforce voluntary repatriation. So, we are afraid of losing the whole school year while we are in the last term of the year."

Mr. Niyokwizigira Jonas, an-

other student of Kibogora secondary school, appealed to UNHCR and the government of the Tanzania to give them a special help.

He said, "Students are like vulnerable because they can not be able to handle the activities of building houses while studying; so we would ask the UNHCR and other NGOs to build houses for us as they do for other vulnerables."

He continued, "If UNHCR sees that building houses for students is not possible, I would appeal to UNHCR and the government of Tanzania to elongate the 2006-2007 school year for the students from Mtendeli and Mkugwa camp so as to make up for the time that the students will lose when building their new houses."

According to other Kibogora Secondary School students such as Niyonzima Lea and Ndarushimana George living in Mtendeli camp, camp consolidation is a serious disturbance of the studies.

They said that they failed to take the second term examination this year because they were switching camps.

Ndarushimana and Niyonzima also said that Nduta camp does not have sufficient secondary

school buildings. They specifically mentioned the science classrooms.

Mr.

Mbazumutima Otto, a teacher of Kibogora secondary school, expressed the need to transport the library books and other school materials.

This hindrance of the studies is not only witnessed at secondary school but also in primary school.

One of the Mtendeli primary school teachers, Leonard Nitunga, said, "The shortening of the 2006-2007 school year is a hindrance in primary school. Pedagogically, you can't force a child to learn something in a short time that should be learned over the course of several lessons."

Other Mtendeli primary school teachers said that they had fear of the outcome of this school because the lowness of the results in



Secondary school students hang around school as they wait for classes to begin. (photo by B. Bankukira)

primary school may be witnessed if the school year finishes in May 2007.

Camp consolidation is creating several educational problems for both students and teachers in Mtendeli Camp.

Many students and teachers have voiced their concern for lost study time and fear the educational impact of this transition will be very negative.

Many suggested that UNHCR and the Government of Tanzania lengthen the school year so they can finish their educational programs.

Camp Consolidation Update

(cont. from p 4) determine exactly what materials the family needs to build their house.

The plastic sheeting is distributed only at the very end of this process because of the fear of abuse regarding this material.

Since the UNHCR sheeting can be sold for more than 20,000 T. shillings, people often see this item as a source of profit.

While most consolidation activities are going well, one problem has arisen in Mtabila II, zones AA and AB.

UNHCR acknowledged that as of 13 April, Muyovosi's refugees in zone A and those absent during plot registration in early March have not been allocated with new plots in Mtabila.

That is because many plots in that area have suddenly become occu-

ped even though the camp records say they are vacant.

Since most refugees opt for camp consolidation instead of voluntary repatriation to Burundi, the need for plots in Mtabila is great.

It is unclear as to why these plots are unexpectedly occupied, but according to Ms. Lum, a verification team will survey the plots in these zones to investigate who is there and what plots are actually available.

The verification will use the same

opportunity to simplify the address format in Mtabila II: from the current zone/block/road/cluster/plot to zone/road/plot.

The exercise is scheduled to be completed in 6 working days.

Plot availability is a crucial part of the success of this huge undertaking because of the large numbers of Muyovosi refugees who will move to Mtabila.

Teachers Square off in Football Match

By Bernard Bankukira

A friendly football match on March 30 between the staffs Solidarity Secondary School and Light Secondary Schools in Mtabila Camp aimed to strengthen the social relationships and interactions between the two schools.

In an interview after the match, Mr. Gabriel Mishirimbwe, the head master of Solidarity Secondary School, said that the game was a good opportunity to get to know each other, enhance the unity between the schools and promote sports activities for teachers.



Two teachers vie for the ball as many fans look on (photo by Bernard Bankukura)

On his side, Mr. Tite, the headmaster of Light Secondary School shared Mr. Mishirimbwe's enthusiasm and encouraged the participants to regularly organize and attend such games for the many benefits they provide.

The huge crowd, perhaps the largest Mtabila I Camp has ever seen watched as the Solidarity team defeated Light 2-0.



A teacher blasts a free kick (photo by Bernard Bankukira)

This result came as a surprise to many onlookers because Light had demonstrated total confidence before the game.

Destin Vyizigiro scored the first goal at the 18th minute of the first half, and Claude Nimbona scored the second at the 27th minute of the second half.

Although the Light team tried to put intensive pressure on their opponents in the second half, they failed to penetrate the solid Solidarity defense.

The referee dashed their one hope of a goal when he ruled that a foul was committed against the Solidarity goalie and thus denied them the apparent goal they had scored.

Mr. Vyizigiro, the captain of the Solidarity team, said, "The game was good fun. We were outplayed in the second half, but we won the game because our team was really strong despite the old age of some of our players."

The captain of the Light team, Libire Nzikurikiza, accepted the defeat but said, "Our team was stronger than our opponents. We hope we can win the next match."

