



CERF gives \$2 million to Burundi in response to food insecurity and child hunger

18 May 2012: Irregular rainfall and other agricultural challenges have dramatically reduced agricultural production and access to food for the poorest households of Burundi. Poor harvests, coupled with the weakened purchasing power of many families due to the soaring price of staple foods has led to the deterioration of people's nutritional status.

Preliminary data indicate a high prevalence of chronic malnutrition, exceeding emergency thresholds established by the World Health Organization. There has also been a noted increase in new admissions to therapeutic nutritional services over the past year - estimated at a 26 per cent increase compared to previous years.

Moreover, the return of some 37,834 Burundian refugees still hosted in Tanzania and expected to return to the provinces affected by food shortages by December 2012 will further compound food insecurity and malnutrition in the country.

In response, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) provided US\$1,986,269 to three UN agencies in Burundi to save the lives of 150,000 vulnerable people, including 8,171 children under age 5.

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** received \$788,309 to provide emergency food relief for 150,000 food insecure people in the eastern and south-eastern regions of Burundi.

To help restore and protect livelihoods, the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** received \$662,531 to supply essential agriculture inputs, including tools and vegetable seeds, to 30,000 of the most needy households.

The **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** received \$535,429 from CERF to treat 8,171 children under age 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition through integrated community-based management of acute malnutrition. [The project](#) will also reinforce the detection and referral of malnutrition at the community level.

For more information about the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, visit the CERF website : <http://www.unocha.org/cerf>

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