Students from both schools appreciated the game.

Kagoma Henry, a form IV student at Solidarity said it was not usual to watch their educators playing. He added, "We have learned a lot from them, including today's game. They should be playing more often to serve as an example to us."

"It was a good game," said George Ngendakurizo a form IV student at Light, "although we lost, we played well, but we missed our chance to have a goal."

Another match is expected again soon and the Light team will be able to avenge their defeat.

The day after the game, male and female students played friendly matches of football, basketball and volleyball.

The Solidarity females defeated the Light females in both basketball and volleyball.

The lone negative incident was a skirmish that began during the boys football match. The source of the argument was a contested penalty call that went in the Solidarity team's favor. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.



Fans storm the field after the game (photo by Bernard Bankukira)

1. Why are they talking about camp consolidation while there are 1972 exiles who have been granted resettlement in third countries? What if they are not selected to resettle, will they not want to live in another camp? (Niyibaruta Japhet, **Mtabila II**)
2. In primary school curriculum, the Burundi government has added Swahili and English. For standard I, we added French which is also a new language to these pupils. Don't you see that these pupils will have trouble with those languages? Why is UNICEF quiet on this issue? (Nyamibanya B, primary school teacher, **Mtabila II**)
3. WFP used to give us sacks to help us carry the food we get at the distribution center. Now, it is a long time without receiving those bags. We need to receive those bags for further use. (Anonymous, **Mtabila II**)
4. Why do NGOs use many groups when giving support to refugees. They said this is a vulnerable and this is not. Is there any refugee who is not vulnerable? (Barayampunda Melanie, **Mtabila II**) *Answer: It is true that all refugees find themselves in a difficult situation. In order to identify those individuals and groups refugees who are unable to access existing forms of assistance and services, or who may have special needs that require special, UNHCR and its implementing partners use the category of "vulnerables". Typical vulnerable groups are separated and unaccompanied children, single mothers, the elderly, physically disabled and refugees with chronic diseases. (Ivo Brandau, Mass Information Officer, UNHCR Kibondo)*
5. Why do we not receive Radio Kwizera waves when the booster is right near us? (Ngenzebrehoro Athamase, **Mtabila II**) *Answer: Since recently changing frequency to 95.0 fm, Radio Kwizera is receiving interference from other radio signals in the area. In the near future, we hope to rectify this problem (Radio Kwizera, Kasulu)*
6. Why is resettlement for the Twa tribe so difficult in Mtabila while cases are known? (Nibaneta Samson, **Mtabila II**)
7. For those born in exile, they do not know what and how Burundi is. How are you (UNHCR) helping them to make a decision about repatriation? (Hakizimana Nephatalie, **Mtabila II**) *Answer: UNHCR and implementing partners are organizing a number of activities in the camps, in order to inform refugees on conditions and developments in Burundi. Radio Kwizera is broadcasting daily programs in Kirundi and the RIG bulletin features articles on Burundi. Furthermore, there are mass meetings, Go and See and Come and Tell visits and video screenings organized in all camps. These activities will be intensified in the coming months. If you have specific questions you can ask them at one of the meetings or meet staff at the information and departure centres. (Ivo Brandau, Mass Information Officer, UNHCR Kibondo)*
8. I would like to ask IRC if it cannot give us our certificates for various trainings provided by Africare. If not, how can we get what we deserve from Africare? (Anonymous, **Mtabila II**)
9. Africare and UNHCR used to look for flour what is good to eat, why do you, IRC, not do the same for us? (Niyonkuru Esterine, **Mtabila II**)
10. I thank UNHCR for giving resettlement to third countries to Burundian refugees because there was no other possible solution to that question. I would like to know what UNHCR is planning to do with the remainder of refugees in that group? (Nyandwi Philippe, **Mtabila II**) *Answer: The 1972 resettlement group is closed. No other group of Burundian refugees is being considered for resettlement. UNHCR will continue to submit a very limited number of individual cases for resettlement. These cases will be identified based on individual protection concerns. (Ivo Brandau, Mass Information Officer, UNHCR Kibondo)*
11. We ask WFP why do they give us rotted maize. Are we not human beings like others that we may eat rotted food? (Niyongabo Edmond, **Mtabila II**)
12. Orphan children residing in Lugufu Camps are impeded to repatriate to DRC by agencies. Shall orphanhood end if they do not repatriate? Or what kind of assistance shall they get from agencies? (Feza Juma, **Lugufu II**)
13. When I read RIG newspapers, I found out there is peace in DR Congo; however, when we listen to information through radios we hear the people are still losing their lives. Can people go on losing their lives through war in a peaceful country? (Anonymous, **Lugufu II**)
14. I am one of the Burundians born in DRC. When I lived in DRC as a refugee, I had fields and a house, but the government of the Congo has prohibited the return of Burundians on its land. How shall we get our fields and houses? (M'nyonge Rajabu, **Lugufu II**)
15. When I examine the ceremony of "Havalaki Komb" (You can't wear old clothes), I realize [those ceremonies] are useless in our community apart from the leakage of money. In order to escape the problems caused by such ceremonies, we request World Vision Tanzania, Gender department, to take steps to stop those ceremonies like seminars, trainings, and campaigns. (Asbama, **Lugufu I**)
16. What programme does UNHCR have for refugees living in camps without ration cards when they decide to voluntarily repatriate? (Kiza Ali, **Lugufu I**)

17. The police force is not there to abuse refugees by compelling them to pay money when they leave for neighboring villages. They are there to sustain peace. (Anonymous, **Lugufu I**)
18. In RIG Bulletin 22, I read how the Burundians who fled the war in 1972 are protected by UN. Why not Congolese who were dismissed from Tanzanian cities while their parents also fled a long time ago? (Marie Catherine, **Nyarugusu**)
19. Is it planned in the program of education that on distribution day a teacher must send his pupil to the store while his wife is a patient in the hospital. Isn't he using this pupil as a domestic? (Sungua Asende, **Nyarugusu**)
20. We appeal to TWESA to go ahead with mosquito net distribution because those refugees miss the mosquito net and are troubled by mosquitoes in the night. (Amisi de Classe, **Nyarugusu**)
21. Why doesn't UNHCR help returnees with an amount of money in order to start their lives? (Kaskile M., **Nyarugusu**)
22. Why does the HIV committee tell people to guard against making sexual relation while it is known that this committee is promoting such an abuse? (Anonymous, **Nyarugusu**)
23. I greet and thank you very much the producers of RIG bulletin because we get a good opportunity [us grassroots] to say to anything that don't go well. (Anonymous, **Nduta**)
24. I want to thank "WFP" in helping us the food. But the maize flour which are being distributed at distribution center, in it there is so much sands. Does "WFP" know that there is sand in the flour? (Iddy "big-head," **Nduta**)
25. We would like to plea to the leaders of Nduta market to reduce the price of the things they sell, because the price is more high since the consolidation of camps began. (a group refugees living in **Nduta**)
26. After reading RIG bulletin issue 25, I felt very happy by the speech of President Kikwete who said that it is possible to become a Tanzanian citizen if someone has lived in country legally for ten year. Some of refugees need that resettlement and me also, so I would like to ask how I can be granted that resettlement? And which NGOS can I visit in order to ask them my questions? (Ndayiragije Jerome, **Nduta**)
27. We, children who have no parents, don't feel happy to see the people who were taking our lives care are going to be granted the resettlement in the USA. They tried to explain our problems to JVA in order to be on the same file, but we weren't accepted. Our parents were killed while fleeing their lands in Burundi, and be informed that we don't know anything about Burundi because we were born in exile. So where will we live after repatriating? UNHCR says what on this question? (several children of **Nduta** camp)
28. We, refugees from Mtendeli, ask why REDESO breaks down our houses if they suspect stolen trees. But UNHCR's lorry brings us the trees. To preserve your house, the REDESO staff ask you for money so they can drink "the tea". (Anonymous, **Nduta** comfrom **Mtendeli**)
29. We thank UNHCR for providing some 147 Sungusungu with incentives, but we request that it does not discriminate among us since we are 400 sungusungu. Since it is not good for us all to share the incentives set apart for 147 people, we request UNHCR to increase the amount it gives for our endeavours. (Anonymous, **Lukole**)
30. We would like to ask NPA organisation why it does not sponsor secondary education? We wonder why it sponsors those who are in primary school, but when they go to secondary level it does no longer recognize them or sponsor them. (Jeremie Ndereyimana, **Lukole**)
31. We wonder which kind of sympathy UNHCR applies in separating families for repatriation. The example is JVA, which took the parents and left out their children who are not on the same ration card with them. How and where do you think those children will live by themselves? (Josycka, **Nduta**)
32. Aren't Tanzania and Burundi hurrying for something bad since they continue to convince us for repatriation while the peace accords signed between the Burundian Government and PH-FNL have not yet been implemented? (Anonymous, **Lukole**)

The RIG Bulletin does not edit questions and comments from refugees.

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UNHCR supports Radio Kwizera and the RIG Bulletin, but the views expressed in the RIG do not necessarily reflect those of UNHCR unless explicitly named as a source

Ngara	Tel: 255 28 2223679	Tel/Fax: 255 28 2223795	Email: <rknagara@jrstz.co.tz>
Kibondo	Tel: 255 28 2820241	Tel/Fax: 255 28 2820240	Email: <rkkib@jrstz.co.tz>
Kasulu	Tel: 255 28 100 90		Email: <jrs.kasulu@gmail.com>